April 15, 2019

The Honorable Senator Ben Hueso
Chair, Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 46 (Jackson) State Government: Emergency Services - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hueso:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request your support for SB 46 (Jackson), which would ensure that more California residents will receive critical emergency alerts by expanding California’s opt-out emergency notification program to include cities and universities, and by clarifying that alerting authorities may use wireless telephone subscriber data to enroll residents in local alerting systems. The bill would also authorize county social service departments to share emergency contact information with alerting authorities so that specialized alerts may be sent to residents with access or functional needs who may need extra instruction or assistance during an emergency, and would require telecommunications providers to supply the Public Utilities Commission with specific data regarding emergency messaging performance, error rates, and throughput, on an annual basis.

Last session, SB 821 (Jackson) was signed into law and authorized counties to enter into an agreement to access the contact information of resident accountholders through the records of a public utility, for the purpose of enrolling county residents in a county-operated public emergency warning system. SB 46 (Jackson) would expand these provisions to authorize a local government to enter into an agreement to access the contact information of resident accountholders through the records of a public utility to expand the types of public utilities that can enter into these agreements by defining public utility to include, among others, a local publicly owned electric utility, wireless telephony services, a public water agency, and an agency responsible for solid waste or recycling services.

In 2018, Santa Barbara County suffered major loss that resulted in property damage, disrupting thousands of lives, businesses and government services due to the Thomas Fire and subsequent mudslides. Due to the ongoing climate related disasters in California, it is critical to reinforce the need for a robust emergency notification system. When the Thomas Fire began to burn in the County of Santa Barbara, less than 15% of the County’s residents had signed up to receive county-generated cell phone and email alerts.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is in support of SB 46 (Jackson). If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.
cc: The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, Author
Members, Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications
Sarah Smith, Consultant, Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications
Kerry Yoshida, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
April 19, 2019

The Honorable Senator Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety  
State Capitol, Room 5094  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 144 (Mitchell) Criminal Fees - OPPOSE

Dear Senator Skinner:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully oppose SB 144 (Mitchell), unless sustainable funding is provided to back-fill the loss of revenue resulting from eliminating counties’ ability to charge criminal justice related fees and shifting a variety of costs from the offender to the counties.

In line with CSAC’s letter dated on April 16th, the County shares a commitment to help offenders successfully transition back into their communities and overcome obstacles to making positive changes. The County’s position to SB 144 is not grounded in response to the proposed restructuring or eliminating fines and fees. It is tied to the significant and permanent redirection of funding sources that support a diverse set of local programs and services. We cannot support changes to the system that would directly result in program elimination or service disruptions at the county level. A conversation about abolishing fee authority must be accompanied by a comprehensive assessment of the resulting fiscal impacts on agencies and organizations that today receive associated revenue.

Senate Bill 144 would eliminate all criminal justice fees. Removal of specified fees for probation services alone, for example, would likely result in the loss of tens of millions of dollars in probation funding, funding that currently supports vital programs and practices as well as probation positions. The loss of positions would mean impacts on court related services we provide, an increase in caseload sizes, and impacts on evidence-based program delivery.

Additionally, this legislation not only abolishes fees, but also eliminates an offender’s obligation to pay for a variety of costs related to the offender’s sentence, seemingly pushing a number of those costs to the County and the state. For example, offenders would no longer have to pay for batterer’s intervention programs, drug testing, sex offender treatment or for an interlock device. Again, when each of these programs was created by the Legislature, the Legislature determined that these costs would be borne by the offender. By requiring counties to now pay for these programs and services, this legislation imposes a costly and unmanageable mandate.
The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2019 Legislative Platform that includes a Fiscal Stability Legislative Principle, which specifically states that the County will oppose the loss of existing revenue or the creation of additional unfunded mandates to the County.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors must respectfully oppose SB 144 (Mitchell). If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Senator Holly Mitchell, Author
    Members, Senate Committee on Public Safety
    Mary Kennedy, Consultant, Senate Committee on Public Safety
    Eric Csizmar, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
    The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
    The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
    The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
    Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
    Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
    Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
April 15, 2019

The Honorable Senator Anthony Portantino  
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
State Capitol, Room 5064  
Sacramento, CA 95814  

RE: SB 160 (Jackson) Emergency Services: Cultural Competence - SUPPORT  

Dear Senator Portantino:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request your support for SB 160 (Jackson), which would direct counties to incorporate cultural competence in their emergency plans by integrating interpreters in all emergency communications, incorporating qualified representatives from community groups during the planning process, and using culturally appropriate resources when preparing community members for emergencies or disasters.

