ABOUT THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors serves as the legislative and executive body of Santa Barbara County government. The Board is comprised of five elected officials representing each of the five supervisory districts in the county. Each board member is elected to a four-year term. The position of chairperson rotates annually among the five members.

The Board generally convenes in regular session on several Tuesdays each month, with the second Tuesday meeting of the month held in Santa Maria. The Board sets policy for County departments, oversees the County budget, and adopts ordinances on local matters and establishes land use policies that affect unincorporated areas.

### Board of Supervisors Online Resources

- Board of Supervisors 2021 meeting Schedule
- Agendas and Minutes
- Live and Archived Meeting Videos
- Find My District
- District Maps
- Receive County News Via Email

### MEET YOUR BOARD 2020-2021

**DISTRICT 1**
- **Das Williams**
  - www.countyofsb.org/bos/williams

**DISTRICT 2**
- **Gregg Hart**
  - www.countyofsb.org/bos/hart

**DISTRICT 3**
- **Joan Hartmann**
  - www.countyofsb.org/bos/hartmann

**DISTRICT 4**
- **Peter Adam**
  - www.countyofsb.org/bos/adam

**DISTRICT 5**
- **Steve Lavagnino**
  - www.countyofsb.org/bos/lavagnino

**NEW INCOMING DISTRICT 4 SUPERVISOR 2021**
- **Bob Nelson**
  - Fourth District Supervisor Peter Adams did not seek reelection and ended his service on December 15, 2020. In the March 2020 primary election, Bob Nelson ran unopposed to secure the Fourth District seat. His first board meeting was January 12, 2021 at which he was elected chair of the Board.
  - www.countyofsb.org/bos/nelson
INTRODUCTION

Looking back over the past years, again we find ourselves reflecting on the challenges and curveballs our community continues to face – together. Over a year ago, the Conception dive boat tragedy occurred off our coast on September 2, 2019. Tragically, 34 people lost their lives when the boat caught fire and ultimately sank. It is the worst maritime disaster in California.

A few short months later, the Thanksgiving 2019 holiday was nearly derailed by the Cave Fire. The fire started near East Camino Cielo and Painted Cave Road in the Los Padres National Forest threatening the communities of Santa Barbara and Goleta. Superior fire-fighting efforts and a change in the weather allowed evacuees to go home for the holiday. While more than 3,100 acres burned, fortunately, no lives or structures were lost.

Today, as everyone knows, the focus since February 2020 has been responding to the Coronavirus pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused loss of life in our community, a national recession, a sudden reduction in state and local revenues, and severe economic distress for businesses, families, community organizations and public agencies. It has jeopardized the health of our communities and our economic livelihood. Fortunately, the vaccination rollout has begun and our efforts are focused on ensuring everyone who wants to be vaccinated can as soon as possible.

Your county government remains steadfast and focused. In the spirit of our Renew ’22 transformation initiative, we are embracing and meeting the challenges decisively using data, technology and innovation, while being adaptable and fiscally responsible to serve the public through each next normal.

The County is at the forefront of fighting the pandemic; expanding and intensifying health, public safety, and safety net services; and leading emergency operations. Public Health employees have been working around the clock on this crisis since January 2020, and at their side are employees from almost every County department serving in various capacities to protect residents’ health and safety.

Through the Board of Supervisors’ prudent contributions to our rainy day funds, restraint in committing cannabis tax revenue to expand ongoing services, and our fiscal discipline with minimal expansions of ongoing revenue in recent years, we are better prepared to face an economic downturn. We have also been greatly aided by federal and state COVID funding assistance.

The adopted FY 20-21 budget maintains service levels to the extent possible so as not to further harm members of our community; continues to fulfill commitments and priorities set by the Board of Supervisors; and invests in initiatives that will help mitigate recessionary impacts and prepare for the next normal and recovery.

This annual report spotlights the Board’s fiscal policies and priorities demonstrated in the services we provide and the dedicated people who deliver them. I invite you to visit our website at countyofsb.org to learn more about your County government and how you can become more involved in improving quality of life for all who live, work and play in Santa Barbara County.

