

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025, 9:00 AM AND WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025, 9:00 AM**  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER,  
BOARD CHAMBER, ROOM 310  
1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

**GENERAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025, 9:00 AM**

Order Of Business

- A. Roll Call
- B. Statement (just cause) and/or Consideration of a Request to Participate Remotely (emergency circumstances) by a Supervisor, if applicable.
- C. Invocation
- D. Pledge of Allegiance
- E. Presentation or Announcement of Proclamations and Awards
- F. Non-Agenda Public Communication: Individuals can address the Board on topics within its jurisdiction that are not on the agenda. According to the Board's Rules of Procedure, each person may speak at only one Non-Agenda Public Communication session per meeting. Speakers can choose to speak during either the General Legislative or Land Use Legislative Session.
- G. Approval of the Statement of Proceedings/Minutes for the sessions of August 26, 2025 and August 27, 2025.
- H. Consent Agenda
- I. Discussion Items
- J. Board Member Committee Updates. This is an opportunity for Members of the Board to provide informational updates on their committee assignments. No action may be taken.
- K. Recess to Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 9:00 AM for the Land Use Legislative Session

NOTICE: THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE ANY ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THE ITEMS INCLUDED ON THIS AGENDA. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY COUNTY STAFF DO NOT LIMIT ACTIONS THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD NOT RELY UPON THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE BOARD LETTER AS DETERMINATIVE OF THE ACTION THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE ON A PARTICULAR MATTER.

Supporting documentation and attachments for items listed on this agenda can be viewed online at [www.sandiegocounty.gov/cob](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/cob) or in the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at the County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 402, San Diego, CA 92101. To access the meeting virtually and offer public comment via a call-in option, please go to: [www.sandiegocounty.gov/telecomments](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/telecomments) for instructions.

#### **ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Agendas and records are available in alternative formats upon request. Contact the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors office at 619-531-5434 with questions or to request a disability-related accommodation. Individuals requiring sign language interpreters should contact the Countywide ADA Title II Coordinator at (619) 531-4908. To the extent reasonably possible, requests for accommodation or assistance should be submitted at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting so that arrangements may be made. An area in the front of the room is designated for individuals requiring the use of wheelchair or other accessible devices.

#### **LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION ASSISTANCE:**

Language interpretation services for public speakers are available upon request to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at least 72 hours prior to the meeting (refer to Board Policy A-139 for additional information). Please contact the Clerk of the Board's office at (619) 531-5434 or via e-mail at [publiccomment@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:publiccomment@sdcounty.ca.gov).

#### **LEVINE ACT NOTICE: DISCLOSURES REQUIRED ON SPECIFIED ITEMS (GOVERNMENT CODE § 84308)**

The Levine Act states that parties to any proceeding involving a license, permit or other entitlement for use pending before the Board must disclose on the record of the proceeding any campaign contributions of more than \$500 (aggregated) made by the parties or their agents to Board Members within the preceding 12 months. Participants with financial interests, and agents of either parties or participants, are requested to disclose such contributions also. The disclosure must include the name of the party or participant and any other person making the contribution; the name of the recipient; the amount of the contribution; and the date the contribution was made. This disclosure can be made orally during the proceeding or in writing on a request to speak.

### **Board of Supervisors' Agenda Items**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

All agenda items listed under this section are considered to be routine and will be acted upon with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the Board of Supervisors or the Chief Administrative Officer so requests, in which event, the item will be considered separately in its normal sequence.

<b>Category</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Public Safety	1.	DISTRICT ATTORNEY – REQUEST TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS AND APPROVAL OF A SINGLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT FOR THE ENHANCED TRAINING AND SERVICES TO END ABUSE IN LATER LIFE PROGRAM

2. SHERIFF – REQUEST FOR SINGLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT FOR FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY SERVICES FROM BIO-TOX LABORATORIES INCORPORATED
3. SHERIFF – APPROVAL OF A GOVERNING BODY RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE APPLICATION FOR AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCE IMPROVEMENT GRANT
4. SPARE WHEEL EXEMPTION REQUEST FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY PERMITTED AMBULANCES
5. REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF IMAGETREND CONTRACT AND COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION AUTHORITY FOR PREHOSPITAL AND HOSPITAL DATA COLLECTION SOFTWARE
6. AUTHORIZE COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION FOR AN ADMINISTRATOR FOR HOMELESS HOUSING AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO SERVE PEOPLE WITH HIGH NEEDS WHO ARE AT-RISK OF OR EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY
7. AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDING FOR TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL AND TREATMENT, AND APPLY FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
8. ADOPTION OF REVISIONS TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RULES OF PROCEDURE AND BOARD POLICY A-72 TO EXTEND THE PUBLISHING TIMELINE FOR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING AGENDAS
9. ADOPT A RESOLUTION FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENDITURES FROM THE PROCEEDS OF INDEBTEDNESS FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 OPERATIONAL PLAN
10. PROPERTY TAX RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26
11. FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 APPROPRIATION LIMIT FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
12. GENERAL SERVICES – APPROVE THIRD AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT FOR THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY, 1250 MORENA BOULEVARD, SAN DIEGO AND NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Health and  
Human Services

