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:
Click on each link below or go to countyofsb.org/bos to access these resources.

- Board of Supervisors 2019 Meeting Schedule
- Agendas and Minutes
- Live and Archived Meeting Videos
- Clerk of the Board
- Find My District
- District Maps

MEET YOUR BOARD

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

D1  D2  D3  D4  D5

2019 Chair
2019 Vice Chair
I am pleased to present the 2019 County of Santa Barbara Annual Report that highlights a few of the services provided by Santa Barbara County government in the fiscal year beginning June 2018 and ending June 2019.

This report presents information on the six countywide goal areas adopted by the Board of Supervisors and revised in 2006: efficient and responsive government; healthy and safe communities; economic vitality and sustainability; high quality of life for all residents; accessible, open, and citizen-involved government; and well-being of families and children.

The vital role the County plays in delivering critical public service to improve the lives of the people and communities we serve became all the more clear in late 2017 with the Thomas Fire followed by the devastating debris flow on January 9, 2018.

As we continue our commitment to recovery and the path ahead, we are also focused on ensuring a more resilient community and County government that is responsive and accountable to all our community members, in times of disasters and prosperity.

In 2018, the Board of Supervisors approved moving forward on more than 100 initiatives generated by Renew 2022, a multi-year program to re-vision and transform Santa Barbara County government by the year 2022. We are examining our processes and procedures to improve methods of delivering quality services, and redesign how we do our work.

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.

One County. One Future.

**County Mission:** Deliver exceptional services so Santa Barbara County’s communities can enjoy a safe, healthy and prosperous life.

**County Values:**
- Trust and Ethics
- Innovation
- Accountability and Professionalism
- Customer Focus and Exceptional Public Service

- **Founded:** February 18, 1850
- **Size:** 2,745 square miles
- **Incorporated Cities:** 8
- **Population:** 448,150
  (ranked 19 out of 58 California counties)

**Per Capita Income:** $52,310
**Median Household Income:** $63,985
**Median Property Value:** $509,400

**Our Cities:**
- **By Population (estimated):**
  - Buellton: 4,957
  - Carpinteria: 13,928
  - Goleta: 31,235
  - Guadalupe: 7,348
  - Lompoc: 44,116
  - Santa Barbara: 93,190
  - Santa Maria: 104,404
  - Solvang: 5,451
CHANGES IN KEY LEADERSHIP

July 2018:
The First 5 Commission of Santa Barbara County announced the appointment of Wendy Sims-Moten to Executive Director of First 5 Santa Barbara County, a department she has served since 1996.

September 2018:
County Undersheriff Bernard “Barney” Melekian was named Assistant County Executive Officer (ACEO) over public safety.

The Board announced that Joni Maiden was hired as the County’s Child Support Services Director. She had been the assistant director of the department since 2006.

January 2019:
The County Board of Supervisors approved the appointment of Mark A. Hartwig as the Fire Chief of the Santa Barbara County Fire Department.

February 2019:
Maria Elena De Guevara was named Director of Human Resources.

March 2019:
Lisa Plowman was named Director of the Planning and Development Department.

EFFICIENT & RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT

- To improve efficiency and customer service, many County departments are going paperless and implementing process improvements. For example, Child Support Services switched to electronic filing for its volume of more than 1,000 monthly court documents, cutting in half the amount of time spent processing each document and freeing up staff to fulfill other customer services.

- The Department of Social Services stopped accepting cash payments and now relies on fully insured, vendor-serviced payment kiosks. As a result, cash collections rose by $41,000 per month, a 38 percent increase. Social Services also implemented an enhanced integrated voice response system that eliminates the need for a wet signature thereby making applying for services more efficient for both the client and staff.

- In 2018, the Auditor’s Office implemented a whistle blower hotline to encourage employees and the public to report suspected cases of fraud, waste or abuse of resources. The hotline is provided as an alternative reporting mechanism to ensure concerns are properly addressed and as a means for anonymous, confidential reporting. To reach the hotline, call (844) 413-4025 or use the online form on the County website.
On June 11, 2019, the Board of Supervisors adopted a balanced budget of $1,148 million for Fiscal Year 2019-20. The adopted budget is balanced with total operating revenues of $1,148 million and total operating expenditures and net increase to reserves of $1,148 million. Operating expenditures include both ongoing and one-time costs, and ongoing costs are largely supported by ongoing revenues. For the first time since FY 2017-18, no service level reductions were required of any County department to balance revenues and expenditures.

Balanced Budget with Modest Expansions

Revenues are expected to continue moderate growth in FY 2019-20. Discretionary revenue sources, including property taxes, sales taxes, and transient occupancy taxes, have largely recovered from impacts of the Thomas Fire and debris flow in winter 2017-2018, and new revenues from cannabis taxes and hotel openings will boost available funds. State and federal funds for ongoing services are anticipated to improve slightly, with several exceptions. Cannabis tax revenue of $5.4 million is expected next year, which will allow full support for enforcement operations as well as one-time funding for certain Board-identified items.

Funding recommendations were based on consideration of state and federal requirements, Board priorities, established needs, and areas in which the County could face significant financial, legal, health, or safety risk or liability. They include criminal justice system enhancements and funding for farmstays land use policy, and regional climate action planning.

The County Executive Office considers Fiscal Year 2019-20 to be a milestone year with the culmination of major initiatives, some in the making for more than 10 years, such as the Northern Branch Jail and Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project (renamed The ReSource Center). These projects are the result of the County’s commitment of resources, over decades in some cases, and continued prioritization. The County will continue its commitment to Renew 2022 to transform how we do our work. By being open to working differently, employees are equipped to thrive in the present, adapt to tomorrow, and anticipate the future.

Note: The County’s budget documents can be found at countyofsb.org/budgetfinances.sbc.
• Renew 2022 is the County’s multi-year transformational initiative to ensure fiscal sustainability and operational efficiency by 2022 and beyond. The essence of Renew ’22 is to fortify the organization to be more resilient and prepared for the next economic downturn or natural emergency. The Renew ’22 effort, in its third year in FY 2019-20, is designed to ensure the County can withstand these changes and bounce back effectively and quickly. This can be achieved through better systems and technology; improved revenues, augmented reserves and efficient services; responsiveness to clients and customers; and retention and attraction of quality employees. By transforming how we do our work, constantly learning and improving, and exploring ways to work differently, employees are equipped to thrive in the present, adapt to tomorrow and anticipate the future.

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) presented Santa Barbara County with two 2018 Challenge Awards that recognize innovative programs developed and implemented by California counties.

County Planning and Development received special recognition with one of only two Innovation Awards out of 267 entries that were reviewed. Following the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Montecito Debris Flow, the P&D staff project consolidated site-specific information in a web-based GIS map to assist the rebuilding process.

The GIS map is a critical rebuilding tool for architects, agents, affected property owners, and County departments. The web-based GIS map and parcel information replaces paper case files, reduces staff time, and could be saving the department about $100,000.

In addition, CSAC bestowed a Merit Award to Santa Barbara County Agriculture/Weights & Measures and the UC Cooperative Extension Department in San Luis Obispo County for a program that integrated nutrition education and 4-H Youth Development programming to increase health and wellness in low-income communities while creating more equitable access to government resources.

The $150 million Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project broke ground on May 30, 2019 where it was announced that the facility will be known as The ReSource Center. When completed, the Public Works project will meet state requirements for landfill waste diversion and represent the single largest reduction in greenhouse gases in the county. The new, state-of-the-art recycling facility and large-scale anaerobic digester will convert commercial and residential waste into resources by recovering recyclable materials, transforming organics into landscape nutrients, and create renewable energy in the process. The Center will divert an additional 60 percent of waste from the landfill to bring the region above an 85 percent diversion rate. The Center will be vital to achieving state-mandated greenhouse gas emission reductions, increase recycling and divert organic waste.
On June 5, 2018, voters passed the cannabis tax ballot measure, effective August 2018. Tax revenue received through 4th quarter totaled $6.7 million. Taxes paid by cannabis operators fund the Cannabis Program’s enforcement efforts and are therefore critical to enforcing against illegal cannabis operations and eliminating access to illegal and untested cannabis. On June 11, 2019, the Board approved funding of $100,000 for a cannabis tax audit to begin in FY 2019-20.

The Tri-County Regional Energy Network (3C-REN), a collaboration between the counties of Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo, was approved by the California Public Utilities Commission as one of only three regional energy networks operating in the state. 3C-REN was approved by the CPUC to receive nearly $50 million in ratepayer funding from 2019 thru 2025 to implement regional energy efficiency programs that reduce energy use, carbon emissions and meet the goals of local climate action plans.

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California agricultural detector dog “Doomis” is pictured sniffing for signs of ag products in packages.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a legislative principle that supports the interaction and dialogue with public, private and nonprofit sectors with a focus on the pursuit of and advocacy for economic vitality and innovation. The County Executive Office is leading the economic vitality strategy to provide an overview of the current state of the county’s economy, identify issues, and recommend areas for improved collaboration, action and improvement. Results from a recent survey of thousands of civic and business leaders, and county residents about our local economy will help inform an upcoming economic development plan.

Ensure that County government is accessible, open and citizen friendly.

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Local, state and federal agency and organizational representatives came together with less than 24-hours notice to help residents in the unincorporated area of the county near Cathedral Oaks and Fairview Avenue recover and rebuild from the Holiday Fire that broke out on July 6, 2018. The County organized a Local Assistance Center after proclaiming a local emergency due to the extent of the damage. Before the fire was contained, 13 single family homes were destroyed, three damaged, and 15 outbuildings consisting of barns, workshops and sheds were destroyed.

County Elections coordinated a busy mid-term election that resulted in a higher voter turnout than prior comparable elections. Each election requires hundreds of poll workers to serve in polling sites across the county. Elections implemented Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) for voters unable to register by the October 22 deadline. Through CVR, voters could register in person at one of the election offices through Election Day and still vote. About 1,000 voters utilized the service who otherwise would not have been eligible to register and vote after the close of registration.

The County Board of Supervisors adopts policies and regulations through a robust public process open to all stakeholders. As such in the development of a cannabis permitting and licensing ordinance, the County received public input at more than 55 public meetings held between January 2016 and July 2019 that resulted in many hours and hundreds of public comments that were and continue to be taken into consideration. These meetings included the Board of Supervisors, County Planning Commission, Montecito Planning Commission and community meetings of a six-month Ad Hoc Committee of the Board on cannabis.
To enhance customer experience and ease of use, new and improved websites were launched recently from the Sheriff’s Office and Probation Department. The County website will undergo an overhaul in 2020 for updated content, easier navigation, and ADA compliance. ReadySBC.org, the County’s website for emergency preparedness, response and recovery also is undergoing updates and enhancements to add all risks, not just those from storms and debris flows. We encourage you to check out all county websites to learn more about the departments and the many ways we serve the community.

On February 5, 2019, the Board adopted a Resolution and signed the Opt-In Agreement that provides Santa Barbara County with $354,319 of state resources to fund local 2020 Census Complete Count outreach. In May 2019, County staff completed the Santa Barbara County and Community 2020 Census Strategic Plan that outlines countywide collaboration and coordination to ensure a complete and accurate count in the 2020 United States Census. The County is coordinating the Complete Count Steering Committee comprised of community leaders across sectors, population segments, and localities to jointly develop and implement effective outreach strategies to the whole community with an emphasis on hard-to-reach populations while maximizing resources. A bilingual website dedicated to the Santa Barbara outreach campaign is expected to launch in fall 2019.

The California Complete Count Census 2020 effort is designed to ensure an accurate and complete count of all Californians in the upcoming federal census. The results are used to allocate Congressional seats, electoral votes, and government program funding to state and local governments. Just based on the funding component, a census that under counts Californians could cost the state billions of dollars. For every California resident missed during the Census 2020 count, the State is expected to lose approximately $1,950 per person, per year, for 10 years, in federal program funding. The U.S. Census count will launch in January 2020.

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The County is in collaboration with countywide municipal agencies, educational institutions and community nonprofits to develop a “whole community outreach” initiative. The collaborative’s goal is to develop an education and outreach campaign for all-risk disaster preparedness. All risks include fire, earthquake, active shooter incidents, oil spill, flood and tsunami. The initiative will focus on hard-to-reach communities; individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs; and Spanish-speakers.

The Community Services Department divisions of County Parks and Sustainability are co-recipients of a $716,000 grant from the California Natural Resources Agency to enhance existing park space in the Cuyama Valley. The project will include planting drought-tolerant trees and installing a pedestrian pathway to sequester carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while providing the community with opportunities for physical activity.

The County Office of Arts and Culture helped state government develop an arts disaster assistance grant program, and awarded funding from the National Endowment for the Arts to artists and nonprofits impacted by the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow. The local nonprofit arts and culture industry drives the economy and jobs to the tune of $198.6 million in economic activity supporting 5,857 jobs. (Source: 2017 Arts and Economic Prosperity® 5 report from Americans for the Arts). Aside from disaster funding, in 2018 the Office of Arts and Culture administered and disbursed more than $350,000 in grant funding to support arts education, arts and culture organizations and artists throughout the county.
Wheelchair-bound individuals can enjoy a day at the beach and navigate the sand to reach the water’s edge more easily with an all-terrain wheelchair. The County Parks Division added four versatile, sand-friendly beach wheelchairs available free-of-charge on a first-come, first-served basis at Arroyo Burro, Goleta and Jalama beaches, and Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Preserve. For information about County facilities, parks and beaches, go to www.countyofsb.org/parks.

The County Parks Division completed upgrades to the sheltered picnic area at Richardson Park in New Cuyama, vastly improving the physical character of the site that is used extensively by local nonprofits and residents of New Cuyama. The park is a community favorite gathering spot where children play and couples stroll at sunset. The park features BBQ grills, benches and picnic tables, group picnic areas, hiking trails, a playground and restrooms.

With a desire to create a better future for county residents, County employees donate their time and money to benefit United Way and other charitable organizations of their choosing through an annual County Employee Giving Campaign. Employees’ contributions help enrich the lives of children, families, senior citizens and homeless through United Way chapters in north and south county. A favorite volunteer mentorship opportunity is "Lunch Bunch," an hour-long program for local professionals to engage with students in United Way’s Fun in the Sun program. It’s a rewarding experience for both the children and adult mentors. The children are exposed to professionals from a wide variety of career fields, and encouraged to show initiative both in and out of school.

To address the emotional needs of the community following the winter 2017-18 disasters, the Department of Behavioral Wellness formed the Community Wellness Team, a collaboration of many local agencies working together to provide ongoing mental health, spiritual and emotional wellness resources. Partnering agencies include the Mental Wellness Center, United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County/Home for Good, HopeNet of Carpinteria, Santa Barbara Response Network, PathPoint and Pacific Pride.

The goal of Behavioral Wellness is to build public understanding about the impact that mental illness has on those in our community and most importantly, how to access help and support. The 24-hour toll free Crisis Response and Service Access Line is (888) 868-1649.
Provide safe and healthy communities in which to live, work and visit.

- A remodel and expansion was completed at Public Health's Carpinteria Health Care Center utilizing capital funding from a CenCal Health ACE grant (Access, Collaboration, Expansion). The center has seen an increase in patients needing access to health care. The new design provided space for two additional exam rooms.

- In a unique private-public partnership with local community organizations, the Public Health Department established the “Chill Zone” drop-in health center in Carpinteria to enhance and expand access to comprehensive behavioral health services for the local residents. The facility is available to partnering agencies that serve at-risk populations such as youth, seniors, people living in poverty, and those experiencing homelessness. Services provided by partnering agencies include social, recreational, educational and case management activities with a focus on health and wellness.

- Cannabis criminal, civil and land use enforcement is a Board priority funded by cannabis tax revenue. The FY 2019-20 adopted budget increased to $2.8 million with enforcement staffing increased to 13 full time employees up from 10.5 funded in the previous budget, as well as additional equipment and costs associated with enforcement operations. The enforcement team is made up of staff from the Sheriff’s Office, District Attorney, Agricultural Commissioner and Public Health. From August 16, 2018 to August 16, 2019, the Cannabis Compliance Team has had a significant impact on illegal cannabis activity resulting in 46 warrants served, 42 tons of dry and processed plants seized (85,335 pounds), 1,325,495 living plants eradicated, and confiscation of black market products and/or delivery services (wax, oils, edibles, vapes, extracts), and stolen guns.

- Public Defenders witness the devastating hardships that community members face during times of incarceration and intersection with the criminal justice system. To help address obstacles and challenges, the Public Defender's Office created the Community Defender Division, rooted in the department’s fundamental belief in a holistic approach to address complex client needs. The newly structured countywide program will provide comprehensive legal, rehabilitative and re-entry services for individuals impacted by the criminal justice system. Holistic Defense represents a cultural shift from focusing on the criminal act and resulting punishment to a client-centered approach that reduces recidivism by stabilizing offenders’ lives and addressing the underlying risk factors that contribute to an individual’s criminal actions. Improved case outcomes may include fewer guilty charges, more dismissed charges and shorter sentences. The Public Defender’s Holistic Defense Program, in partnership with the Family Service Agency, was awarded a $65,000 grant in 2019 by the Women’s Fund of Santa Barbara to expand the program to help women stabilize their lives and reduce re offending. Since women often are primary caregivers for minor children, female incarceration can have lasting impacts on entire families.

- In 2018, the District Attorney's Office began a new domestic violence training program to educate the law enforcement community in a variety of ways with a goal of preventing any domestic violence homicide in Santa Barbara County this year. The program was deemed a success having reached the goal; the training program is being continued countywide. In addition, the District Attorney’s Office continues to lead several effective task forces including Human Trafficking, Arson, Environmental and Isla Vista Safe Committee.

- County Fire Department Station 30 received its new $1.2 million custom built, 103-foot ladder truck purchased by the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians as part of a mitigation agreement between the County and the tribe for its casino-hotel expansion project in 2016. The new ladder truck will provide assistance to areas owned by the Chumash and throughout the Santa Ynez Valley.

- The County’s communications and information systems teams developed and launched www.ReadySBC.org following the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow as the County’s website dedicated to preparedness and recovery information with maps, helpful links and resources. The website is replicated in Spanish at www.ReadySBC.org/es. Residents and visitors are encouraged to go to ReadySBC.org and register to receive Aware and Prepare emergency alerts.

- The Northern Branch Jail, located near Santa Maria, is scheduled to finish construction in late 2019 and start operation in 2020. The 134,000-square-foot, 376-bed detention facility is designed to help incarcerated individuals gain knowledge, education, awareness and skills to grow independently and collectively with an array of programming and support services, counseling and training. Additionally, 32 beds are identified for medical and mental health beds in a specialized housing unit. The project is funded primarily by a Conditional Award of $80 million from the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) and County General Fund.
In September, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Residences at Depot Street in Santa Maria, an 80-unit affordable housing project developed by the County’s Housing Authority to provide housing for formerly homeless families. The project received more than $3.1 million in County HOME and In-Lieu funds.

More than 4,200 parents of children age 0-5 are registered with First 5 Santa Barbara County, which continues to expand programming and outreach with tools, tips, and resources to help parents nurture their child’s brain and social emotional development. In addition, First 5 administered and maintained grants totaling more than $3 million to nonprofit organizations, school districts, and businesses that serve children ages 0-5 years and their families.

Parents have many factors to consider when deciding the best type of child care for their family. To improve the quality of existing services, create new quality childcare and preschool services, and expand families’ access to them, First 5 provided funding and shared leadership to a network of experts and leaders who have helped 44 percent of local preschool and child care centers become nationally accredited, compared to the state and national average of 6 percent.

The Child Support Services Department (CSS) serves children and families by establishing parentage and enforcing support orders in a fair and equitable manner. In doing so, CSS collected $28.9 million in child support payments for Federal Fiscal Year 2018. The last time CSS collected this amount was in 2005. Child Support Services also successfully pursued implementation of legislative changes to improve access for all local child support agencies. CSS suggested updated language to the California Family Code section that now allows such agencies to access previously confidential Uniform Parentage Act cases.

As a result of the Assembly Bill (AB) 403 Continuum-of-Care Reform, the Department of Social Services (DSS) has been implementing changes and a comprehensive framework to its Child Welfare Services program that supports children, youth and families across placement settings in achieving safety, permanency and well-being. In addition, the DSS Workforce Development Board recently completed a three-year federal grant to provide career pathways for 260 youth in Santa Maria at risk of gang participation. The program provided mentoring, career counseling, exposure to educational opportunities, and paid work experience for participating youth.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a recommendation to reduce the cost of an annual County parks day-use pass for Veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces or Reserves. The annual fee was reduced to $10 for all Veterans irrespective of residence. The annual fee had been $50 for Veteran residents of Santa Barbara County and $60 for Veterans residing outside of the county. The annual pass is accepted at Cachuma Lake Recreation Area and Jalama Beach County Park for day-use entry. For more information, go to www.countyofsb.org/parks.

The Department of Behavioral Wellness formed a collaborative Community Wellness Team in support of county resident’s mental health, spiritual and emotional wellness. With a focus on our youth, the Carpinteria Unified School District and Carpinteria Children’s Project were instrumental in the design model of the Community Wellness Team. Benefits of the partnership include shared equipment and resources; collaborative fundraising and grant applications; networking; shared responsibility for planning, implementation and evaluation of programs and services related to encouraging the behavioral health of residents; and expanding opportunities for providing behavioral health services to the community. Information about the Community Wellness Team and available resources and programs is located online at ReadySBC.org.
Santa Barbara County encompasses more than 2,745-square miles and is home to about 448,000 residents.

Santa Barbara County government has a history of providing excellent and responsive public service while operating under sound fiscal principles.

County government is comprised of 21 departments and agencies that provide a range of programs and services to the community. Departments make recommendations to the Board and implement its actions. The Sheriff-Coroner, District Attorney, Clerk-Recorder-Assessor, Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator, and Auditor-Controller are independently elected offices.

Contacting Your County Government

Contact Your Supervisor
If you have questions about how to participate in a Board of Supervisor’s meeting, or how to contact your Supervisor, visit www.countyofsb.org and click the link for the Board.

Connect with us on Social Media

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

County Departments
To reach the general county automated telephone directory service, call the number 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
Solvang: (805) 686-5011  Lompoc: (805) 737-7775

- Agricultural Commissioner
- Auditor-Controller
- Behavioral Wellness
- Board of Supervisors
- Child Support Services
- Community Services
- 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