AB 160 (Jackson) will integrate the diverse needs of the state’s population into local emergency planning by requiring counties to incorporate cultural competence into the next update of their emergency plan in order to ensure that the diverse cultural and linguistic needs of all residents are addressed, as well as requiring counties to provide a forum for community engagement in geographically diverse locations in order to engage with culturally diverse communities.

In 2017 and 2018, Santa Barbara County suffered devastating loss due to the Thomas Fire, which was the largest wildfire in California in history at the time. After weeks of wildfires, the Santa Barbara County continued to suffer devastating mudslides, which created tremendous loss resulting in wide spread debris flows which resulted in multiple fatalities. It is critical for the County to be able to communicate, understand and effectively interact with people across cultures in order to ensure that the needs of all community members are addressed during emergency situations.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2019 Legislative Platform that includes a Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection Legislative Principle, which specifically states that the County will encourage actions to address, prevent and respond to disasters.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is in support of SB 160 (Jackson). If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg  
Governmental Advocates, Inc.
cc: The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, Author
Members, Senate Committee on Appropriations
Debra Cooper, Consultant, Senate Committee on Appropriations
Ted Morley, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Dennis Bozanic, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
April 15, 2019

The Honorable Senator Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 5064
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 224 (Grove) Grand Theft: Agricultural Equipment - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Portantino:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our support for SB 224 (Grove), which will establish theft of agriculture equipment or property including tractors and all-terrain vehicles, as a separate crime. This bill will also recirculate money from fines collected back into existing rural and agriculture theft crime fighting programs that help provide more resources to law enforcements efforts.

SB 224 (Grove) will help law enforcement agencies combat agriculture theft. The bill will create a new section in the Penal Code for theft of agricultural property, which will identify the theft of agriculture equipment, or property including tractors and all-terrain vehicles, as a separate crime. SB 224 will also provide that all fines collected as a result of criminal prosecution of this crime be recirculated back to current agriculture and rural based crime prevention programs. By making agricultural grand theft a separate crime, this would allow law enforcement agencies and law makers to better track this crime all the way through prosecution.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2019 Legislative Platform that includes a Job Growth and Economic Vitality Legislative Principle, which states that the County will continue to support and promote local businesses, in this case through de-incentivizing theft of agricultural equipment, as well as a Fiscal Stability Principle that supports generating new intergovernmental revenue for the Central Coast Rural Crime Prevention Program.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support SB 224 (Grove). If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.
cc: The Honorable Senator Shannon Grove, Author
Members, Senate Committee on Appropriations
Shaun Naidu, Consultant, Senate Committee on Appropriations
Eric Cszmar, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
April 15, 2019

The Honorable Senator Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 5064
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 573 (Chang) Homeless Emergency Aid Program: Funding - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Portantino:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our support for SB 573 (Chang), which would continuously appropriate $250 million to the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) and will ensure that the program will continue to address California’s homelessness needs.

California has been struggling to address its homelessness crisis for quite some time. As of last year, about 130,000 Californians are homeless, nearly a quarter of the nation’s total homeless population. In 2018, Governor Brown and the Legislature agreed to $500 million in one-time General Fund to create the Homeless Emergency Aid Program block grant. HEAP will provide direct assistance to cities, counties and Continuums of Care (CoCs) to begin to address California’s homelessness crisis. After the close of the HEAP grant application process, 100 percent of applicants were approved for funding.