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I would also like to thank our many community nonprofits, government agencies, health care organizations and medical professionals, philanthropists, businesses and individual residents who have worked tirelessly and heroically over the last year in this emergency. Together, we’ve shown great resilience, collaboration and compassion. Together, we will overcome the challenges ahead. Together, we are one county, with one future.

Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
January 2021
FY 2020-21 Budget Highlights

On June 9, 2020, the Board of Supervisors adopted a balanced budget of $1.19 billion for Fiscal Year 2020-21. Discretionary general revenues and special revenues are expected to be impacted by the pandemic. At this time, service levels have been preserved and reductions have largely been avoided. Increasing cannabis tax revenue will help mitigate the immediate impacts of the recession. Strong reserves will be maintained to weather current and future losses in discretionary revenues.

As to our funding, about one third is from the state or federal government to provide programs and services that are mandated; a little less than one third comes from local taxes, and the rest is from charges for specified services and various licenses and permit revenue.

Major Capital Projects

High-priority capital projects were identified in early 2019 for funding through Certificates of Participation (COP) that are expected to be issued within the next year. Funding for debt service payments is carved out in the recommended budget in anticipation of this issuance. These capital projects include:

- Public Safety Radio System Replacement
- Probation Department Headquarters
- Main Jail Renovations
- Cachuma Lake Park Infrastructure Upgrades
- Emergency Operations Center Expansions
Northern Branch Jail

The construction of the Northern Branch Jail is expected to be completed in early 2021, with operations commencing by mid-2021. Several decades in the making, the new jail outside of Santa Maria will provide 376 beds, including 32 special use beds for mental health and medical purposes. The existing jail in Santa Barbara housed 800 to 1,000 inmates pre-COVID. The jail population is now at historic lows due to measures taken to limit the spread of the virus. Staffing needs across the entire jail system is being evaluated to ensure cost efficiency without jeopardizing public safety.

Efforts to Achieve Efficiency and Sustainability

The ReSource Center at the Tajiguas Landfill will further reduce the community’s environmental impact. In addition to recovering recyclables and organics from our waste stream, it will generate green energy for the facility and our community, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and produce compost. The facility broke ground in December 2018 and is anticipated to open in early 2021. Read more and follow the construction progress at: lessismore.org/material_categories/9-trrp/.

The County received California Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (CEC) and Pacific, Gas & Electric (PG&E) financing for various sustainability improvements at the County’s government campus in Santa Maria, including LED Light retrofits and the installation of a Photo Voltaic solar array within select parking lots, to be completed in FY 21-22.

The Electric Vehicle (EV) Replacement Program was initiated, per Board policy, and increased the number of alternatively fueled replacement vehicles to include 56 all-electric vehicles.

The Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures department collaborated with state partners on developing testing procedures for alternative energy fuel sources, such as hydrogen fuel dispensers and transportation measuring system companies.

Community Choice Energy is beginning January 2021 in parts of Santa Barbara County. Known as 3CE, it is a new, locally controlled electricity provider. As a community-owned public agency, 3CE reinvests in the communities it serves through competitive rates and local energy programs. For more information, go to 3cenergy.org/.
EFFICIENT & RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT

Internal Process Improvement and Innovation Efforts

The County embarked upon several initiatives designed to re-imagine how we do business to ensure our activities align with our mission to deliver exceptional services. Responding to the COVID-19 emergency and beyond, these initiatives will help us shape the “next normal.”

- A key objective of Renew ’22 transformation is to explore the overall operational efficiency, effectiveness and service delivery provided by the County and identify strengths, opportunities, benchmarks and best practices. To achieve a deep-dive review, the Board of Supervisors and County Executive Office committed to undertaking a high-level assessment across all 21 County departments. Through a competitive RFP, KPMG was selected to conduct a five-year departmental review looking at organizational structure, resource utilization and productivity, demand and workload, and performance; and identify opportunities to enhance our service levels and recommend evidence-based best practices for implementation.

