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Fifth District, Chair



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

ATTACHMENT 3B

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

June 3, 2014

Senator Darrell Steinberg
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sent by Fax: (916) 651-4906

SUBJECT: BUDGET PROPOSALS ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MENTAL HEALTH - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Steinberg,

The County of Santa Barbara is in strong support of the budget proposals on public safety and mental health that will be considered by the Budget Conference Committee. Over recent weeks, Governor Brown's May Revision, the California Senate, and California Assembly have each made a series of proposals designed to enhance public safety and reduce recidivism, with a focus on individuals living with a mental illness. Santa Barbara County is personally connected to these proposals in the wake of the recent tragedy which affected our Isla Vista community as well as overall community. While it is a fact that most people living with a mental illness will never commit a serious or violent crime, the unfortunate reality is that untreated severe mental illness may contribute to criminal justice involvement. Given the high human toll and government cost to incarcerate individuals with mental health treatment needs, the County of Santa Barbara is pleased the Administration and Legislature have taken a strong interest in addressing these issues.

In alignment with the 2014 Santa Barbara County Legislative Platform principle to support legislative efforts to maintain and enhance safety net services that protect the most vulnerable in our community and the position taken by the California Mental Health Director's Association (CMHDA), the County of Santa Barbara is particularly supportive of the following elements of the Administration's and Legislature's proposals and hope they may be included in the final 2014-15 state budget:

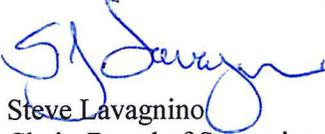
- **Collaborative Courts:** The County of Santa Barbara supports the proposal to expand the number of Mental Health and Behavioral Health Courts in California. Collaborative courts are an effective but under-resourced strategy for moving persons with serious mental illness or substance use disorders out of the criminal justice system and into community treatment without sacrificing public safety.
- **Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction (MIOCR) Grant Program:** The County of Santa Barbara supports the proposal to re-establish the MIOCR Grant Program. The original MIOCR program proved successful, demonstrating that collaborating to deliver mental health services reduces incarceration and recidivism among persons with mental illness. Though dismantled due to recent budget constraints, the Legislature has the opportunity to fund the rebuilding and expansion of these successful, cost-effective programs across California. It is urged that consideration be given to *expanding the proposal by funding MIOCR services for the juvenile justice population*, in addition to adults.
- **Training of Frontline Law Enforcement:** The County of Santa Barbara supports the proposal to provide training to frontline law enforcement in dealing with members of the public who may have a

mental illness, substance use disorder, and/or are homeless. The Crisis Intervention Team model, in particular, has been highly successful in giving trained law enforcement officers tools to deescalate a crisis, lessening harm to officers and individuals in crisis, promoting decriminalization of individuals with mental illness, reducing the stigma associated with mental health disorders, and using a team approach when responding to crises.

- **Mental Health Parity:** The County of Santa Barbara supports the May Revision’s Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) trailer bill language to provide DMHC with authority to enforce federal parity laws. Also supported is Senator Beall’s proposal to require DMHC and Department of Insurance (DOI) to hire additional staff for further enforcement activities. Assuring adequate resources for effective implementation of federal mental health and substance abuse parity requirements is critical to assure that millions of Californians living with mental health service needs and substance use disorders get the help to recover and live full, productive lives.
- **Integrated Services for Mentally Ill Parolees (ISMIP):** The County of Santa Barbara supports the proposal to fund the ISMIP Program. ISMIP is a comprehensive model that provides varied levels of care, supportive/transitional housing, and an array of mental health and other rehabilitative services to assist parolees with living independently in the least restrictive environment possible.
- **Supportive Services to Reduce Recidivism and Support Community Reentry:** In consideration of current proposals, it is urged that resources be included to *expand mental health treatment access* and address individuals’ very practical needs for *housing and employment* in the community. Whether through MIOCR, ISMIP, or other community reentry programming, supportive housing and employment assistance will be critical to helping this target population avoid re-incarceration. In particular, it is supported that resources be dedicated to *“in reach” to engage and assist individuals prior to their release*. These in reach efforts can help pave the way for success by linking individuals to the services and supports they will need immediately upon their release to the community.

If you have any questions, please contact Dennis Bozanich with our County Executive Office at (805) 568-3107 or dbozanich@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

Sincerely,



Steve Lavagnino
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Members of the Board of Supervisors
Members of the Santa Barbara County Legislative Delegation
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair, Budget Conference Committee
Honorable Mark Leno, Member, Budget Conference Committee
Honorable Jim Nielsen, Member, Budget Conference Committee
Honorable Ricardo Lara, Member, Budget Conference Committee
Honorable Loni Hancock, Member, Budget Conference Committee
Honorable Jeff Gorrell, Member, Budget Conference Committee
Honorable Shirley N. Weber, Member, Budget Conference Committee
Honorable Richard Bloom, Member, Budget Conference Committee

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

June 5, 2014

The Honorable Wesley Chesbro, Chair
Assembly Natural Resources Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 2141
Sacramento, CA 94249

SUBJECT: SUPPORT For SB 498 (Lara), As Amended January 27, 2014
Biomass: Solid Waste Conversion Technology

Dear Chairman Chesbro:

On behalf of County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors, I write to express our strong support for Senate Bill 498 (SB 498). As you know, this bill would help to facilitate the development of cleaner and more efficient technologies in California for converting biomass materials to renewable energy.

SB 498 is intended to accomplish the goals set forth in SB 804 (2013), which was enrolled but ultimately vetoed by the Governor. In his veto message, the Governor agreed with the intent of the bill and directed his Administration to work with stakeholders to develop a more straightforward approach. SB 498 does just that. This bill would simply expand the definition of biomass to include non-combustion thermal conversion technologies.

Current law limits "biomass conversion" to the controlled *combustion* of organic materials--such as wood, lawn and garden clippings, agricultural waste, leaves, tree pruning as well as non-recyclable paper--when separated from other solid waste and used for producing electricity or heat. This bill would simply include thermal conversion technologies in the biomass definition, allowing for cleaner and more efficient non-combustion technologies to be used to process biomass and creating a new pathway for low-carbon fuels.

Here in Santa Barbara County, we have an environmentally conscientious community that supports exploring new ways of generating renewable energy that this bill encourages. Santa Barbara County is developing an EIR for a Resource Recovery Project (www.ResourceRecoveryProject.com) that would generate electricity by anaerobically digesting organics that are currently buried in the local landfill. We believe that expanding the ways to generate green energy while diverting organics from our landfills (and gaining many other benefits like a reduction in greenhouse gases) is a positive step forward.

*SUBJECT: SUPPORT For SB 498 (Lara), As Amended January 27, 2014
Biomass: Solid Waste Conversion Technology*

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It is for these reasons that we strongly support SB 498. Should you have any questions, please contact our Deputy Director of Public Works Mark Schleich at (805) 882-3605.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Steve Lavagnino
Chair of the Board of Supervisors

cc: Mark Schleich, Deputy Director of Santa Barbara County Public Works Department
Senator Ricardo Lara, 33rd Senate District
Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
Assembly Member Katcho Achadjian, 35th Assembly District
Assembly Member Das Williams, 37th Assembly District
Members of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates
Cara Martinson, CSAC

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June 5, 2014

The Honorable Alex Padilla, Chair
Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee
State Capitol, Room 4038
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Re: AB 2145 (Bradford): Electricity: Community Choice Aggregation - OPPOSE

Dear Judge Padilla:

The County of Santa Barbara is opposed to Assembly Bill (AB) 2145. The 2014 Santa Barbara County Legislative Principles adopted by the County Board of Supervisors specifically states our support for efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and ensuring local control and flexibility in implementing policies. AB 2145 would jeopardize a key tool in GHG reduction efforts and takes away local authority over policy implementation. Through changing the default Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) “opt-out” model for a new “opt-in” model, the proposed legislation limits community choice, thwarts Santa Barbara County’s environmental goals, infringes upon local government decision-making, and is unnecessary.

Though Santa Barbara County does not currently operate a CCA, in March 2012, the Board of Supervisors endorsed a GHG reduction target of 15% below baseline conditions by 2020, as the preferred project description to study the Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP) Environmental Impact Report. In order to achieve this 15 % reduction target, the County would be responsible for reducing GHG emissions in the amount of 186,900 MTCO_{2e} by 2020. Implementation of Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) would result in emissions reduction of 56,610 MTCO_{2e}, or roughly 30% of the needed County reductions. In fact, of the forty-six GHG reduction measures analyzed for consideration in the ECAP, CCA would have the single greatest GHG reduction potential. AB 2145 will limit our flexibility as a local government to protect our resident’s health and safety.

Customers can easily make a choice when a CCA begins offering service in a new community. There is a four-month public noticing process with a state requirement of at least four opt-out notices served upon every customer. In addition, customers can easily opt out of CCA service at any time. AB 2145’s opt in provision will hamper local governments’ ability to achieve a viable scale to its keep electricity costs competitive. As a result, local governments may find it less feasible to start a CCA, particularly when factoring in the costs of an expensive opt-in campaign. As a local government, we urge you to oppose AB 2145 and support community choice.

Sincerely,

Steve Lavagnino
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Members of the Board of Supervisor
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates
Santa Barbara County Legislative Delegation
Honorable Members, Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee
Honorable Steven Bradford, Chair, Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

June 10, 2014

Senator Lois Wolk
Chair, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814-4903

E-mail: senator.wolk@senate.ca.gov

RE: AB 1839 (Gatto) California Film and Television Job Retention and Promotion Act - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Wolk:

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors supports AB 1839 – California Film and Television Job Retention and Promotion Act. The 2014 Santa Barbara County Legislative Principles express “support for development of job opportunities and efforts to promote local business and job growth.”

Santa Barbara County has a proud one hundred year history of film production. We were the home of Flying “A” Studios before the Hollywood sign was built. World famous titles from *The Graduate* to *Pirates of the Caribbean* to *Sideways* have shot in our region. *Sideways* has generated global recognition and acclaim for our County. However, runaway production has hit us hard. The last studio feature to shoot in our County, *It’s Complicated*, was five years ago, and this production flight to other shooting locations has left a hole in our local economy.

Production work takes place all over our state. It is not just a Los Angeles-based business. Wherever a film crew uses locations, it purchases what it needs from a diverse array of local businesses as well as paying for permits, police help, fire safety, and more. Spending takes place at hotels, gas stations, restaurants, hardware stores, gyms, beauty salons, dry cleaners, department stores, party rentals, and caterers. Productions frequently hire local residents as crew and background extras, and pay film students to be production assistants.

The current modest California Film and Television Tax Credit Program, while helping, has not saved our region from losing numerous jobs, revenue, and tax dollars to other states and countries. In the past decade, Santa Barbara County has seen film and television production decline dramatically. Your bill will decidedly address the limitations of the present incentive program—and help to make California competitive again.

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AB 1839 would expand the current production incentive program beginning in 2016 to include one-hour dramas and large budget feature films. There is an added incentive for filming outside the Los Angeles area to support increased production for the entire state. It will help make California—the state known across the globe as the home of filmmaking—competitive once more.

Santa Barbara County does not want to lose these flagship industries of film and television and the valuable economic engine for local economies. We look forward to working with you and other members of the Assembly towards this end.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Lavagnino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" being more prominent than the last name "Lavagnino".

Steve Lavagnino
Chair, Board of Supervisors
Santa Barbara County

CC: Members of Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
Senator Hannah Beth Jackson – 19th Senate District
Members of Senate Committee on Governance and Finance
Assemblymember Das Williams – 37th Assembly District
Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian – 35th Assembly District

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July 1, 2014

Assemblymember Das Williams
State Capitol Building, Room 6011
Sacramento, CA 94249

FAX: 916-319-2137

RE: Assembly Bill 1014 (Skinner and Williams) Gun Violence Restraining Order - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Williams:

On July 1, 2014, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted to support AB 1014 – Gun Violence Restraining Orders. The Board believes the legislation will provide a valuable tool to protect residents from violent acts that may be threatened or committed against themselves or others.

While protecting the community, AB 1014 also provides a legal reporting tool for family members and mental health professionals that, after judicial review and findings of good cause, would allow for the temporary removal of firearms and ammunition from individuals. The restraining order issuance procedures and the temporary restraint from owning, possessing or purchasing a firearm or ammunition are consistent with tools available to law enforcement in Indiana, Connecticut and Texas. The procedure and restraint are also consistent with possible prohibitions contained within domestic violence restraining orders in California.

Santa Barbara County has chosen to support AB 1014 as a fair and balanced approach for family members, mental health professionals and law enforcement to reduce the risk of gun violence. If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3107 or dbozanich@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Steve Lavagnino
Chair, Board of Supervisors
Santa Barbara County

CC: Members of Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
Senator Hannah Beth Jackson – 19th Senate District
Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian – 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Nancy Skinner – 15th Assembly District
Assemblymember Luis Alejo – 30th Assembly District
Assemblymember Richard Bloom – 50th Assembly District
Assemblymember Susan Bonilla – 14th Assembly District
Assemblymember Rob Bonta – 18th Assembly District
Assemblymember Joan Buchanan – 16th Assembly District
Assemblymember Roger Dickinson – 7th Assembly District
Assemblymember Marc Levine – 10th Assembly District
Assemblymember Bonnie Lowenthal – 70th Assembly District
Assemblymember Anthony Rendon – 63rd Assembly District
Assemblymember Mark Stone – 29th Assembly District
Assemblymember Phillip Ting – 19th Assembly District
Assemblymember Bob Wienckowski – 25th Assembly District