The County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors adopted a 2019 Legislative Platform that includes a Health and Human Services Principle that specifically states the County will support efforts to maintain and enhance “safety net” services that protect the most vulnerable with a community including children, the elderly, homeless and other “at risk” populations.

The HEAP grant program will assist communities in better serving their homeless populations through services such as street outreach and criminal justice diversion programs, as well as housing vouchers and the rapid re-housing program, to name only a few eligible and vital programs across the state.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support SB 573 (Chang). If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.
cc: The Honorable Senator Ling-Ling Chang, Author
    Members, Senate Committee on Appropriations
    Mark McKenzie, Consultant, Senate Committee on Appropriations
    Doug Yoakam, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
    The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
    The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
    The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
    Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
    Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
    Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
April 15, 2019

The Honorable Assemblymember Autumn Burke
Chair, Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation
State Capitol, Room 5150
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 138 (Bloom) California Community Health Fund - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Burke:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request your support for AB 138 (Bloom), which would establish a 2-cents per fluid ounce tax on sugary drinks at the distributor level. The revenues would be deposited in the California Community Health Fund, which would provide funding for programs to promote health equity, reduce health disparities, improve oral health, and prevent the leading causes of illness and premature death, especially those caused by sugary drink consumption. These illnesses include obesity, diabetes, heart disease, tooth decay and certain cancers.

Sugary drinks are the single largest source of added sugars in the American diet. The research is clear—consumption of sugary drinks leads to increased risk of diabetes, heart and liver disease, obesity, tooth decay, and some cancers. On average, children are consuming over 30 gallons of sugary drinks every year. About half of adults and two-thirds of youth consume a sugary drink every day. Sugary drinks are a major contributor to the increasing rates of type 2 diabetes and heart disease. More than half of Californians have diabetes or pre-diabetes. If current trends continue, one in three will have diabetes by 2050.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2019 Legislative Platform that includes the Health and Human Services Legislative Principle and the Health in our Community Legislative Plank, which specifically states that the County will support efforts to maintain and enhance services that protect the most vulnerable within the community, including children and children’s health, as well as promote healthy behaviors and wellness such as supporting programs that encourage physical activity, healthy eating and reducing the prevalence of obesity.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support AB 138 (Bloom). If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.
cc:    The Honorable Assemblymember Richard Bloom, Author
Members, Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation
David Ruff, Consultant, Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation
Julia King, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
April 15, 2019

The Honorable Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Chair, Assembly Committee on Local Government
State Capitol, Room 5144
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 141 (Cooper) Trial Costs: Joseph James DeAngelo, Jr. - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request your support for AB 141 (Cooper), which would enact the Justice Act of 2019, for the reimbursement of county costs arising from the matter of the People v. Joseph DeAngelo, which would appropriate funds to pay the extraordinary costs for the multijurisdictional prosecution and defense of Joseph James DeAngelo, Jr.

Over a span of 14 years the Golden State Killer (GSK) was suspected of committing multiple murders, rapes, kidnappings, robberies and burglaries throughout California. In 2018, Joseph DeAngelo was arrested as the GSK suspect. The trial of the GSK is going to place an unexpected financial burden on the counties responsible for trying this case.

The bill would require a county seeking reimbursement to send a statement of costs to the Controller for approval, and would require the Controller, within 60 days, to either pay approved costs or provide a written statement as to the reason for not making reimbursement at this time.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2019 Legislative Platform, what specifically includes a financial stability legislative principle that states that the County will be in support of efforts to generate new intergovernmental revenue and enhance existing revenue/reimbursement levels and oppose the loss of existing revenue to the County. AB 141 will provide some cost recovery to the district attorneys and public defenders responsible for the prosecution and defense of the GSK.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support AB 141 (Cooper). If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanic at 805-568-3403 or dbozanic@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.
cc: The Honorable Assemblymember Jim Cooper, Author
    Members, Assembly Committee on Local Government
    Angela Mapp, Consultant, Assembly Committee on Local Government
    William Weber, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
    The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
    The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
    The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
    Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
    Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
    Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
April 19, 2019

The Honorable Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 245 (Muratsuchi) CA Aerospace and Aviation Commission: Establishment - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our support for AB 245 (Muratsuchi). The bill would enact the California Aerospace and Aviation Act of 2019, which establishes the 17-member California Aerospace and Aviation Commission for serving as a central point of contact for related industries and supporting the health and competitiveness of these industries in California.