- The management reviews began in mid-2019 with the County Executive Office, followed by General Services, Human Resources, Planning & Development, and the Public Defender’s Office. Each report along with the department response and implementation plan is presented to the Board of Supervisors with an opportunity for public comment. To review completed reviews and related documents, go to the Renew 2022 overview webpage at www.countyofsfb.org/ceo/renew22.sbc.

- A process improvement and innovation training program was implemented in 2020 to help build continuous improvement, efficiency and innovation in the County’s culture.

- The Auditor’s Office, in conjunction with the County Executive Office, developed and deployed a fiscal policy training course for all management level staff.

- The Clerk-Recorder-Assessor’s Office implemented a new recording system for official documents and records with integrated credit card services and enhanced web processing capabilities, as well as a new ballot layout and vote tabulation system to provide advanced technology and high-speed tabulation functionality in time for the March 3, 2020 Primary General Election.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

COVID-19: Responding to an International Pandemic

In fall 2019, before anyone heard of the Coronavirus Disease 2019, or COVID-19, the County’s Public Health Department (PHD) and Office of Emergency Management (OEM) led several staff training and tabletop exercises based on the inevitability of a new global pandemic since it had been 10 years since the H1N1 influenza.

In addition to emergency training, OEM led an extensive effort to assess and update each department’s Continuation Of Operations Plan (COOP). The COOP ensures that we are able to continue operation of essential functions under a broad range of circumstances and threats including all-hazard emergencies; natural or man-made. The County’s COOPs were completed in December 2019 and included coverage of essential functions, in-person and virtual if the need arose. The need did arise - sooner than we could imagine.

Since January, the PHD has been working around the clock on this crisis, and at their side are employees from almost every County department serving in various capacities to protect residents’ health and safety.

The crisis is not yet over, but the County is also leading a simultaneous recovery and business rebuilding effort based on its RISE Guide, or Reopening In a Safe Environment.

Continued on next page

PLANNING A SAFE REOPENING OF THE COUNTY’S SOCIETY AND ECONOMY

The County published the Santa Barbara County Reopening in Safe Environment, or RISE Guide, on May 15, 2020. Within the framework of the Governor’s Resilience Roadmap, the County of Santa Barbara produced a companion guide to support the implementation of the roadmap for phased reopening. The guide was developed by experts who live and work in the region, supported by feedback from all sectors of the community. Additionally, the County developed a Self-Certification Attestation online process for businesses reopening.

Businesses are required to be familiar with State Industry Guidelines, County Health Orders and the RISE Guide, complete a plan to comply and self-certify online. To minimize the impact of COVID-19 on individuals and businesses, the County encouraged the speedy recovery of businesses, restaurants, retail and other community entities that were required to close or curtail operations under the State

Continued on next page
Continued on next page...

Businesses Impacted by the Pandemic Include:

- Board Actions to Support Residents and the COVID-19 epidemic evolves. Resuming individual and economic activities as a community, balanced with the importance of reopening that can be safely taken in our community.

- To ensure homeless individuals were appropriately housed to prevent and mitigate COVID-19 impacts for persons who remain unsheltered, we’ve provided more than 16,259 bed nights through November 30, 2020 for homeless persons. Specifically, at our Room Key South shelter, 133 individuals have been served at the site to date and 57 of those individuals were placed in housing.

- In December, the County embarked on a Navigation and Shelter Center program of 20 temporary emergency shelter units, commonly called pallet shelters, in Isla Vista to provide emergency shelter and services to 50 homeless individuals over a six-month period with the objectives of linking individuals to a permanent and safe housing resources, and to prevent community spread of COVID-19.

Continued on next page...

Pandemic Community Education and Outreach

Since March 2020, staff has provided weekly COVID-19 status updates to the Board while conducting one or more press conferences each week. Videos of each press conference are available on the County’s YouTube channel at “CSBTv20” in English and Spanish. A robust cross-channel public awareness and education campaign began in earnest. On March 11, the County launched the COVID-19 Public Information Portal at www.PublicHealthSBC.org. In its first five months, the site was accessed more than 2,000,000 times by more than 560,000 visitors.

