

Agenda Item 3A: State Advocacy Letters

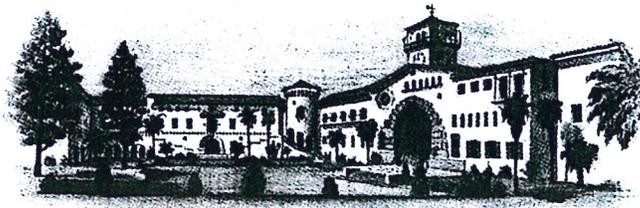
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

August 17, 2015

The Honorable David Chiu
Assemblymember, 17th District
State Capitol, Rm 2196
Sacramento, CA 94249

Fax No.: (916) 319-2117

RE: AB 35 Income taxes: credits: low-income housing: allocation increase - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Chiu,

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express their support for AB 35 Income taxes: credits: low-income housing: allocation increase. AB 35 is a critically needed measure that will increase California's investment in low-income housing by \$300 million and leverage an additional \$600 million in federal housing resources that would otherwise go unclaimed.

This measure builds on the success of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), which for decades has effectively helped finance affordable homes. The bill strengthens California's ability to use the LIHTC program as efficiently and productively as possible. This bill responds to Santa Barbara County and the state's shortfall of affordable homes as well as the continued dramatic rise in rents at a time when the median income has been falling, which contribute to California having the nation's highest adjusted poverty rate. The steps proposed in AB 35 will help leverage hundreds of millions in federal and private funds that will create thousands of new affordable homes and well-paying jobs.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County supports AB 35. If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Janet Wolf
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Das Williams, 37th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates

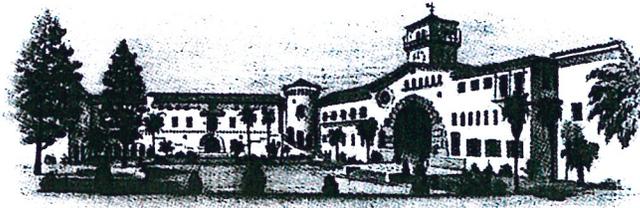
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

August 17, 2015

The Honorable Bill Dodd
Assemblymember, 4th District
State Capitol, Rm 2137
Sacramento, CA 94249

Fax No.: (916) 319-2104

RE: AB 806 Telecommunications: wireless telecommunication - OPPOSE

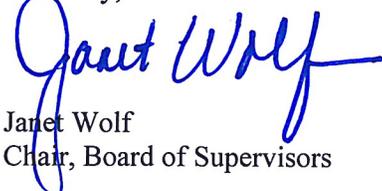
Dear Assemblymember Dodd,

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express their opposition for AB 806 Planning and zoning: permits: strand-mounted antenna. The bill would exempt strand-mounted antennas from additional permitting requirements and expedite the installation of broadband equipment. The bill is overly broad and exempting facilities reduces local control.

The Santa Barbara County 2015 Legislative Platform, adopted by the Board of Supervisors, includes the "Telecommunications Legislation" plank. The plank supports efforts and legislation that increases local authority to regulate the placement, construction, and modification of telecommunications towers and other personal wireless service facilities on the basis of the health and environmental effects of these facilities. The County is not supportive of reducing regulations that will increase the proliferation of facilities without increased local control. AB 806 conflicts with the Board's established advocacy position.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County opposes AB 806. If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,



Janet Wolf
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Das Williams, 37th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
Glenn Russell, Director, Planning and Development, County of Santa Barbara

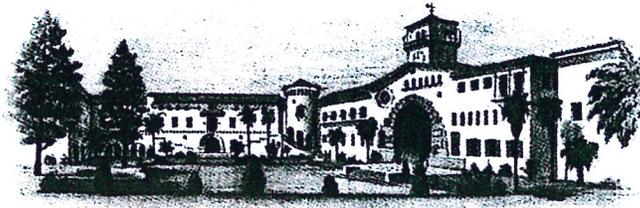
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

August 17, 2015

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Speaker of the California Assembly
State Capitol, Rm 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax No.: (916) 319-2178

RE: AB 1335 Building Homes and Jobs Act - SUPPORT

Dear Speaker Atkins,

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express their support for AB 1335 Building Homes and Jobs Act. The act establishes a permanent funding source for affordable housing through a fee on real estate transaction documents, excluding commercial and residential real-estate sales.