Financial and  
General  
Government

13. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM:  
SECOND CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:  
ORDINANCES AMENDING THE COMPENSATION ORDINANCE  
AND ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION RELATING TO  
ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS AND THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT  
PENDING RATIFICATION FOR THE EMPLOYEE BARGAINING  
UNITS – CC AND CS REPRESENTED BY THE SAN DIEGO DEPUTY  
COUNTY COUNSELS ASSOCIATION (SDDCCA) AND AMENDING  
SECTIONS 492, 493.1 AND 495 OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE  
(8/26/25 – First Reading; 9/9/25 – Second Reading, unless the ordinance is  
modified on second reading)
14. APPOINTMENTS: VARIOUS
15. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

Category	#	Subject
Public Safety	16.	NO CHILD ALONE IN COURT: EXPANDING THE IMMIGRANT LEGAL DEFENSE PROGRAM TO PROTECT UNACCOMPANIED MINORS
Health and Human Services	17.	ENHANCING REGIONAL EFFORTS AND FEDERAL ADVOCACY TO ADVANCE SOLUTIONS TO THE TIJUANA RIVER SEWAGE CRISIS
Financial and General Government	18.	ADOPT A RESOLUTION ENTITLED “A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RELATING TO ADVOCACY FOR STATE FUNDING ALLOCATIONS TO ADDRESS THE TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY SEWAGE CRISIS” AND A-72 WAIVER
	19.	ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 340, 340.9, AND 340.15 OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY CODE OF ADMINSTRATIVE ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO THE DUTIES AND JURISDICTION OF THE CITIZENS LAW ENFORCEMENT REVIEW BOARD (September 9, 2025– First Reading; September 30, 2025 - Second Reading unless ordinance is modified on second reading)
	20.	SUPPORT FOR STATE ASSEMBLY BILL 847 – PEACE OFFICERS: CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS
Health and Human Services	21.	ADVANCING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN OUR HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE

Financial and  
General  
Government

22. SUPPORT FOR THE STATE’S UTILITY AFFORDABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE
23. SECOND CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE: REFORMING THE COUNTY RESERVE POLICY TO PROTECT CORE SERVICES AND VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES FROM FEDERAL DISINVESTMENT

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**1. SUBJECT: DISTRICT ATTORNEY - REQUEST TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS AND APPROVAL OF A SINGLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT FOR THE ENHANCED TRAINING AND SERVICES TO END ABUSE IN LATER LIFE PROGRAM (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

The U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ), Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) has made funding available for federal fiscal year 2025 for the Enhanced Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life (Later Life) Program. The Later Life Program supports comprehensive approaches to addressing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, neglect, abandonment, economic abuse, and willful harm for victims who are 50 years of age and older.

The County of San Diego (County) District Attorney's Office is the largest local provider of victim services, assisting approximately 17,000 victims of crime each year. Eligible program services under this grant align with the trauma-informed services available at the District Attorney's Family Justice Centers. Such services include direct victim services and outreach, multidisciplinary teams, community engagement and collaboration, and cross-training between program partners and community professionals.

If approved, today's action would authorize the District Attorney to apply for and accept an estimated \$300,000 annually of USDOJ Later Life Program funding for the project period of October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2028. This is also a request to authorize the District Attorney, and/or her designees, to apply for and accept USDOJ funding for this program and affiliated elder abuse grants in subsequent years, provided there are no material changes to the grant terms or funding levels.

In addition, authority is requested for the Director of Purchasing and Contracting to enter into a contract with a required victim services provider partner, Women's Resource Center (WRC), to provide services for three years beginning October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2028, and an additional five years if needed. The granting agency requires applicants to partner with a victim services provider that specializes in both domestic violence and sexual assault. WRC meets this requirement and is the current partner of the Later Life Program. This contract satisfies Board Policy A-87, Section 1.D.6, Continuity. WRC has critical knowledge and experience with the program. Additionally, extending the partnership contract with WRC will help sustain the progress of grant-funded initiatives and ensure uninterrupted delivery of critical services to older adult victims of abuse.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

1. Authorize the District Attorney to apply for and accept an estimated \$300,000 annually from the U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ), Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) for the Fiscal Year 2025 Enhanced Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life Program for the project period of October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2028; and authorize the District Attorney, and/or her designees, to apply for and accept USDOJ funding for this program and affiliated elder abuse grants, in subsequent years, provided there are no material changes to the grant terms or funding levels.