The 2019 County Board of Supervisors adopted a Legislative Principle that supports the interaction and dialogue with public, private and non-profit sectors with a focus on the pursuit of and advocacy for economic vitality and innovation. The establishment of the California Aerospace and Aviation Commission will play a key role in supporting the dialogue about aerospace business development in Santa Barbara County.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support AB 245 (Muratsuchi). If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.
cc: The Honorable Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, Author
    Members, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
    Natasha Collins, Principal Consultant, Consultant, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
    Kaitlin Cook, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
    The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
    The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
    The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
    Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
    Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
    Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
April 16, 2019

The Honorable Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 398 (Chu) Arts Education in K-6 Schools - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request your support for AB 398 (Chu), which will help the State better understand the quality of and disparities in arts education by extending State data collection regarding course enrollment and completion to grades K-6, requiring that such data are analyzed at the state-level and that school districts emphasize the importance of visual and performing arts curricula in their local educational planning.

California requires arts education for elementary school students, but there is no systematic method for reporting or analyzing the provision of arts education data for students. Educational access and outcomes can only be properly assessed if they are measured. Existing data for grades 7-12 show inequities in the availability and quality of arts education for African American and Latino students and students from a lower socioeconomic background. Data for grades K-6 will help us identify disparities in availability and quality of arts education in the state in order to inform future efforts to provide equitable arts education in California.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2019 Legislative Platform that includes the Arts and Culture Legislative Plank, which specifically states that the County will support the development of arts and culture, as they are a proven force in developing sustainable economic and community vitality, and integrated instruction will help strengthen elementary school students’ reading, fluency and comprehension.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is in support of AB 398 (Chu). If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg  
Governmental Advocates, Inc.
cc: The Honorable Assemblymember Kansen Chu, Author
    Members, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
    Natasha Collins, Principal Consultant, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
    Bob Becker, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
    The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
    The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
    The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
    Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
    Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
    Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
April 17, 2019

The Honorable Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Chair, Assembly Committee on Local Government
State Capitol, Room 5144
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 510 (Cooley) Video Monitoring Records Retention Modernization - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request your support for AB 510 (Cooley), which would modernize the Government Code to allow local public agencies to adopt records retention policies designed for modern digital recording technologies, while ensuring the proper retention of any records in which an incident may have occurred.

As stated in CSAC’s letter dated on March 11th, counties currently must retain routine video footage for a period of one year and recordings of telephone and radio communications for a period of 100 days. In this day and age, surveillance footage is primarily captured through Digital Video Recorders (DVR) which typically record on a 30-day loop. However, due to the one-year retention requirement, local agencies must migrate from analog cameras with a DVR server to Internet Protocol cameras and a Network Video Recorder. This comes at great cost to local agencies, forcing some to sacrifice quality by downgrading resolution and other camera settings. The one-year retention requirement has even driven some agencies to reduce their camera fleet, thereby increasing their susceptibility to theft and other malfeasance. In effect, current law is undermining the very reason local agencies utilize routine video monitoring to begin with.

AB 510 offers a reasonable solution that still requires local agencies to store routine digital recordings, but in a manner that best serves each individual agency. Under the bill, individual counties may still choose to adhere to a one-year retention policy. This merely affords them more flexibility so they can eliminate unnecessary footage that only serves to occupy storage.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2019 Legislative Platform that includes a Local Control Legislative Principle that specifically states that the County will support efforts to ensure local authority and control over governance issues including flexibility of implementing policies and services that are responsive to the community’s preferences.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support AB 510 (Cooley). If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.
cc: The Honorable Assemblymember Ken Cooley, Author
Members, Assembly Committee on Local Government
Angela Mapp, Consultant, Assembly Committee on Local Government
William Weber, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
April 17, 2019

The Honorable Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 585 (Limon) Public Lands: Oil, Gas, and Mineral Leases - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our support for AB 585 (Limon), which would authorize the State Lands Commission (Commission), when considering the approval of an assignment, transfer, or sublet of an oil and gas lease, to consider whether a proposed assignee is likely to comply with the provisions of the assigned, transferred, or sublet lease for the duration of the lease term.