The ongoing comprehensive communications effort has generated thousands of messages using video; social media; press releases; print, TV and radio media outreach; public service announcements; press conferences; Board meetings; posters and signage; bus advertising; electronic message boards; fliers and inserts; and infographics, in English, Spanish, Mixtec and American Sign languages.

The Public Health Department continues to work with the state to have real time information regarding the monitoring status of Santa Barbara County. State required metrics for testing, case rates, hospitalization rates and hospital capacity, in addition to our locally generated data, is intended to provide the community the most up-to-date information regarding what is occurring on the ground in Santa Barbara County and inform critical public health decisions.

Emergency Rule #1 allowed for waiver of the application or monthly lease fee for a special encroachment permit issued pursuant to the rule.

Small Business and Community Partnership Enhancement Program to create a clear, quick path and parameters for businesses and other entities to operate temporarily outdoors to accommodate social distancing. Phase II allowed expansion onto private property, such as parking lots.

Emergency Rule #2 declared a temporary suspension of zoning regulations and permit restrictions and any zoning development standards or regulations that otherwise prohibited or limited wineries and wine tasting rooms from serving food to provide a clear, quick path for wineries and wine tasting rooms to begin serving food in order to operate in then-Stage 2 of Governor Newsom’s Resilience Roadmap. Additionally, Environmental Health Services made available a COVID-19 Emergency Food Permit for wineries and breweries.

RISE Reopening Ambassadors provide education, resources and support to help business operators and employees understand reopening guidelines, and ensure public safety.

Project RoomKey and Housing Vulnerable Populations: County homeless task force with countywide stakeholders address the health and safety of this vulnerable population.

Whole Person Care Initiative is a rapid needs assessment of unsheltered health center patients aged 55 and older to regain and/or secure housing.

Emergency Ordinance to Prevent Evictions and Support Moratoriums Against Foreclosures: One of the first actions by the Board of Supervisors in response to the pandemic came in March 2020 when it unanimously adopted a moratorium on evictions of residential tenants who live in the unincorporated county.

A lot has changed since the initial state roadmap was introduced, but the RISE Guide continues to outline and support the steps for reopening that can be safely taken in our community, balanced with the importance of resuming individual and economic activities as the COVID-19 epidemic evolves.

Board Actions to Support Residents and Businesses Impacted by the Pandemic Include:

- Urgency Ordinance to Prevent Evictions and Support Moratoriums Against Foreclosures: One of the first actions by the Board of Supervisors in response to the pandemic came in March 2020 when it unanimously adopted a moratorium on evictions of residential tenants who live in the unincorporated county.

of California’s “Stay at Home” orders by implementing several programs, initiatives and emergency orders described below.

A lot has changed since the initial state roadmap was introduced, but the RISE Guide continues to outline and support the steps for reopening that can be safely taken in our community, balanced with the importance of resuming individual and economic activities as the COVID-19 epidemic evolves.

Board Actions to Support Residents and Businesses Impacted by the Pandemic Include:

- Urgency Ordinance to Prevent Evictions and Support Moratoriums Against Foreclosures: One of the first actions by the Board of Supervisors in response to the pandemic came in March 2020 when it unanimously adopted a moratorium on evictions of residential tenants who live in the unincorporated county.

- Emergency Rule #1 allowed for waiver of the application or monthly lease fee for a special encroachment permit issued pursuant to the rule.

- Small Business and Community Partnership Enhancement Program to create a clear, quick path and parameters for businesses and other entities to operate temporarily outdoors to accommodate social distancing. Phase II allowed expansion onto private property, such as parking lots.

- Emergency Rule #2 declared a temporary suspension of zoning regulations and permit restrictions and any zoning development standards or regulations that otherwise prohibited or limited wineries and wine tasting rooms from serving food to provide a clear, quick path for wineries and wine tasting rooms to begin serving food in order to operate in then-Stage 2 of Governor Newsom’s Resilience Roadmap. Additionally, Environmental Health Services made available a COVID-19 Emergency Food Permit for wineries and breweries.

- RISE Reopening Ambassadors provide education, resources and support to help business operators and employees understand reopening guidelines, and ensure public safety.

- Project RoomKey and Housing Vulnerable Populations: County homeless task force with countywide stakeholders address the health and safety of this vulnerable population.

- Whole Person Care Initiative is a rapid needs assessment of unsheltered health center patients aged 55 and older to regain and/or secure housing.

Emergency Rule #1 allowed for waiver of the application or monthly lease fee for a special encroachment permit issued pursuant to the rule.

Small Business and Community Partnership Enhancement Program to create a clear, quick path and parameters for businesses and other entities to operate temporarily outdoors to accommodate social distancing. Phase II allowed expansion onto private property, such as parking lots.

Emergency Rule #2 declared a temporary suspension of zoning regulations and permit restrictions and any zoning development standards or regulations that otherwise prohibited or limited wineries and wine tasting rooms from serving food to provide a clear, quick path for wineries and wine tasting rooms to begin serving food in order to operate in then-Stage 2 of Governor Newsom’s Resilience Roadmap. Additionally, Environmental Health Services made available a COVID-19 Emergency Food Permit for wineries and breweries.

RISE Reopening Ambassadors provide education, resources and support to help business operators and employees understand reopening guidelines, and ensure public safety.

Project RoomKey and Housing Vulnerable Populations: County homeless task force with countywide stakeholders address the health and safety of this vulnerable population.

Whole Person Care Initiative is a rapid needs assessment of unsheltered health center patients aged 55 and older to regain and/or secure housing.

Emergency Rule #1 allowed for waiver of the application or monthly lease fee for a special encroachment permit issued pursuant to the rule.

Small Business and Community Partnership Enhancement Program to create a clear, quick path and parameters for businesses and other entities to operate temporarily outdoors to accommodate social distancing. Phase II allowed expansion onto private property, such as parking lots.

Emergency Rule #2 declared a temporary suspension of zoning regulations and permit restrictions and any zoning development standards or regulations that otherwise prohibited or limited wineries and wine tasting rooms from serving food to provide a clear, quick path for wineries and wine tasting rooms to begin serving food in order to operate in then-Stage 2 of Governor Newsom’s Resilience Roadmap. Additionally, Environmental Health Services made available a COVID-19 Emergency Food Permit for wineries and breweries.

RISE Reopening Ambassadors provide education, resources and support to help business operators and employees understand reopening guidelines, and ensure public safety.

Project RoomKey and Housing Vulnerable Populations: County homeless task force with countywide stakeholders address the health and safety of this vulnerable population.

Whole Person Care Initiative is a rapid needs assessment of unsheltered health center patients aged 55 and older to regain and/or secure housing.
Getting Ready for the Vaccines

By December 2020, COVID-19 vaccine information was evolving rapidly as vaccine trials were in process and planning for mass vaccinations was underway. Pfizer and Moderna submitted applications to the FDA for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of their COVID-19 vaccine. Pfizer was approved on December 10, with approval of Moderna’s vaccine on December 18.

Santa Barbara County began vaccinations in December pursuant to guidelines from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to prioritize allocation of the vaccine.

Criminal Justice System Partnership

- Criminal justice partners (Sheriff’s Office, Public Defender, Probation and District Attorney) and the Behavioral Wellness Department continue to implement major initiatives to reduce the numbers of mentally ill individuals entering the criminal justice system and increase referrals to appropriate mental health services.

- A Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC) in Lompoc opened in late 2020. In addition, the County has received four major grants to support these efforts:
  - Department of State Hospitals three-year Mental Health Diversion grant provides funding to enhance the County’s continuum of care to successfully divert 18 pre-plea individuals suffering from serious mental health disorders away from the criminal justice system and into mental health diversion programs.
  - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant to fund two countywide co-response units that partner sheriff’s deputies with mental health clinicians to respond to individuals in mental health crisis. A co-response team approach has been shown to reduce the likelihood that mentally ill individuals will be incarcerated.
  - The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) three-year diversion grant to fund a full-time co-response unit, a sobering center, and crisis and psychiatric services in lieu of arrest by law enforcement, crisis intervention team field activities, and step-down housing.
  - The Sheriff’s Office received a Community Court Grant to support the creation, enhancement and evaluation of community-focused courts. The technical assistance grant program is through a partnership between the Center for Court Innovation and the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance.

- The Probation Department’s Santa Maria Juvenile Hall (SMJH) implemented the “Trust Unit” pilot behavior modification incentive program for youth detained in the juvenile hall. The program is designed to reward detainees who demonstrate ongoing positive behavior with extra comforts, privileges and a less restrictive environment than a standard detention unit. Expected outcomes include a reduction of behavior issues, room confinement, and increased safety for youth and staff.

- The Probation Report Resource Center (PRRC) launched “Reentry Reboot” to assist high need clients in navigating requirements, demands and barriers that can be present when returning to the community from jail or prison.
In FY 2019-20, First 5 Santa Barbara County awarded grants and contracts totaling $1.7 million to nonprofit organizations, school districts, and businesses to help children prepare for kindergarten by supporting families to be healthy and strong and by enhancing the availability of high-quality childcare and preschool.

During FY 19-20, the Department of Social Services (DSS) aided county residents in many ways, exemplified below:

- Provided financial assistance through the CalWORKS Housing Support Program to 185 families (up 131% over the previous fiscal year) for case management, rent, security deposits, utilities and storage fees.
- Assisted 465 adult job seekers and workers enrolled in the Adult and Dislocated Worker Program (a WIOA program) with access to employment, education, training and support services to succeed in the local labor market.
- Enrolled 457 low-income youth aged 14-26 in the Youth Program (a WIOA program) to provide career exploration and guidance, support for educational attainment, opportunities for skills training for in-demand industries and occupations, enrollment in post-secondary education, and career path planning.
- Increased the capacity of home-based family care placements with the “Our County, Our Kids” resource family recruitment, retention and support campaign. The average number of approved resource family homes increased by 108 percent over the past two years.

The County Department of Child Support Services collected and distributed $32.4 million for child support during the federal fiscal year that ended September 30, 2020. Of this amount, $27.5 million (85%) went directly to families and $16.0 million of these funds went to families who previously were, but no longer are, on public assistance.

The County Community Services Department, Parks Division, has a long standing history of providing outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and visitors. A full range of activities is available with County day-use parks, beaches, pools, group areas, trails, on- and off-leash dog parks, open spaces, campgrounds and Cachuma Lake Recreation Area. The County’s park system has 24 day-use parks, two camping parks, 45 open spaces and 12 beach areas totaling 8,595 acres. During the past fiscal year, the Parks Division upgraded its online reservation system to improve and enhance customer interface. Staff also completed major facility improvements to Guadalupe Dunes Park, Waller Park, Jalama Beach, Cachuma Lake, Live Oak, Point Sal, Goleta Beach Pier, Arroyo Burro and Lookout Park through the deferred and preventative maintenance programs.

Another important division within the Community Services Department is Housing and Community Development (HCD). HCD uses federal, state and local funding to provide a variety of public service programs and public facility projects including Affordable Housing, Grants Administration, and Redevelopment Successor Agency Housing Fund activities.

HCD increased the affordable housing stock with projects such as the West Cox Apartments, a new construction of 30 units for homeless and chronically mentally ill, and the Health House acquisition and rehabilitation of a single-family home for shared housing.

Public Works is reconstructing roads and drainage structures damaged by the Thomas Fire and Montecito debris flow. Work includes paving and resurfacing more than 50 lane miles of road, replacing a bridge, and reconstructing several drainage structures in Montecito and Carpinteria. Restoring the heavily damaged infrastructure to provide safe and improved streets and roads for residents was made possible with a combination of funding sources, including about $10 million from the twin disaster settlement with Southern California Edison. In addition to designating funds from the County’s Road Maintenance Annual Plan, Public Works received disaster support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Federal Highway Administration.