2. Adopt a resolution entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RELATING TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 ENHANCED TRAINING AND SERVICES TO END ABUSE IN LATER LIFE GRANT PROGRAM.
3. Authorize the District Attorney, and/or her designees, to review and execute all required grant and grant-related documents, including applications and agreements requiring an authorized representative from the County of San Diego, and any annual extensions, amendments and/or revisions that do not materially impact or alter the services or funding levels.
4. In accordance with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, approve and authorize the Director of the Department of Purchasing and Contracting to enter into negotiations with, Women's Resource Center, and subject to successful negotiations and a determination of a fair and reasonable price, award a contract(s) for the delivery of crime victim supportive services, for three (3) years beginning October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2028 and an additional five years if needed, and to amend the contracts as needed to reflect changes to service needs or funding requirements subject to the approval of the District Attorney.

#### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The District Attorney's Office seeks to ensure equitable access to information and services for all San Diego communities, including elder victims impacted by crime. To advance fairness and equity, the proposed action will ensure continuity of local victim services for the older adult population and promote responsive strategies to address the cultural, economic, and access barriers for older adults. As part of the District Attorney's ongoing dedication to public safety, the actions in this Board Letter would facilitate continued collaboration to enhance current processes and services for older adult victims and reach equitable outcomes throughout San Diego's communities.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed action contributes to the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals of meaningful community engagement and just and equitable access to services and resources. The Later Life Program framework includes diverse stakeholders and partnerships; subsequently, strengthening community participation that allows for cohesive and sustainable responses to older adult victims' immediate needs. Locally leveraging the grant program will support the operation of the District Attorney's elder adult programs to reach and support victims across their lifespan and facilitate collaborative learning and training across San Diego communities.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are partially included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operational Plan for the District Attorney's Office. If approved and awarded, this request will result in estimated annual costs and revenues of \$300,000 in Fiscal Year 2025-26 and Fiscal Year 2026-27. Subsequent year program costs and revenues, estimated at \$300,000 annually, will be included in future Operational Plans for the District Attorney's Office. The funding source is the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.



## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

### **2. SUBJECT: SHERIFF - REQUEST FOR SINGLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT FOR FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY SERVICES FROM BIO-TOX LABORATORIES INCORPORATED (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

#### **OVERVIEW**

The San Diego County Sheriff's Regional Crime Laboratory (Crime Lab) receives over 3,000 requests annually from law enforcement agencies throughout San Diego County for forensic toxicology services, or for testing of controlled substances in the blood or urine of criminal offenders. The test results are a crucial tool to criminal investigations and are essential in the prosecution of the offenders.

The Crime Lab is in the process of establishing an in-house toxicology program, which will help advance the standardization of toxicology practices and will decrease the amount of toxicology services outsourced to a third-party laboratory. The in-house toxicology program is estimated to go live by the end of 2025. While the Crime Lab is in the process of implementing this in-house drug testing program, its scope will not include analysis for all types of substances. Bio-Tox Laboratories Incorporated (Bio-Tox) will continue to provide testing for drugs that fall outside the capabilities of the internal program. Additionally, Bio-Tox offers expert testimony services that are critical to supporting legal proceedings. The Crime Lab previously contracted these services to Bio-Tox until the contract expired on December 31, 2024.

Today's request is to authorize the Director of Purchasing and Contracting to establish a new contract with Bio-Tox for one year, with four option years and a six-month extension if needed, subject to the availability of funds, and to amend the contract as required to reflect changes to services and funding allocations, subject to the approval of the Sheriff.

#### **RECOMMENDATION(S) SHERIFF**

In accordance with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, approve and authorize the Director of the Department of Purchasing and Contracting to enter into negotiations with Bio-Tox Laboratories Incorporated and subject to successful negotiations and a determination of a fair and reasonable price, award a contract for toxicology testing services for up to one year and four option periods and an additional six months if needed, and to amend the contract as needed to reflect changes to requirements and funding, subject to the approval of the Sheriff.

#### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Toxicology testing benefits the residents in San Diego County, especially victims of crimes where there is suspected use or presence of drugs. Necessary and timely toxicology testing ensures the accountability of offenders and allows for the deliverance of justice on behalf of the victims. The ability to test for drugs and substances as well as interpret the results in court cases is critical in the prosecution of cases. Successful prosecution is a step in bringing healing for the victims of crimes, many of whom have likely been impacted by inequities and inequalities.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's action supports the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goal of providing just and equitable access for victims of crimes and those who may have been wrongfully accused of a crime. Continuing the contract with Bio-Tox Laboratories Incorporated ensures full access to comprehensive toxicology testing which benefits everyone.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are partially included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operational Plan for the Sheriff's Office. If approved, this request will result in estimated current year costs of \$760,000. The funding source is existing General Purpose Revenue. Costs for each of the four optional years, if exercised, are estimated at \$700,000 (Fiscal Year 2026-27), \$600,000 (Fiscal Year 2027-28), \$400,000 (Fiscal Year 2028-29), and \$300,000 (Fiscal Year 2029-30). A reduction in annual costs will begin in year two moving forward as the services would be reduced, for a maximum total contract cost of \$4,215,486. Annual costs for each option year, if exercised, will be included in future Operational Plans for the Sheriff's Office. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