The Commission has not issued a new offshore oil development lease in nearly 50 years, but many of the leases issued before then are still in effect. AB 585 (Limon) will strengthen existing law to reduce or eliminate the State’s future financial liability for decommissioning oil and gas infrastructure and ensure that all lessees fulfill the contractual decommissioning obligations on their leases.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2019 Legislative Platform that includes the Oil and Gas Infrastructure Safety and Compliance Legislative Plank, which specifically states that the County will support legislation to strengthen rules set forth by, and enforcement capabilities of, the State Lands Commission to require timely and proper abandonment of oil and gas facilities.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support AB 585 (Limon). If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.
cc: The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, Author
    Members, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
    Jennifer Galehouse, Consultant, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
    Katie Sperla, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
    The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
    The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
    Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
    Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
    Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
April 15, 2019

The Honorable Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 764 (Bonta) Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Promotions - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request your support for AB 764 (Bonta), which would prohibit soda companies from offering promotional and marketing incentives, including manufacturers coupons, to their partners to subsidize the lower retail costs of sugar-sweetened beverages.

In recent years, increasing attention has been given to the role that the marketing of high-calorie, low-nutrient foods and beverages plays on the development of obesity, especially childhood obesity. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, more than one-third of U.S. adults are obese, and approximately 12.5 million children and adolescents ages two to 19 years are obese. Research indicates a tripling in the youth obesity rate over the past three decades. Overweight youth face increased the risk of many serious detrimental health conditions that do not commonly occur during childhood, including high cholesterol and type 2 diabetes. Obese children and teenagers also remain at higher risk of developing serious chronic diseases including type 2 diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, cancer, asthma, sleep apnea, and serious psychological effects. AB 764 would directly impact the industry’s ability to influence price reductions on sugar-sweetened beverages in underperforming communities, or communities where soda purchasing is down.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2019 Legislative Platform that includes the Health and Human Services Legislative Principle and the Health in our Community Legislative Plank, which specifically states that the County will support efforts to maintain and enhance services that protect the most vulnerable within the community, including children and children’s health, as well as promote healthy behaviors and wellness such as supporting programs that encourage physical activity, healthy eating and reducing the prevalence of obesity.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support AB 764 (Bonta). If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.
cc: The Honorable Assemblymember Rob Bonta, Author
    Members, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
    Lisa Murawski, Consultant, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
    Alex Khan and Suzanne Sutton, Consultants, Assembly Republican Caucus
    The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
    The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
    The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
    Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
    Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
    Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
April 15, 2019

The Honorable Assemblymember Jim Wood
Chair, Assembly Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 765 (Wicks) Health Checkout Aisles for Healthy Families Act - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Wood:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request your support for AB 765 (Wicks), which would prohibit the placement of sugar-sweetened beverages near checkout counters and at the ends caps of supermarkets, large grocery stores, supercenters, and warehouse clubs.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, sugar-sweetened beverages are the largest source of added sugars in the diet of youth in the United States. Frequent consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages is associated with multiple health issues, including, obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and tooth decay. AB 765 limits which beverages may be available at checkout aisles in retail establishments, including large and small convenience stores and retail stores and will prohibit any beverages containing added caloric sweeteners near checkout aisles and end caps of supermarkets, large grocery stores, supercenters, and warehouse clubs. This change will promote the placement of healthier beverages at checkout aisles and aid in a more comprehensive approach to help families make healthier choices and curb the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2019 Legislative Platform that includes the Health and Human Services Legislative Principle and the Health in our Community Legislative Plank, which specifically states that the County will support efforts to maintain and enhance services that protect the most vulnerable within the community, including children and children’s health, as well as promote healthy behaviors and wellness such as supporting programs that encourage physical activity, healthy eating and reducing the prevalence of obesity.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support AB 765 (Wicks). If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.
cc: The Honorable Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, Author
Members, Assembly Committee on Health
Rosielyn Pulmano, Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on Health
Alex Khan, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
April 17, 2019

