COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO HOLD BUDGET WORKSHOP APRIL 13
Public Invited to Participate Through Alternative Methods and Follow Online or Via Cable TV Channel 20 (CSBTV)

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) – The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors will hold a budget workshop on April 13, beginning at 9 a.m. The public is encouraged to follow the proceedings via the County’s website, YouTube and on cable TV channel 20.

To participate in the proceedings, please refer to the last page under NOTE: IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Given the uncertainty of the pandemic, and incomplete information about the duration or its impact at this point, the workshops this year are condensed to one day. The budget workshops provide an opportunity for the Board to receive information and provide direction to staff, as appropriate, on particular policy issues that affect department budgets. This year, the workshops include special issue reports on funding for libraries and an update on the Long Range Planning Work Program. Budget workshops are scheduled for April 13 and, if necessary, can be extended to April 15.

The public is encouraged to watch the workshops and provide input on ideas being developed by staff to fund vital services. The submitted department budgets and revenue estimates remain subject to change until the tax roll is completed and the State budget is adopted. Final budget decisions will be made on June 11 and 13 when the Board holds budget adoption hearings.

“As the County approaches FY 2020-21, our fiscal position is uncertain, with revenues previously expected to meet current operational needs now looking increasingly at risk of declines,” said County Executive Officer Mona Miyasato. “The County faces potential and unpredictable impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the local economy. We don’t know how long this will last and the objective is to maintain current service levels to the extent possible, while continuing to invest in priority projects and initiatives.”

Miyasato notes that the preliminary budget is built with the primary objectives of continuing essential services needed for response and recovery, maintaining status quo budgets for departments to the extent possible, and refraining from granting any budget expansions at this time.

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The preliminary budget generally represents a status-quo level of service and includes strategies that will help the County weather losses in discretionary revenues expected to occur in FY 2020-21, and dedicates residual 2018-19 funding the County already has on hand to add to existing reserves to help mitigate impacts that will be more clearly known in the coming months.

Jeff Frapwell, Assistant County Executive Officer who serves as Budget Director, said, “Because of these uncertainties and vulnerabilities we face in terms of our core discretionary revenue sources, special revenue sources that fund specific services, as well as our costs, we are compelled to take a more cautioned approach to budget approvals this year.”

Frapwell continued, “The Recommended Budget presented in June may not have full information about what is to come—in particular, the State budget will likely not be adopted yet—so there will be uncertainty as the FY 2020-21 fiscal year begins. Staff will return to the Board in FY 2020-21 with mid-year budget adjustments and potential service level reductions, with a focus on continuing essential COVID-19 response and recovery services. In the meantime, departments will begin examining mandated, essential services versus non-essential services to assist in this analysis. We will also be utilizing the work of KPMG to assess improved efficiencies in departments reviewed.”

Miyasato added, “The essence of the County’s transformation program, Renew 2022, has been to fortify the organization and be resilient and prepared for the next economic or natural emergency. That event is occurring now in this unprecedented time.

“As we continue to address this pandemic, which will impact our revenues, our expenditures, and the health and well-being of our communities, we do not know what the full impact will be, but we do know our resilience will be tested.

“After the emergency, we must continue, and invariably will be forced, to transform how we do our work, constantly learning to work differently. County employees are equipped to thrive in the present, adapt to tomorrow, and anticipate the future. When we have the benefit of looking back on the COVID-19 pandemic, we are optimistic that we will be proud of our collective strength and collaborations with our community partners to move all of us forward during an extremely difficult and uncertain time.”

With so many unknowns, the County will continue to follow responsible fiscal practices in an effort to buffer its finances from COVID-19 impacts, as well as a possible future recession, including the following:

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ENSURING USE OF ONE-TIME FUNDS FOR ONE-TIME (NOT ONGOING) USES

Allocating cannabis revenue, after enforcement costs, to one-time uses only or to support core services should COVID-19 impacts result in a revenue shortfall

Setting aside funding for initiatives that have been identified as highest priority, including technology enhancements and capital needs

Continuing efficiencies and process improvements, and training employees to be able to identify and implement opportunities for improved operations and innovative solutions

The recommended budget is scheduled to be released in May and presented to the Board on June 11 and 13. For information about Santa Barbara County government, go to [www.CountyofSB.org](http://www.CountyofSB.org).

**NOTE: IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Based on guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the California Governor’s Stay at Home Executive Order N-33-20 issued on March 19, 2020 to protect the health and well-being of all Californians and to establish consistency across the state in order to slow the spread of COVID-19, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors meetings will no longer provide in-person participation.

The following alternative methods of participation are available to the public:

1. You may observe the live stream of the Board of Supervisors meetings in the following ways:
   - Televised on local cable channel 20;
   - Online at: [http://www.countyofsb.org/ceo/csbtv/livestream.sbc](http://www.countyofsb.org/ceo/csbtv/livestream.sbc); and
   - YouTube at: [https://www.youtube.com/user/CSBTV20](https://www.youtube.com/user/CSBTV20)

2. If you wish to make a general public comment or to comment on a specific agenda item, the following methods are available:

   **Distribution to the Board of Supervisors** - Submit your comment via email prior to 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to the Board meeting. Please submit your comment to the Clerk of the Board at: [sbcob@countyofsb.org](mailto:sbcob@countyofsb.org). Your comment will be placed into the record and distributed appropriately.

   **Read into the record at the meeting** - Submit your comment via email prior to the close of an agenda item, limited to 250 words or less, to the Clerk of the Board at: [sbcob@countyofsb.org](mailto:sbcob@countyofsb.org). Please state in your email that you would like this "read into the record." Every effort will be made to read your comment into the record, but some comments may not be read due to time limitations. Comments timely received on an agenda item will be placed into the record and distributed accordingly.

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By phone - If you would like to make a comment by phone, please call (805) 568-2240 and state your name, your phone number and which item you would like to speak on and the clerk will call you at the appropriate time. Please make every effort to be available and mute all streaming devices once it is your turn to speak.

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