3. **SUBJECT: SHERIFF - APPROVAL OF A GOVERNING BODY RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE APPLICATION FOR AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCE IMPROVEMENT GRANT (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

## **OVERVIEW**

The Sheriff's Office Regional Crime Laboratory (Crime Lab) provides forensic services to over thirty local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. The Crime Lab receives funding from the U. S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, and the Bureau of Justice Assistance through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) also has additional grant opportunities such as the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant which provides funding to eligible California forensic science crime laboratories, medical examiners' offices, and coroners' offices identified by the California Association of Crime Laboratory Directors (CACLD). Funding is typically provided to acquire and maintain accreditation, reduce backlogs, and improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science services.

An updated Board of Supervisors (Board) resolution is being requested by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services providing for revised authority for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant to the Sheriff and the addition of staff directly involved in the grant process that have increased or changed since the last Board approval in 2013.

Today's action requests authorization from the Board for the Sheriff to apply for and accept grant funding from Cal OES, including reviewing and executing all related documents for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Grant. The grant funding allows the Crime Lab to meet

professional and accreditation standards while creating a positive financial impact on the Sheriff's Office. It also requests the waiver of Board Policy B-29, Fees, Grants, and Revenue Contracts —Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery for mandatory training to maintain accreditation status, equipment purchases utilizing the most up to date technology in forensic science and reduce backlog on cases. By covering the costs of continuing education, such as travel, lodging, and registration the grant prevents these expenses from burdening the Crime Lab's operational budget. Utilizing operation funds for the costs of continuing education including travel and registration fees could result in the Crime Lab being out of compliance for mandatory training or cutting other costs utilized on a regular basis for equipment and supplies. This request would provide the subgrantees an efficient path to applying and accepting the grant, authorize changes through the preauthorization process to prevent missing deadlines, prepare budget modifications, and comply with quick turnaround times set by CalOES. Timelines for these requests often have a quick turn around and this authorization would allow for a faster processing timeline.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **SHERIFF**

1. Authorize the Sheriff to apply for and accept grant funding from California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) for the California Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant in current and subsequent fiscal years, if there are no material changes to the grant terms and funding levels.
2. Authorize the Sheriff and Sheriff's designees to review and execute all required Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant and related documents in current and subsequent fiscal years, including any agreements, annual extensions, amendments, and/or revisions thereof that do not materially impact or alter the services or funding levels.
3. Adopt a resolution entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RELATING TO THE PAUL COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCE IMPROVEMENT GRANT.
4. Waive Board Policy B-29, Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts – Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery, which requires full cost recovery for grants, as this grant program does not recover full cost.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The California Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant to be used for training, assisting, and supporting forensic laboratory staff, enhances the delivery of forensic science services within the county of San Diego. This contributes to a more effective and equitable justice system. By providing funding for resources, such as improved training, the program helps ensure that forensic analysis is conducted accurately and efficiently, which can contribute to fairer outcomes in the criminal justice system. Training also helps address broader issues that may disproportionately affect minority communities by improving the scientific rigor and standardization of forensic techniques, which helps reduce the impact of implicit or explicit biases that could influence forensic analyses.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program furthers the Sustainability goals of the County by helping the Sheriff's Office advance training in the forensic science field, and by adding focus to improving the quality and timeliness of services. The grant aids in training forensic laboratory personnel, thus helping ensure that practitioners are knowledgeable and skilled, which in turn benefits the quality of forensic science services.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with today's request to apply for and accept grant funds from the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program in future fiscal years. There are no matching funds required. Current year funds from this grant are approximately \$75,750. Appropriations and revenues in subsequent years will be included in future Operational Plans. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

### **4. SUBJECT: SPARE WHEEL EXEMPTION REQUEST FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY PERMITTED AMBULANCES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

#### **OVERVIEW**

In San Diego County, the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Office is the Board of Supervisors designated Local EMS Agency (LEMSA). The EMS Office is responsible for implementing State statutes and regulations specific to the emergency medical service delivery system in our region, including ambulance service. Title 13 of the California Code of Regulation governs the equipment and supplies required for ambulances and has been established for the health and safety of the public. Among equipment mandates of this section, there is a requirement for ambulances to carry a spare wheel and changing tools.

LEMSAs are authorized to issue an exemption to the spare wheel requirement, subject to approval by County Board of Supervisors. The San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) has been approving a spare wheel exemption for over 20 years. On October 19, 2021 (12), the Board approved an exemption for three agencies to increase space in ambulances for critical medical equipment. The EMS Office engaged with ambulance operators to determine if additional exemptions were needed. The three same operators formally requested the exemption to continue providing additional space for medical supplies and critical intervention equipment. Today's actions request a continued exemption from the spare wheel requirements for ambulance service providers operating in San Diego County effective on the date of approval formally given by the California Highway Patrol (CHP). Due to state regulations, this exemption is limited to a period of two years.

#### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

##### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Approve, for good cause and because the exemption is necessary for public health and safety, the action to request from the Department of California Highway Patrol (CHP), an exemption from the ambulances spare wheel and tools requirements, for a period of two years once effective, as outlined in California Code of Regulation, Title 13, Section

1103 *Ambulance Emergency Care Equipment and Supplies*, for the following three ambulance agencies:

- American Medical Response (AMR)
- Mercy Medical Transportation, Inc.
- Falck Mobile Health Corporation

2. Authorize the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to forward the Board's request for exemption to the Department of California Highway Patrol's Enforcement Services Division.

#### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's request for a spare wheel exemption removes barriers for ambulance service providers and allows critical additional space in ambulances for vital lifesaving medical equipment and interventions. This leads to better medical outcomes for residents needing ambulance transportation services across the region.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The spare wheel exemption request supports the County's Sustainability Initiative of protecting the health and wellbeing of everyone in the region by ensuring ambulance service providers have increased space for critical medical equipment.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with the requested actions. There is no change to the net General Fund Cost and no additional staff years.

#### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

5. **SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF IMAGETREND CONTRACT AND COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION AUTHORITY FOR PREHOSPITAL AND HOSPITAL DATA COLLECTION SOFTWARE (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

#### **OVERVIEW**

The County Emergency Medical Services Office (County EMS) is required by State law to collect certain prehospital and hospital data from local EMS and hospital providers and transmit it to the State of California. This data plays a critical role in promoting a robust quality management system, identifying emerging medical threats to the community, and improving EMS system outcomes.

On September 1, 2016, the County entered into a contract with ImageTrend, LLC (ImageTrend) for a software solution for the County's comprehensive system to collect, manage, and support prehospital data. In addition to the County EMS Office, there are 35 prehospital agencies and 22 medical centers in the region that utilize the system at no cost to them, including hospitals, fire departments, and private ambulance operators.

The current contract with ImageTrend expires on December 31, 2025. Continuity of existing services is necessary for County EMS to support our EMS delivery system and to remain in compliance with State law. To ensure uninterrupted and optimized service, County Fire is requesting to extend the current contract for up to five, one-year options, and authority for the Department of Purchasing and Contracting (DPC) to issue a competitive solicitation for a future data collection and management system.

Today's actions include authorizing the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to enter into negotiations with ImageTrend, and subject to successful negotiations, amend the contract to extend the term for up to five, 1-year option periods through December 31, 2030, and to authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to issue a competitive solicitation for prehospital and hospital data collection software for a term of 10 years.

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

#### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Waive Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, approve and authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to amend contract 554346 with ImageTrend, LLC for up to five (5) additional one year option periods through December 31, 2030.
2. In accordance with Section 401, Article XXIII of the County Administrative Code, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to issue a Competitive Solicitation for prehospital and hospital data collection software, and upon successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award a contract for an initial term of one (1) year with nine (9) one year option periods and an additional six months if needed; and to amend the contract as needed to reflect changes to services and funding, subject to the approval of the Director, San Diego County Fire or their designee.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The collection of prehospital and hospital data from local EMS and hospital providers plays a critical role in promoting a robust quality management system, which seeks to reduce health disparities in our region. This provides a benefit to the improvement of the health, safety, and emergency medical care provided to the residents throughout the County of San Diego.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed actions to extend the current contract with ImageTrend and authorize a competitive solicitation for prehospital and hospital data collection software, for the collection of data from local EMS and hospital providers in San Diego County, support efforts for the operations, values, and priorities, including equitable service delivery, to the residents in our region.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are partially included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operational Plan for San Diego County Fire. If approved, this request will result in an estimated costs and revenues of \$1.2 million in Fiscal Year 2025-26. The funding source is existing General Purpose Revenue. Total costs and revenue for the remaining contract term are estimated at \$1.5 million and will be included in future Operational Plans for San Diego County Fire.

## BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

6. **SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION FOR AN ADMINISTRATOR FOR HOMELESS HOUSING AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO SERVE PEOPLE WITH HIGH NEEDS WHO ARE AT-RISK OF OR EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### OVERVIEW

On August 31, 2021 (8), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the competitive solicitation of a homeless housing and support administrator to provide administration of housing subsidies and services and payment of housing related expenses for eligible program participants. Subsequently, the County of San Diego (County) established a contract in 2022 to administer these services, along with the provision of housing related supports. These housing supports are determined based on the participants level of need, and may include housing navigation, housing specific case management services, landlord and tenant supports, and other housing assistance.