The Honorable Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1057 (Limon) Environmental Liability Protection - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our support for AB 1057 (Limon), which would double the minimum bonding requirements for onshore oil and gas wells to ensure that the public is protected from environmental and financial liabilities in the event a company fails to fulfill their legal obligation to decommission and remediate oil production sites.

As oil production continues to decline in California, there is a growing concern that oil and gas infrastructure could be deserted, leaving the public to address the risks and cover the costs. Currently, over 97% of oil and gas wells are onshore and upwards of 30,000 wells haven’t produced in over 15 years. Based on conservative estimates, costs to the taxpayer could be as high as $298 million per 10,000 oil 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. In addition, there are high costs associated with plugging of deserted wells and decommissioning the deserted facilities attendant to oil and gas production can be significant.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2019 Legislative Platform that advocates for these actions in the Oil Research & Infrastructure plank, specifically stating that the County will support to strengthen rules set forth by, and enforcement capabilities of, the Division of Oil, Gas and
Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) to require timely and proper abandonment of oil and gas facilities.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support AB 1057 (Limon). If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, Author
Members, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
Jennifer Galehouse, Consultant, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
Katie Sperla, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
April 17, 2019

The Honorable Assemblymember Jim Wood
Chair, Assembly Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1550 (Bonta) Crisis Stabilization Units - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Wood:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request your support for AB 1550 (Bonta), which would authorize a certified crisis stabilization unit to provide medically necessary crisis stabilization services to individuals beyond the current service time of 24 hours.

Crisis Stabilization Units provide a location for individuals undergoing a mental health emergency to receive short-term treatment. During an individual’s time in a Crisis Stabilization Unit, the staff provides supportive care and attempt to secure referrals for appropriate long-term or inpatient care. The current 24-hour limitation at these facilities often forces behavioral health workers to stop care for their patients.

Research shows that mental illness can impair an individual’s ability to perform daily living skills, form and maintain relationships and understand others’ efforts to help. The goal of crisis stabilization is to stabilize a person facing a mental health crisis and reintegrate them back into the community quickly. This bill would help provide an alternative to individuals who need more than the limited or more expensive psychiatric hospital placement and helps reduce those in crisis waiting in hospital emergency rooms.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2019 Legislative Platform that includes the Health and Human Services Legislative Principle, which specifically states that the County will support efforts to enhance safety net services that protect the most vulnerable within the community, including children, the elderly, homeless and other at-risk populations.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is in support of AB 1550 (Bonta). If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.
cc:  The Honorable Assemblymember Rob Bonta, Author
     Members, Assembly Committee on Health
     Scott Bain, Principal Consultant, Assembly Committee on Health
     Alex Khan, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
     The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
     The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
     The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
     Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
     Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
     Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
April 10, 2019

Honorable Maria Elena Durazo, Chair
Senate Budget Subcommittee #4
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

re: Santa Barbara County emergency systems—$4.05 million

Dear Senator Durazo:

In 2018, Santa Barbara County suffered devastating losses due to the Thomas fire. In addition to tragic loss of life, the fire caused significant property damage, disrupted thousands of lives, businesses and government services. It was at the time the largest wildfire in California history. Within two weeks of the fire being extinguished (some 40 days after it began), Santa Barbara County suffered a devastating debris flow, which resulted in infrastructure damage, property loss and multiple fatalities. The County of Santa Barbara is seeking funding for critical needs to ensure greater resilience the next time a disaster strikes.

1. Land mobile radio (LMR) systems, and the Public Safety Microwave Radio System—$2.5 M

During the Thomas fires and subsequent debris flow, the County of Santa Barbara discovered a communications failure in existing radio systems that left first responders unable to communicate with each other from canyon to canyon. The current radio system did not work with emergency personnel deployed in multiple canyons, which created many safety obstacles for first responders while combating the deadly wildfires and debris flows.

