



May 12, 2021

Keely Bosler
Finance Director, Department of Finance
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Director Bosler:

We write to bring to your attention our concerns with the distribution formula for backfill of Criminal Justice Administrative fees. We ask the formula to include an opportunity for counties that can verify their loss to receive a backfill of lost revenue demonstrated.

AB 1869 (Chapter 92, Statutes of 2020) was enacted as part of the state budget in August of last year. The legislation eliminated various criminal justice administrative fees including probation, sheriff, and public defender fees. The Governor's January budget provided a backfill of \$65 million. However, the backfill did not include any distribution formula. Santa Barbara County has had recent conversations with your staff where it was indicated that the Department may be considering a population based formula. While easy to administer that would greatly impact counties like Santa Barbara, who as a result of AB 1869, calculates a potential revenue loss of \$2.6 million.

We hope you consider all possible approaches to achieve equity for all counties. This might be a hybrid approach that allows counties that document actual losses to apply for backfill and for counties that cannot, then revert to population based allocations.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Monique Limón". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Monique Limón
Senator, 19th District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Bennett". The signature is cursive and elegant.

Steve Bennett
Assemblymember, 37th District