The act imposes a \$75 fee on documents related to real-estate transactions, excluding home/commercial property sales. 50% of the funds will be distributed directly to local governments. 20% of the funds will be spent on affordable homeownership needs for a growing workforce and 10% of the funds will go to meet the affordable housing needs of agricultural workers and their families. The funds generated will leverage an additional \$2 to \$3 billion in federal, local, and bank investment. This act will increase Santa Barbara County and California's supply of affordable homes, creates jobs, and spurs economic growth.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County supports AB 1335. If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Janet Wolf
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Das Williams, 37th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates

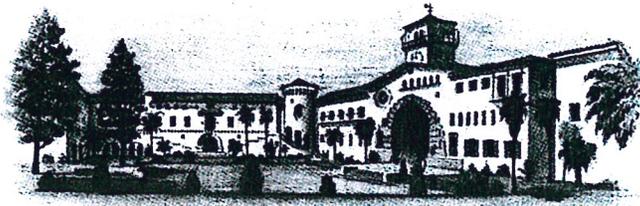
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

August 19, 2015

The Honorable Susan Eggman
State Capitol, Room 4005
Sacramento, CA 94249

FAX No.: (916) 319-2013

RE: AB X2-15 – End of Life Option Act – SUPPORT

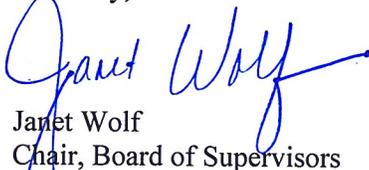
Dear Assemblymember Eggman,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express their support for Assembly Bill X2-15 – the End of Life Option Act. ABX2-15 would allow terminally ill, mentally competent Californians to ask and receive a prescription from their physician to shorten an unnecessarily painful dying process and achieve a peaceful death. Like Oregon’s 1997 Death with Dignity Act, AB X2-15 includes important safeguards to ensure that decisions made by dying Californians who consider this option are informed, deliberate and voluntary.

Four states currently authorize medical aid in dying, and nearly twenty years of data collected in Oregon demonstrate that this law works as intended, with no substantiated reports of abuse or coercion. In fact, Oregon’s law has resulted in improved end of life pain management and increased use of hospice for all dying patients. For many people facing the prospect of a painful or difficult death, simply knowing the medication is available has a palliative effect. Indeed, two-thirds of California voters think this option should be available in our state.

If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805)568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,


Janet Wolf
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Monica Schmalenberger, Office of Senator Lois Wolk
Senator Bill Monning, 17th Senate District
Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Das Williams, 37th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

August 17, 2015

Senator Robert Hertzberg
State Capitol, Rm 4038
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax No.: (916) 651-4918

RE: SB 233 Marine resources and preservation - OPPOSE

Dear Senator Hertzberg,

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express their opposition for SB 233 Marine resources and preservation. It is not clear what benefit this bill produces over current law pertaining to the decommissioning of oil rigs.

AB 2503 established the "rigs-to-reefs" program with its passage by the legislature in 2010. The current law was passed with much consideration across the state and included relevant stakeholders and agencies to address the issues surrounding oil platforms remaining in the ocean environment. The new legislation is unnecessary and does not clearly improve existing law.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County opposes SB 233. If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Janet Wolf
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc. Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Das Williams, 37th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates
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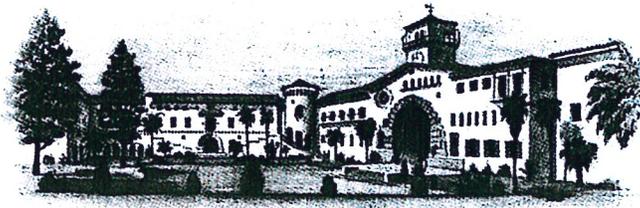
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

August 17, 2015

Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson
State Capitol, Rm 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax No.: (916) 651-4919

RE: SB 295 Pipeline safety: inspections – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Jackson,

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express their support for SB 295 Pipeline safety: inspections. This bill will increase inspections from biannual to annual for all intrastate pipeline operators, allow for the inspection of federally regulated intrastate pipelines, and increase the frequency of hydrostatic pipeline inspections.

The ecologically sensitive Santa Barbara Coastline recently dealt with an oil spill due to the corrosion and rupturing of a crude oil pipeline. The pipeline was inspected on a biannual basis, with the last completed inspection occurring in 2013. It is believed that had the pipeline been inspected annually, the corrosion would likely have been detected and a rupture would have been avoided. This bill will better protect California from future pipeline oil spills.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County supports SB 295. If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at (805) 568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Janet Wolf
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Das Williams, 37th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
Glenn Russell, Director, Planning and Development, County of Santa Barbara

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 2, 2015

Senator Kevin de León
President Pro Tempore
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

FAX No.: (916) 651-4924

***RE: SB 350 - Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015—SUPPORT, with amendments
(Reject San Diego Gas & Electric’s Attempt to Limit Community Choice Energy Programs)***

Dear Senator de León,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for the goals of Senate Bill 350. We value your leadership on this important matter. At this time we want to also express concern about recent proposed amendments by San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) to limit community choice energy programs. SDG&E’s language limits local decision-making and increases costs for customers of Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) programs.

First, SDG&E’s proposal to allow the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to have authority over a CCA’s procurement plan undermines local control and policy making. According to existing state law, “A CCA shall be solely responsible for all generation procurement activities on behalf of the CCA’s customers, except where other generation procurement arrangements are expressly authorized by statute.” [Public Utilities Code Section 366.2(a)(5)] Allowing the CPUC oversight of CCA procurement not only contravenes existing law but also robs the community of local control of programs and policies. It also adds a significant burden to the CPUC and reduces straightforward governance structures by local elected leaders.

Second, SDG&E’s proposed amendment to ensure that bundled customers do not experience any costs increases as a result of implementation of a CCA program is both redundant and dangerously expands current practices. Utilities are already able to recover procurement costs lost due to CCA customers through departing load charges that are assessed to CCA customers every month. Indeed, the implementation of a CCA by law is required to “not result in a shifting of costs between the customers of the CCA and the bundled service customers of an electrical corporation.” [Public Utilities Code Section 366.2(a)(4)] Expanding upon this language sets a dangerous precedent for CCA customers to subsidize utility services.

CCAs are programs that embody many of the goals of SB 350 including increasing renewable energy. We urge you to reject efforts to undermine these innovative and important CCA programs in SB 350.

The Santa Barbara County 2015 Legislative Platform, adopted by the Board of Supervisors, includes the principle of Local Control. The principle supports efforts to ensure local authority and control over governance issues. SB 350 would conflict with this principle. For these reasons, Santa Barbara County supports SB 350 if amended to alleviate the stated concerns.

SUBJECT: SB 350 - Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015—SUPPORT, with amendments
September 4, 2015

Page 2

If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at (805)568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,



Janet Wolf
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
Speaker Toni Atkins, 78th Assembly District
Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Das Williams, 37th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
George Chapjian, Director, Community Services Department, County of Santa Barbara
Glenn Russell, PhD., Director, Planning and Development, County of Santa Barbara

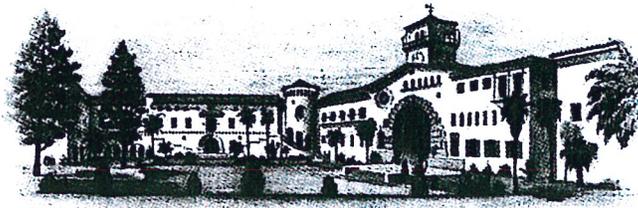
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August 17, 2015

Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson
State Capitol, Rm 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax No.: (916) 651-4919

RE: SB 414 Rapid Oil Spill Response Act – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Jackson,

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express their support for SB 414 Rapid Oil Spill Response Act. This bill will increase oil response times and make them more effective and more environmentally friendly. It will require pipeline operators to contract with local fishing vessels and crews for immediate oil spill response. It will also require the Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) to report to the Legislature on the best available technology for oil spill prevention and response and implement those standards. In addition, the bill will incentivize faster cleanup by only allowing penalty offsets for oil recovered within the first two weeks of a spill while also placing a ban on the use of chemical dispersants in state waters.

The ecologically sensitive Santa Barbara Coastline recently dealt with an oil spill that has highlighted some deficiencies in our ability to immediately respond and act quickly to protect our environment in these disasters. This bill will improve oil spill prevention and response by making it more efficient and environmentally friendly. Improved safeguards and response will help protect not only the Santa Barbara Coastline, but the entire California Coastline.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County supports SB 414. If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at (805) 568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Janet Wolf
Chair, Board of Supervisors

- cc: Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35th Assembly District
- Assemblymember Das Williams, 37th Assembly District
- Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
- Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
- Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates
- Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
- Glenn Russell, Director, Planning and Development, County of Santa Barbara