The County of Santa Barbara (County) Fire, Sheriff, Emergency Medical Systems (EMS), and Local Government (LG) land mobile radio (LMR) systems, and the Public Safety Microwave Radio System are all at the end of their lifecycle and need replacement. The County specifically needs to replace the existing Sheriff, EMS, and LG LMR systems with a shared UHF Project 25 (P25) digital trunked radio system. This new system utilizes new technology and is faster and more powerful than the old technology.
The County would upgrade the existing Fire VHF system with like technology for use by Fire and EMS. EMS communications with the hospitals would shift to the UHF trunked system. The total cost is $48,679,000. We are asking for the State to partner with the county in funding Phase 1 at a cost of $2.5 million. The Phase 1 funding will primarily be focused on technical design of the overall radio system upgrades and limited property acquisition necessary to prepare for technical infrastructure installation.

2. Expanded Call Center for the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) - $900,000

The County has a state of the art, modern EOC that has been the hub for emergency activations to support firefighter and law enforcement activities during fires, floods, oil spills and other emergencies. The EOC was not originally designed for a call center.

In major emergencies the EOC has set up a temporary call center – with staff providing information in English and Spanish – where residents can get up to date information and referrals for service, make requests, or just hear a voice for reassurance.

One of the recommendations of the After-Action report from the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow was providing space to accommodate a call center. This is part of larger project to expand the EOC for the call center and other uses, for a total cost of $5 million, of which about $900,000 is for the call center. If the larger project does not occur, then the funds would be used to provide the necessary infrastructure for a call center next to the EOC.

3. Whole Community Emergency Outreach - $450,000

The County in collaboration with municipal agencies, educational institutions and community non-profits recently developed a “Whole Community Outreach” initiative. This collaborative’s aim is to develop a countywide education and outreach campaign for “all-risk” disaster preparedness. All risks include fire, earthquakes, active shooter incidents, oil spill, flood, etc. This is based on the current “Ready-Set-Go” model. The initiative will focus on hard to reach communities; individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs; and non-English speakers. Funding would be used for educational and marketing materials, advertising, speakers’ bureau, outreach events and go-kit materials. This program could be a model for other communities statewide on building resilience and effective outreach.

4. Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) - $200,000

The County has developed two CWPPs, which are community-based plans that identify and prioritize fire threat reductions. South Coast cities and several Fire Districts in the county also
Honorable Maria Elena Durazo, Chair
Senate Budget Subcommittee #4
re: Santa Barbara County emergency systems—$4.05 million
April 10, 2019
page 3

have adopted CWPPs. There are geographic gaps between those CWPPs and the County would benefit from CWPPs that cover the areas for which there is no CWPP. In this next year or so, new CWPPs will be needed for the Gaviota Coast Plan area, Goleta Foothills and West Santa Barbara Foothill to include San Roque and Mission Canyon. This funding would be used to hire a consultant to develop the plans in consultation with the community, as prescribed by the County’s policies.

I respectfully request your support for these budget appropriations.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

HANNAH-BETH JACKSON
Senate District 19
April 10, 2019

Honorable Dr. Richard Pan, Chair
Senate Budget Subcommittee #3
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

re: Santa Barbara County mental health and criminal justice request-- $855,000

Dear Senator Pan:

The number of people incarcerated with mental illness in California is on the rise. While the overall state prison population has decreased, the number of prisoners with mental illness continues to climb and is expected to grow in the years ahead. Over the past decade in California, the percentage of state prisoners with mental illness has increased by 77 percent. To try to counter this serious trend, the County of Santa Barbara is seeking the following funding for diversion efforts for those with mental illness or involved in the justice system:

1. Funding for a Mental Health Rehabilitation Center - $500,000

The County is working towards developing mental health rehabilitation centers, which provide shorter-term inpatient mental health care for individuals. This provides an alternative to individuals who do not need the limited and more expensive psychiatric hospital placement and helps reduce those in crisis waiting in hospital emergency rooms. The County has identified a building to house the center and has a commitment for the purchase price. The County also has the money for ongoing maintenance and operations. Funds are needed to outfit the interior—furniture, fixtures, equipment.