The current homeless housing and support administrator contract (567272) was designed with the ability to be expanded to provide fiscal administration and housing support to various programs, as needed, to serve people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The programs included are the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP), and Shallow Rent Subsidy Program (SRSP). HDAP offers outreach, housing related financial assistance and supportive services, and benefits advocacy for people with disabilities applying for public benefits, primarily Social Security Income. On September 27, 2022 (25), the Board approved the implementation of the Pilot SRSP. Subsidy payments for two rounds of SRSP have been administered through this contract and have provided housing stability for rent-burdened seniors at-risk of homelessness. The current contract that administers both HDAP and SRSP is set to end in July 2026.

Today's action requests the Board authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to issue a competitive solicitation for a homeless housing and support services administrator and authorize application for future funding opportunities related to addressing homelessness. This effort aligns with the County's Framework for Ending Homelessness to prioritize services for people experiencing homelessness in our communities, and also with the Housing Blueprint, which focuses on addressing the root causes of the housing crisis through a comprehensive and equitable housing strategy.

This item supports the County vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in San Diego County that have been historically left behind. These efforts support our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished by creating an opportunity to further support the housing needs of vulnerable individuals and help them thrive and remain safely housed.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. In accordance with Section 401, Article XXIII of the County Administrative Code, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to issue a competitive solicitation for a homeless housing and support services administrator, and upon successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award a contract(s) for a term of one year, with four option years, and up to an additional six months if needed, and to amend the contract(s) to reflect changes in program, funding or service requirements, subject to the availability of funds and the approval of the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Agency.
2. Authorize the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Agency, or designee, to apply for future funding opportunities related to addressing homelessness throughout the region in the current and future fiscal years, as they will provide overall value to the County by advancing efforts to reduce the number of people in the County who are at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

According to the Regional Taskforce on Homelessness (RTFH), the 2025 Point-in-Time Count identified 9,905 individuals living on the streets or in shelters; of those, 178 individuals were counted in the unincorporated areas of the County. Regionwide, this represents a decrease of 7% from the previous year. Of those experiencing unsheltered homelessness, 1% are families, 7% are veterans, 7% are youth, and 46% are chronically homeless.

Securing an administrator for homeless housing and support services will assist people who are at-risk of or experiencing homelessness throughout San Diego County by supporting the administration of housing subsidies and services and payment of housing related expenses for eligible participants. This action will provide critical assistance to those disproportionately represented by equity-seeking groups, including people with disabilities, justice-involved individuals, and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). Additionally, these services will support older adults (aged 50 and over) who are the fastest growing population experiencing homelessness in California and the largest share of households experiencing homelessness for the first time.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Authorizing competitive solicitation of an administrator for homeless housing and support services directly supports the County of San Diego (County) Sustainability Goal #2 of providing just and equitable access to services and resources by focusing on vulnerable populations who need support to obtain public benefits and secure and maintain affordable housing, and Sustainability Goal #4 to protect the health and well-being of everyone in the region by providing housing and support services to vulnerable populations experiencing homelessness and ensuring they remain stably housed and do not return to homelessness.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-27 Operational Plan for the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in estimated costs and revenue of \$225,000 for FY 2025-26 and \$1,322,522 for FY 2026-27, for a total cost and



revenue of \$1,547,522. The funding source is an existing allocation of State funding from the Department of Social Services for Homeless Disability and Advocacy Program. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

7. **SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDING FOR TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL AND TREATMENT, AND APPLY FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

## **OVERVIEW**

The County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services operates a Tuberculosis Program (TB Program) that detects, mitigates, and prevents the spread of Tuberculosis (TB) in our community through treatment, case management, contact investigation, and education. The County TB Program is supported by a combination of federal, State, and local funding.

TB is a communicable bacterial disease transmitted from person-to-person through shared indoor air space. San Diego County has higher rates of active TB than both California and the United States. The County TB Program provides critical, core mandated active TB case management, case consultation, case contact investigations, and preventive linkage to care services for TB case contacts diagnosed with latent TB infection (LTBI) through contact investigations. Additionally, the County convenes a successful public-private partnership that has resulted in extensive collaboration with the Federally Qualified Health Clinics and larger health systems throughout the county to improve access to preventive LTBI care that reduces cases of active TB.

Today's actions request the San Diego County Board of Supervisors authorize the acceptance of TB Control Cooperative Grant funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for approximately \$1,739,979, the acceptance of TB control local assistance funds from the California Department of Public Health for approximately \$777,900, and the pursuit of future funding opportunities to support the TB Program.

This item supports the County vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in San Diego County that have been historically left behind. These efforts support our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished by ensuring the County will continue to receive federal, State, and other funding to administer necessary programs to reduce the spread of disease and improve health outcomes in San Diego County.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Waive Board Policy B-29, Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts - Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery, which requires prior approval of grant applications and full-cost recovery of grants.

2. Authorize the acceptance of annual allocation of \$1,739,979 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, for tuberculosis control and treatment services, and authorize the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Agency, or designee, upon receipt, to execute all required documents, including any annual extensions, amendments and/or revisions that do not materially impact the services or funding level.
3. Authorize the acceptance of annual allocation of \$777,900 from the California Department of Public Health for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, for tuberculosis control and treatment services, and authorize the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Agency, or designee, upon receipt, to execute all required documents, including any annual extensions, amendments, and/or revisions that do not materially impact the services or funding level.
4. Authorize the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Agency, or designee, to pursue future funding opportunities to support the Tuberculosis Program including but not limited to, funding for prevention, treatment, case management, contact investigation, education, and research.

#### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Tuberculosis Program (TB Program), as well as the *San Diego County TB Elimination Initiative*, focus on providing and expanding equitable access to healthcare. Examples include offering transportation services to medical appointments, housing for individuals experiencing homelessness while receiving treatment, and treatment for uninsured and underserved populations.

In 2024 alone, the County TB Program provided TB case contact investigation involving over 4,800 individuals exposed to infectious TB. The TB program provided critical education, testing, and follow-up care, preventing additional cases of active TB in San Diego. Furthermore, the County's public-private partnership for TB elimination has resulted in latent tuberculosis infection care implementation in Federally Qualified Health Clinics and health systems across the county that serve our diverse populations and prevent active TB cases in our community.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Authorizing funding acceptance for tuberculosis control and treatment services supports the County of San Diego (County) Sustainability Goal #2, to provide just and equitable access to County services, particularly in the investment of historically underserved communities that are disproportionately impacted by tuberculosis (TB). These actions also support Sustainability Goal #3 by transitioning to a green, carbon-free economy, by continuing to transition delivery of services to telehealth platforms whenever possible without sacrificing quality and thereby decreasing vehicle mileage for clients and employees. Additionally, today's actions support Sustainability Goal #4, by protecting the health and well-being of everyone in the region, ensuring access to medical care for those with TB who need care.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

### **Recommendation #2: Authorize Acceptance of Approximately \$1,739,979 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2027 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in estimated costs of \$1,245,619 and estimated revenue of \$869,990 in both FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27. The funding source is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A waiver of Board Policy B-29 is requested because the funding does not offset all costs. These unrecovered costs are estimated to be \$375,629 annually in FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27, for a total of \$751,258. The funding source for these costs will be existing Realignment. The public benefit for providing these core mandated services far outweighs the B-29 unrecoverable costs. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

### **Recommendation #3: Authorize Acceptance of Approximately \$777,900 from the California Department of Public Health**

Funds for this request are included in the FY 2025-2027 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in estimated costs of \$1,072,612 and estimated revenue of \$777,900 for FY 2025-26. The funding source is the California Department of Public Health. A waiver of Board Policy B-29 is requested because the funding does not offset all costs. These unrecovered costs are estimated to be \$294,712. The funding source for these costs will be existing Realignment. The public benefit for providing these core mandated services far outweighs the B-29 unrecoverable costs. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

8. **SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF REVISIONS TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RULES OF PROCEDURE AND BOARD POLICY A-72 TO EXTEND THE PUBLISHING TIMELINE FOR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING AGENDAS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### **OVERVIEW**

On June 3, 2025 (21), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to return to the Board on September 9, 2025, with changes to the Board's Rules of Procedures and applicable Board policies to implement releasing Board of Supervisors meeting agendas eight days before a regular meeting, effective for Board of Supervisors meetings occurring after January 1, 2026.

This item presents proposed amendments to the Board's Rules of Procedure and Board Policy A-72, "Board of Supervisors' Agenda and Related Processes," to comply with the Board's direction.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Adopt a resolution entitled: RESOLUTION AMENDING THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that amends certain rules to implement publishing Board of Supervisors meeting agendas eight days before a regular meeting (Attachment 1).
2. Adopt amendments to Board Policy A-72, “Board of Supervisors' Agenda and Related Processes,” to implement releasing Board of Supervisors meeting agendas eight days before a regular meeting (Attachment 2).

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The County of San Diego (County) prioritizes transparency and accessibility to improve public understanding of how the County operates and participation in shaping future priorities. These efforts towards accessibility are particularly important to reach those communities that have been previously disconnected from the County civic process. The County continues to ensure that the diverse voices of the community can be heard in an equitable and civilized manner, and as such, can provide input that is vital to a healthy democratic institution.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The analysis provides options for the Board to enhance stakeholder participation to plan for community engagement and identify meaningful ways to continually seek input to foster inclusive and sustainable communities.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with these recommendations. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

9. **SUBJECT: ADOPT A RESOLUTION FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENDITURES FROM THE PROCEEDS OF INDEBTEDNESS FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 OPERATIONAL PLAN (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### **OVERVIEW**

The Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operational Plan includes various capital projects to be funded and financed through the delivery of long-term financial obligations (Certificates of Participation). Due to the timing to assemble a finance team and execute these Certificates of Participation, it is expected that the County will pay certain expenditures related to some or all these capital projects prior to the issuance of indebtedness (Reimbursement Expenditures). For the Certificates of Participation to be delivered on a tax-exempt basis, the County needs to comply with certain Internal Revenue Code (Code) requirements.