The Laguna County Sanitation District embarked on a significant upgrade to its current wastewater treatment plant. Upgrades include the use of new technology to ensure compliance with increasingly strict regulations and expansion of treatment capacity to meet the needs of a growing Orcutt community. The upgrade construction contract was awarded in August 2020, project financing was secured in September 2020 and construction began in late September 2020. Cost for the project is expected to be $56 million with an anticipated completion in January 2024.
Criminal Justice Reform and Racial Equity

In May 2020, the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis prompted nationwide and local expressions of anger and demands for justice and evaluation of inequities in the criminal justice system. By December 2020, the Board of Supervisors had held three hearings to listen to the community, discuss criminal justice reform efforts and take actions to make progress toward greater racial equity in our community.

The County departments (Sheriff, District Attorney, Probation, Public Defender) play significant roles in the criminal justice system, with local police departments and the courts, and all act within the framework of state and federal laws and fiscal realities. The effectiveness of this complex system - where no single entity has overall control - rests on its ability to cultivate and maintain public trust, which it must do through collaborative efforts and continued demonstration of just, transparent and fair treatment.

The County Executive Office, criminal justice departments and the Department of Behavioral Wellness have been involved in a collaborative review of improvements to the system for more than a year prior to the pandemic. The Criminal Justice Mapping Project, while focused on removing mentally ill persons from the jail, represents a systematic review of the County’s entire process. Because of that effort, the County obtained three financial grants that focus on various aspects of diverting people away from the criminal justice system, as well as a technical assistance grant to help review court processes.

Since summer 2020, reform efforts have focused on sustaining a safe reduction in the jail inmate population. The County’s criminal justice departments initiated a number of response protocols to mitigate the impact of the virus. One of the most significant results of these responses was lowering of the Average Daily Population (ADP) by close to 37 percent, a figure held constant since mid-March 2020.

Criminal justice partners continue to make progress on these and other diversion efforts and will report to the Board in spring 2021.

In addition, the Board appropriated $500,000 for an equity fund in June 2020 to advance racial equity in the community and within the County government organization. On December 1, 2020, the Board allocated these funds for local projects and organizations to support community voices and inclusive community conversations; document local history; support art by historically underrepresented groups and communities of color; create an equity advisory outreach committee; and support an equity and inclusion framework to train staff and training for staff.

This framework, called JOIN (Join hands; Open hearts and minds; Ignite action; and Navigate change) is a multi-year initiative to assess race, equity and inclusion within the organization, assess existing programs and services, develop solutions and deploy tools to track and measure progress.

Racial Equity Actions to Date

In the last several years, the County has implemented actions to further racial equity, diversity and inclusion. Some initiatives are organization-wide, while actions are also being implemented on a departmental level. A few examples of actions taken and/or underway, include:

- A cohort of employees participated in the Government Alliance for Race and Equity (GARE) “Year of Learning” training. The focus was improvement of language accessibility.
- A Diversity and Inclusion Manager (formerly EEO officer) was hired within the Human Resources Department who is developing a diversity and inclusion plan.
- County recruitment practices include blind supplemental reviews and adverse impact reports on all employment tests; diverse interview panels; analytics in EEO Reporting for the entire recruitment cycle; and mandatory diversity values and sensitivity review in the hiring process.
- The Probation Department led the Racial and Ethnic Disparity (RED) initiative to address race and ethnic disparity issues in the juvenile justice system, working with schools, courts, and the County departments of Social Services and Behavioral Wellness.
- Similarly, the Public Defender’s Office initiated the Racial Justice Committee to explore community outreach and training; collection of data on racial bias in the criminal justice system; and development of motions, materials and trainings on effective litigation regarding race.
- Staff training topics include diversity and belonging, cross cultural, LGBTQ+ 101, implicit bias, eliminating race and gender inequities, reducing bias and racial profiling, and civil treatment training.
Census 2020

In 2019, County staff and the Santa Barbara Foundation formed the Santa Barbara County Complete Count Steering Committee (CCC) comprised of about 100 leaders and representatives from the public, private and nonprofit sectors to spearhead a comprehensive outreach campaign to count all households in the 2020 Census 2020.

The County led disbursement of more than $350,000 of state census funding through grants to organizations countywide to develop comprehensive plans to outreach and encourage all residents to participate in the 2020 Census.

The count officially kicked off April 1, 2020, with self-response easier than ever before via online, phone or by mail. In-person outreach changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the committee found other ways to reach residents and hard-to-count populations, including socially distanced car and bicycle caravans; and bilingual grocery bag and bill stuffers, yard signs, banners and paid advertising.

The U.S. Census Bureau ended the count on October 15. While we won’t know the final results until spring 2021, we know at least 71.8 percent of countywide households self-responded, exceeding the county’s 2010 response rate of 68.5 percent.

Thank you to all the organizations and individuals for their efforts over a challenging year to ensure every resident was counted.

Cannabis Permitting, Licensing and Taxation Program

♦ On July 14, 2020, the Board adopted amendments to the Land Use and Development Code to prohibit commercial cannabis activities on lots that are located within the Inland area of the county and within Existing Developed Rural Neighborhoods (EDRNs). These amendments became effective in August 2020.

♦ Cannabis tax revenue has helped mitigate the immediate economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to fully funding cannabis enforcement costs, as has been done every year, it has been used to backfill certain expected losses that could have resulted in service level reductions and potential layoffs in public safety and social services departments.

♦ In this past year, efforts were also focused on developing a business licensing and permitting process for retail storefront operations. On January 14, 2020, the Board adopted an ordinance amendment to Chapter 50 that established a merit-based criterion scoring system for applicants vying for a cannabis retail storefront license. Per the ordinance, the process commenced with community engagement meetings, one per Community Plan Area where storefront retail is allowed, to gather input from the community. Chapter 50 (b) limits the number of storefront retail licenses to no more than one in each of six CPAs in the unincorporated county, which are Summerland/Toro Canyon, Eastern Goleta Valley, Isla Vista, Santa Ynez Valley, Los Alamos and Orcutt.

Following Board input on the scoring criteria and neighborhood compatibility considerations, the retail storefront application process opened in October 2020, and applications were under review as of January 2021. To learn more about the retail storefront program and community engagement, go to cannabis.countyofsb.org/retail.sbc.

♦ The Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures Department facilitated agriculture/cannabis stakeholder working group to address potential incompatible farming practices.

Redistricting - Help Shape Santa Barbara County’s future!

In the November 2018 Statewide General Election, county voters approved Measure G that formed an 11-member independent redistricting commission to establish the electoral district boundaries in Santa Barbara County for the upcoming decade following receipt of the 2020 federal census data.

More than 175 county residents applied to serve as a commissioner. Following a comprehensive process that included 10 public meetings, 11 seats were filled; two per district and one at-large member.

The full Commission began meeting in January 2021 to review, discuss and deliberate on redistricting statutes, public outreach plans, and mapping tools for constituents to use during a series of public meetings that will be held in each district.

The public is encouraged to participate in the redistricting process that is expected to be completed by late summer or early fall 2021. To sign up for updates and information about the redistricting process and future public meetings, and learn more about the Commissioners, go to www.countyofsb.org/redistricting.sbc.
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Contacting Your County Government
To connect with County departments on social media, please visit www.countyofsb.org/socialmedia.sbc.

Twitter: @countyofsb
Facebook: @countyofsb
Instagram: @countyofsb
LinkedIn: @county-of-santa-barbara
YouTube: @CSBTV20

County Departments
A list of department phone numbers and addresses is posted on the County website at www.countyofsb.org/deptlist.sbc. Otherwise, to reach the general automated telephone directory service, call the number below closest to your area to prevent toll charges. Callers outside the 805 area code may use any number.

Santa Barbara: (805) 681-4200
Santa Maria: (805) 934-6295
Lompoc: (805) 737-7775
Solvang: (805) 686-5011

- Agricultural Commissioner
- Auditor-Controller
- Behavioral Wellness
- Board of Supervisors
- Child Support Services
- Community Services
  - Parks Division
  - Housing and Community Development Division
- Clerk-Recorder-Assessor-Elections
- County Counsel
- County Executive Office
- District Attorney
- Fire Department
- First 5 of Santa Barbara County
- General Services
- Human Resources
- Planning & Development
- Probation
- Public Defender
- Public Health
- Public Works
- Sheriff-Coroner
- Social Services
- Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator

One County. One Future.

www.countyofsb.org