May 21, 2021

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101-2065

Chair Nelson and Board Members:

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 Recommended Budget for the County of Santa Barbara is submitted for your consideration, possible amendment, and adoption. The recommended budget represents participation from all departments and adherence to the budget development policies adopted by your Board on December 8, 2020, and input received at the budget workshop conducted on April 12-16, 2021. In compliance with California Government Code (Section 29062) and Santa Barbara County Code (Chapter 2, Article X, Section 2-71 (k)), the recommended FY 2021-22 operating and capital budgets are balanced and were developed in alignment with approved County policies and long-range plans through a thorough evaluation of departmental requests for expenditures, revenues, and fund balances.

At this time one year ago, there were many uncertainties as the new budget year approached—how severely would the pandemic impact the economy; how would the pandemic impact our most vulnerable, including the homeless and the mentally ill; how could services be continued safely, including those that make up the criminal justice system. In November, staff presented the Five-Year Forecast and Fiscal Issues Report. The objective was to maintain current service levels to the extent possible, while continuing to invest in priority projects and initiatives. Now, one year after the pandemic began, with the economy continuing to reopen and vaccinations for all Californians on the horizon, we see Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 as a year of recovery and resilience.

I welcome and encourage community members to participate in the discussions and decisions that affect the County’s spending priorities. In addition to the April budget workshop, public hearings on the FY 2021-22 Recommended Budget are scheduled for June 8, 2021, and will continue, if necessary, on June 10, 2021. Participation in the meeting is remote or virtual only. Details about public participation are available on the agenda and in advance of the budget hearings.

I would like to thank your Board for its leadership and commitment to building and maintaining a fiscally responsible platform for our organization even during this prolonged pandemic event. I also would like to thank our department directors and their staff for their contributions throughout the budget process, as well as the County Executive Office staff and Auditor-Controller’s Office staff for their efforts in preparing this document. Lastly, I want to express my gratitude to our employees. We are responding to an unprecedented pandemic, and our employees continue to demonstrate their dedication in serving our community and their commitment to our long-term success, while exhibiting excellence in public service every day.

Sincerely,

Mona Miyasato
County Executive Officer