2. Holistic Defense Partnership - $220,000

The County’s Public Defender’s Office partnered with Family Services Agency (FSA) to pilot a Holistic Defense model in Santa Barbara County. Holistic Defense is an innovative approach to
Honorable Dr. Richard Pan, Chair  
Senate Budget Subcommittee #3  
re: Santa Barbara County mental health and criminal justice request—$855,000  
April 10, 2019

representing poor clients which has been proven to reduce incarceration rates, reduce recidivism and save tax dollars without compromising public safety.

Holistic Defense consists of an interdisciplinary team that includes lawyers, social workers, housing and resource specialists committed to providing a continuum of care and connecting clients to already existing resources in our community to break down barriers for successfully re-entry. The pilot project mirrored the findings in a Rand Study of the effectiveness of this model. The Santa Barbara Pilot Holistic Defense FSA grant-funded program showed fewer days in custody for Holistic Defense clients and a potential $250,000 incarceration costs savings all without harming public safety.

Additional funding would allow expansion of the holistic defense program to serve more clients county-wide.

3. Improved Criminal Justice Diversion and Process Mapping Project - $135,000

The County of Santa Barbara is working to reduce recidivism, improve holistic approaches to justice-involved individuals, reduce the number of mentally ill in jail and those who have pre-trial status.

This project would develop mapping of the current criminal justice process to detail the processes from “police to prison” and provide data and analysis on where diversion efforts could be enhanced to reduce the number of people in the County jail without jeopardizing the community’s safety. The effort would include law enforcement, district attorney, public defender, probation, mental health, courts and custody staff. The funds would be to hire a consultant to perform the mapping.

I respectfully request your support for these budget appropriations.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

HANNAH-BETH JACKSON  
Senate District 19
April 30, 2019

Senator Nancy Skinner, Chair
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #5
State Capitol, Room 5094
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Shirley Weber, Chair
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #5
State Capitol, Room 3123
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: State Emergency Telephone Number Account (SETNA) Trailer Bill Language- SUPPORT

Dear Senator Skinner and Assemblymember Weber:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully urge your support for the SETNA Trailer Bill language, which will update the SETNA funding model and remove the reliance on an antiquated intrastate voice revenue model aligning California with a funding model used by all other states except Missouri, Nevada, and Vermont.

In 2018, Santa Barbara County has suffered devastating losses that resulted in property damage, disrupting thousands of lives, businesses and government services due to the Thomas Fire, which was at the time the largest wildfire in California in history. After weeks of wildfires, the Santa Barbara County continued to suffer devastating mudslides, which created tremendous loss and resulted in infrastructure damage, property loss and multiple fatalities.

The state has an outdated 9-1-1 system that uses pre-Internet and pre-cellphone era technology, and is prone to failure, especially during major disasters. During the recent wildfires, dispatch centers were unable to receive 9-1-1 calls and California’s antiquated, analog microwave network must be upgraded to a digital network to maintain safety operations when the public needs it the most. This proposed change in the funding methodology will create a long-term, sustainable funding source for the 9-1-1 program in California and allows for the build-out of the Next Generation 9-1-1 system.

Without changes to the fee structure, there will be inadequate funding to support California’s outdated, legacy 9-1-1 system, nor is there adequate funding to support the implementation of the Next Generation 9-1-1 system. Without new investment, the 9-1-1 system will deteriorate and inevitably cost lives.
The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2019 Legislative Platform that includes the Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection Legislative Principle that specifically states that the County will continue to encourage actions to prevent and respond to disasters.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors respectfully urges your support for the SETNA Trailer Bill. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsfb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: Diane Cummins, Special Assistant to the Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom
Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee #5
Christopher Francis, Consultant, Senate Budget Subcommittee #5
Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #5
Jennifer Kim, Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #5
The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors