

BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS

County Administration
Building
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Telephone: (805) 568-2190
www.countyofsb.org



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

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September 1, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: AB 107 (Committee on Budget) State Government – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request your signature on AB 107 (Committee on Budget), the general government budget trailer bill, which includes language to extend the deadline for decisions in pending assessment appeals cases beyond the Governor's recent Executive Order to March 31, 2021 and provides explicit statutory authority to conduct assessment appeals hearings remotely. These important provisions will allow the County of Santa Barbara to safely conduct assessment appeals hearings and ensure that boards are able to finalize rulings on appeals that are nearing the statutory deadline.

As stated in CSAC's letter dated August 30th, the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated state and public health orders have made it challenging for counties to conduct assessment appeals hearings, leaving a backlog of hearings in counties throughout the state. While the 40-day extension provided by the State Board of Equalization and the Governor's Executive Order N-72-20 provided short-term relief, the County needs additional time to fully address the backlog of hearings. Further, the County appreciates the explicit statutory authority to conduct hearings remotely to ensure that hearings can be conducted in a manner that protects the public's health and safety.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2020 Legislative Platform that includes the Efficient Service Delivery and Operations Principle which states that the County will strive to balance the diversity of needs countywide, support efforts to streamline processes and promote operational enhancements relevant to County departments' missions and core services, as well as the Inter-Agency

Collaboration Principle, which states that the County shall support the advocacy efforts of CSAC and collaborate with other entities on mutually beneficial issues.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests your signature on AB 107. If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Nancy Anderson at 805-568-3403 or NAnderson@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,



Cliff Berg

Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: Ronda Paschal, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Keely Bosler, Director, Department of Finance
Erika Li, Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance
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
Nancy Anderson, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors