

County of Santa Barbara

Mona Miyasato
County Executive Officer

105 East Anapamu Street
Room 406
Santa Barbara, California 93101
805-568-3400 • Fax 805-568-3414
www.countyofsb.org



Executive Office

Assistant County Executive Officers
Nancy Anderson
Jeff Frapwell
Terri Nisich

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Senator Monique Limon
222 E. Carrillo, Suite 309
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Subject: County of Santa Barbara Critical Projects for FY 2021-22

Dear Senator Limon:

The County of Santa Barbara is appreciative of your efforts to seek funding on our behalf for critical needs.

As you may be aware, our most critical request for FY 2021-22 would be to ensure our Public Health Department does not lose \$4.2 million with the elimination of 340B Program savings related to Medi-Cal Rx implementation, to secure a backfill distribution formula for SB 1869 elimination of various criminal justice fees totaling \$2.6 million and passing on federal Transportation funding to counties as it becomes available to the State.

Below are some critical significant projects identified by departments.

Efficient Service Delivery and Operations

1) Transition to Voter's Choice Act Model with Vote Centers (Clerk Recorder- Assessor)
Funding: \$800,000 (one-time costs) and \$1.2 million (on-going)

Sources: General Fund offset by some election billing charges to cities and special districts

California's Voter's Choice Act (VCA) was passed in 2016 and allows counties to send all actively registered voters a vote by mail ballot by the 29th day before the election and establishes in-person voting locations (Vote Centers) open multiple days up to and including election day for voters to register to vote, vote in-person, return their vote by mail ballot, and cast a provisional ballot. VCA further expands voting opportunities by establishing ballot drop boxes throughout the County at which voters can return their voted vote by mail ballot directly to the elections official. 78% of registered voters in Santa Barbara County already signed up to vote by mail. Transitioning for to VCA would reduce staffing 86 polling place locations and approximately 260 precinct boards and providing the necessary supplies at these locations.

The one-time costs for this project are associated with equipment purchases required to allow voters to vote at any Vote Center they choose, and generation of training tools to facilitate worker training. There is great deal of planning and coordination for this project that needs to start soon to be implemented for the June 2022 election.

2) Criminal Justice Discovery Sharing Enhancement Project – District Attorney and Public Defender

Funding: \$310,000 one-time (\$840,000, ongoing)

Sources: General Fund; 2-year grant funding BSCC

Discovery is increasing in volume and complexity, and this trend holds implications for operations across the County's criminal justice agencies and courts. The process of sharing discovery materials, which involves law enforcement agencies, the District Attorney's Office, and the Public Defender's Office, is labor-intensive as there is no integrated data sharing platform to allow paperless or digital sharing of materials. An electronic cloud-based discovery receptacle is needed, with a shared central discovery hub to convert manual laborious processes to automated integrated workflows. County needs include network bandwidth support to accommodate volume of network traffic as well as a network Wi-Fi refresh to improve reliability of system. The County is considering a long-term solution to enable integration of information from law enforcement's disparate systems, automation of manual processes, and creation of a central discovery database such as a digital evidence management system (DEMS) or another solution. This may cost up to \$1 million annually in licensing costs. In the near-term, DA and PD funding requests for FY 2021-22 total \$840,000 in ongoing needs and \$310,000 in one-time needs. This project accounts for the anticipated purchase needs of the District Attorney's digital storage system in order to prevent the failure of the servers that house our case management system and digital discovery.

3) Electronic Health Record System – Behavioral Wellness

Funding: \$1.5 million one-time (\$980,000 ongoing)

Sources: TBD

Behavioral Wellness proposes funding for modernization of consumers' health records by implementing a new Electronic Health Record (EHR). This system would integrate health records within the Behavioral Wellness system of care with the goal of linking to community providers for consumers to have smooth transitions in care. The Department would like to integrate the primary documentation tool for inpatient and both outpatient Mental Health (MH) and Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP). The current legacy systems utilized do not provide modern interoperability to facilitate HIE participation or "one patient. one record." functionality. Sharecare (SC) handles claims and is the primary admissions, discharges, and transfers for all systems of care. Clinician's Gateway (CG) is the documentation tool and is currently split into two separate applications for MH and ADP (CG MH and CG ADP). These applications have been in production for well over 10 years. The inpatient workflows (PHF) are still largely paper based and do not adhere to EHR requirements. These applications are not designed to work together – CG MH, CG ADP, and SC – making it difficult to efficiently implement changes within the EHR systems and difficult to meet reporting requirements. Core features of modern EHR products include interoperability/data sharing, single patient record, appointment management, data reporting/design, and forms management. A single vendor and product will replace these legacy systems and support both inpatient and outpatient services. Dedicated EHR Support Services will greatly improve our ability to provide training and expert level support to a growing number of end users.

4) Forensically Focused Mental Health Rehabilitation Center Services – Behavioral Wellness

Funding: \$250,000 one-time (\$1 million, ongoing)

Sources: Community Corrections Partnership (CCP)

The proposal is for renovations of the Lompoc Crestwood Champions Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC) to create six forensically focused mental health rehabilitation beds. Forensic MHRC beds are a critical level of care, identified as a gap in the system over 4 years ago. These beds are distinct from non-forensic MHRC beds in that they provide services that are required due to the current legal status of the client and necessitate a greater level of staffing for services with clients who would then be connected with Justice Alliance outpatient team after discharge. Behavioral Wellness does not currently provide Forensic MHRC beds, nor does the department have any source of funding that is dedicated to this purpose. The proposal request would invest \$250,000 in facility renovations to open a 6-bed pod as a designated unit. Total ongoing annual cost of 6 beds at average of \$500/day is \$1,095,000. The ongoing annual \$1,103,665 allocation in the CCP realignment budget would fully cover the annual operating cost of this pod.

5) Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department Data Center and Disaster Recovery Upgrade Project

Estimated Cost - \$1,500,000

The Sheriff Department's data center currently houses public safety dispatching systems, booking and jail management systems, criminal reports and warrant systems, digital evidence (body camera and in-car videos) and Sheriff business applications, files and backups. These systems are currently running on aging 9-year-old infrastructure and there currently is no redundancy for these critical systems.

Proposed Upgraded Environment

- Data Center to be more resilient and scalable with modern hardware and software
- Add redundancy at the Northern Branch Jail for system and data recovery
- 5 years of support on hardware with expected life span of 8 years
- Digital transformation with a cloud plan
- IT Force multiplier - new management tools
- Collaborative effort with industry leaders to meet hardware/software goals

Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection

6) Veterans Building- Santa Barbara Veterans Building Seismic and Safety Upgrades

Funding: \$800,000 (\$1.3 million with electrical upgrades)

Sources: General Fund

The historic (City Landmark and eligible for the National Register) Santa Barbara Veterans Memorial Building, constructed in 1927, is located on Santa Barbara's premier waterfront. It is heavily used by veterans and the community alike. The usage of these spaces is guided and governed by the California Military and Veterans Code, which provides for the use of such facilities by veterans and persons or organizations other than veterans, either free of charge or for stated compensation, to aid in defraying the cost of maintenance. These facilities are being closed in

many counties. It is desired to save this building and ensure the usage for many years to come. Necessary health and safety improvements include:

- i. **Seismic Safety:** This includes seismic retrofitting, foundation stabilization, and deteriorated wood framing components. Total cost estimated for this work is \$400,000.
- ii. **Electrical Systems:** This includes main panel, subpanel upgrades, internal wiring systems, and aging light fixtures. Total cost estimated for this work is \$500,000.
- iii. **Energy:** This includes water distribution systems, HVAC, utility regulation equipment, and window upgrades. Total cost estimated for this work is \$400,000

7) **Modoc Multiuse Trail Extension**

Funding: \$450,000 Project 1 or \$950,000 for both

Sources: General Fund

There are two elements to this project that require funding:

1. County Project to go from City of Santa Barbara to Via Senda. This would complete a critical need, as the City of Santa Barbara is in construction on a project that will leave a gap between where their project ends and the nearest intersection where people can cross the road to get back on the existing bike lanes. The County received a grant to complete their portion of the work but requires a \$450k match.
2. Also, the City of Santa Barbara section requires approximately \$500k to close the gap between where they ended it and the City limits. These projects could be combined in partnership to complete this section if both elements are funded.

8) **Floradale Bridge Replacement**

Funding: \$1.3 Million

Sources: SB 1 or General Fund

This bridge is seismically vulnerable. Serving as a critical link to the Lompoc Valley for residents, commerce, VAFB, and the federal penitentiary, the County received a grant for over \$15M to complete construction. However, the required match is unfunded and totals approximately \$1.3M. With full funding, this project could be constructed beginning this summer.

9) **Toro Canyon Oil/Water Separator**

Funding: \$2 Million one-time (\$20,000, ongoing)

Sources: General Fund

County staff have been maintaining an oil/water separator facility located in the upper reaches of Toro Canyon since 2009. The facility was installed by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1998 after a series of spills from the aging oil/water separator. The facility includes an oil/water separator, a gravity pipeline, and an underground storage tank. Maintenance includes checking oil levels in the tank and arranging for a pumper truck to remove the oil on quarterly basis. The pipeline was heavily damaged by the Thomas Fire and subsequent debris flows in the winter of 2018-19. Some repairs were completed in 2020 using state CAA funds. Additional repairs are needed to repair a leak in the pipeline and replace the leaking underground storage tank. The repairs must be funded as soon as possible to protect Toro Creek from further oil contamination.

These repairs will require \$2M in one-time funding and \$20k per year thereafter to maintain the facility to protect the resources within Toro Canyon. For an overview of the facility please review the following link: <https://cosantabarbara.box.com/s/zk9aq2s6nc55b06h4up1379mveq4kawy>

10) Santa Barbara County, Foster Road Campus – Solar and Battery Installation

Estimated Cost - \$2,000,000

Utilizing solar generated energy contributes to global energy sustainability, and it benefits Santa Barbara County both environmentally and financially. By installing renewable energy and battery systems, the County can reduce its monthly electric and gas bills, reduce its carbon footprint, and play an important role in moving the state toward a cleaner energy future.

Currently the County of Santa Barbara Foster Road buildings pay on average over \$0.20 per kWh of electricity usage across the PG&E service territory. The total energy usage of these buildings during the period of January 2020 to December 2020 was 1,521,912 kWh.

The CEC (California Energy Commission) is offering 1% Loans for Efficiency & Generation Projects up to \$3 million. The cost for solar and battery system installation at the Foster Road facilities is estimated to be approximately \$5,000,000. The County intends to leverage a \$2 million infusion into the project with the \$3 million CEC loan, and will utilize On-Bill Financing (OBF) from PG&E to replace inefficient lighting with efficient LED lights throughout the campus. The electrical utility savings from the departments would pay the debt service for the CEC and OBF loans.

The project would offset 90% of the electricity usage with solar and the remaining 10% with energy efficiency reductions.

11) Food Bank of Santa Barbara County – South County Land Acquisition

Estimated Cost - \$5,000,000

A new Foodbank warehouse location represents a critical piece of infrastructure currently lacking in our County's overall disaster preparedness, response, and recovery system. A new facility would vastly improve Foodbank's ability to meet the significant, everyday food insecurity needs of tens-of-thousands of south county residents.

Using the existing North County, Santa Maria facility as a model for what is needed in South County, it is estimated that the total land needed for a new warehouse would be approximately **2.5 acres (114,000 sq. ft.)**. Within that area it is envisioned:

- Warehouse/building = 31,000 sq. ft.
- Yard = 30,000 sq. ft. (to station the organization's fleet)
- Parking, landscape, setbacks = 53,000 sq. ft.
- Ingress/egress allowing 53' tractor trailer access/delivery

The proposed facility's primary purpose is to store emergency food and to meet the food needs of Foodbank member agencies. In terms of location, the property should be in the general Santa Barbara/Goleta area. The location should have easy access to Highway 101. The property must be able to be accessed by a 53' tractor trailer semi. For utilities, standard commercial hookups for water, gas, and trash service are required.

Fiscal Stability (Public Safety)

12) Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Vehicle Request (SB Fire District)

Cost: \$969,750 one-time

Sources: Unfunded

Santa Barbara County Fire Department (SBCDF) needs to purchase a Heavy Rescue apparatus to replace a 15 year old trailer that is rated for medium rescue capability and is towed by a 2007 pickup truck. The tow vehicle is under-powered and barely has adequate braking power for the weight of USAR equipment carried in the trailer. A new NFPA1901 compliant Heavy Rescue vehicle will accomplish the following:

- Elevate our emergency response vehicle to meet National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards.
- Increase the safety of responding Firefighters with NFPA mandated cab occupant protection and emergency lighting.
- Upgrade equipment carried from a Medium USAR rating to a Heavy USAR rating (additional equipment and personnel).
- Increase the safety and efficiency of FFs once on scene with improved equipment storage and deployment.

To address the constant threat of earthquake in our area, this apparatus will be a part of an automatic aid partnership with our seven neighboring fire districts and will contribute to our local state OES USAR Task Force #12. Recently, SBCFD has provided USAR responses to a series of debris/mudflows which have occurred in our county including the 1/9 Montecito disaster which was responsible for 23 deaths and over 400 homes destroyed or damaged. In the past two years USAR Task Force #12 responded to the Camp Fire (Paradise, CA) and the Creek Fire (Fresno, CA) and assisted by searching over 3000 damaged structures as a part of the rescue/recovery operation.

13) Firehawk (Copter 964) Inlet Barrier (SB Fire District)

Cost: \$197,371 one-time

Sources: Unfunded

The Santa Barbara County Fire Department is requesting funding for the purchase of parts and services necessary for the installation of Inlet Barrier Filters for Santa Barbara County Air Support Unit (ASU) Helicopter 964, a 2004 Sikorsky HH-60L blackhawk helicopter.

The reason we are installing the Inlet Barrier Filters is to achieve complete engine protection that will extend engine life and reduce overhaul costs. With the implementation of the IBF (inlet barrier filters) we are minimizing Erosion, FOD events, fouling and also corrosive effects from Airborne Salt Nuclei that is present in salt water.

1. FOD Events: erosion from dust particles, rocks, brush debris that gets kicked up from the rotor wash on operations such as hoisting, water rescue, and water filling operations.
2. Corrosive effects: Occurs during snorkeling of salt water, filling of hard water and ponds with debris such as moss and dirt.

3. Engine destruction: Without the composite Kevlar construction of the filters the engines are exposed to embers that may be sucked in during firefighting operations. One ember can cause the engine computer to defect and the operating temperature of the engine to increase rapidly thus leading to the engine overheating. This damage is only repairable on a total teardown or engine replacement. Replacement of one engine on our aircraft will cost approximately \$1.2 million dollars.

The purchase of these filters is necessary this year, after the new tank is installed by September we will need to put the aircraft in service for the 2021 fire season.

14) Powered Patient Lift and Cot Fastening Devices (SB Fire District)

Cost: \$257,152 one-time

Sources: Unfunded

Santa Barbara County Fire Department (SBCFD) needs to purchase powered patient lift and cot fastening devices for our six paramedic ambulances. The devices will improve our crew and patient safety during transport by replacing our current cot fastening systems with a safer system that meets National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard #1917. In addition, the new power lift systems exceed the recommended safety testing practices of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) as specified in J3027 concerning ambulance cot retention systems. The devices will ensure that the cots will remain secured in position should the ambulance be involved in a collision; especially in the event of a rollover accident.

These systems will remove the hazards and injury potential associated with loading and unloading stretchered patients from the patient compartment of an ambulance. Eliminating the requirement of manually lifting and loading stretchered patients into the ambulance is critical in protecting our personnel's health and extending the longevity of their careers. The powered patient lift devices will enable our personnel to safely load a stretchered patient of any size into the ambulance. The powered patient lift devices will ensure that our patients are safe from fall or injury due to crew injury or cot failure which can result in the cot being dropped or overturned during the loading and unloading phase of transport.

According to CDC, 56% of EMS workers suffered injuries to lower trunk, upper trunk, neck and shoulders. SBCFD has suffered 42 back injuries in the last three years. It is our expectation that obtaining power lift devices for our ambulance will reduce this number significantly over the next three years.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me at 805-568-3407 or nanderson@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,



Nancy Anderson
Assistant County Executive Officer