Today's recommendation to adopt a Reimbursement Resolution will allow the County to reimburse itself for the Reimbursement Expenditures from the proceeds of the Certificates of Participation. A reimbursement resolution states the County's intent to potentially reimburse itself for capital costs paid prior to the sale and delivery of the Certificates of Participation.

#### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

##### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Adopt a resolution entitled:

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
SETTING FORTH THE OFFICIAL INTENT OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TO  
REIMBURSE CERTAIN EXPENDITURES FROM PROCEEDS OF INDEBTEDNESS.**

#### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Approval of today's action will result in improving and maintaining County infrastructure that will ultimately improve accessibility to behavioral health, recreational services, and public safety services in the region, and will further improve the equitable access to facilities that provide services for some of the region's most vulnerable and underserved populations.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's board letter supports the County of San Diego's sustainability goals of providing just and equitable access to County services, protecting the health and wellbeing of the region, safeguarding ecosystem, habitats, and biodiversity throughout the County, and reducing pollution and waste. This will allow for capital projects, including upgrades to aged infrastructure to improve access and remove barriers for persons of all abilities, and public safety projects that will improve the County's ability to provide services.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operational Plan includes \$71,100,000 in capital expenditures that are anticipated to be reimbursed with proceeds from long-term financial obligations. There is no fiscal impact associated with this action and if approved, the resolution serves solely to establish compliance with U.S. Treasury Regulations and does not obligate the County to expend funds, incur debt, or proceed with any specific project. Adoption of the proposed reimbursement resolution will provide the County with the flexibility to reimburse eligible expenses from proceeds of an executed financing currently expected in early calendar year 2026. The resolution identifies a maximum reimbursement amount of \$71,100,000, allowing for flexibility in structuring the final bond issuance. Any future actions regarding the amount, timing, or structure of financing will be brought forward for Board consideration at a later date.

#### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

#### **10. SUBJECT: PROPERTY TAX RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

##### **OVERVIEW**

This is a request to set the annual countywide ad valorem tax rates and the tax rates for school district debt service funds.

State law requires that these rates be adopted by the Board of Supervisors (Board) on or before October 3rd annually so the rates can be used to prepare the property tax roll and property tax bills. State law also requires that taxes be levied upon the taxable property of the County.

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

#### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Adopt the resolution entitled: “RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX RATES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2025” (Attachment B, on file with the Clerk of the Board) incorporating the various rates as computed by the Auditor and Controller for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

General Obligation Bonds are a vital financing mechanism for school districts in our community. The proceeds from the voter approved bonds are used to provide much needed infrastructure and equipment to school districts that might not otherwise have the resources for the acquisition and/or construction of these public improvements. There is strong evidence that high-quality infrastructure facilitates better instruction, improves student outcomes, and reduces dropout rates, among other benefits. School districts must conduct an annual, independent performance and financial audit.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed action supports the County of San Diego Strategic Initiative of Sustainability. Supporting school districts by authorizing the Fiscal Year 2025-26 property tax rates will raise the funds necessary to make the annual principal and interest payments on voter approved bonded debt.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with adoption of this resolution. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

## **11. SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 APPROPRIATION LIMIT FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### **OVERVIEW**

Each year, pursuant to Article XIII B: Government Spending Limitation of the California Constitution and Government Code Section 7910, the Board of Supervisors establishes its appropriation limit for the County of San Diego. Today’s action requests adoption of a resolution establishing the County’s Appropriation Limit for Fiscal Year 2025-26, calculated to be approximately \$7.8 billion. Only revenues from Proceeds of Taxes (property tax and certain state subventions) are subject to this limit. The County is substantially under the limit, having approximately \$3.9 billion of appropriations tied to Proceeds of Taxes that are subject to the limit in Fiscal Year 2025-26.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Adopt the Resolution entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RELATING TO ADOPTING AN APPROPRIATION LIMIT FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The Appropriation limit is based on appropriations from tax revenue. It is intended to address potential inequities to the public by capping the growth of County expenditures and returning excess revenue from proceeds of tax to taxpayers.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed expenditure Appropriation limit caps growth of County expenditures. This limit is based on changes in California Per Capita Income and growth of the population in San Diego County. This action contributes to the County sustainability goal of aligning the County's available resources with services while maintaining fiscal stability and ensuring long-term solvency.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with adoption of this resolution. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

- 12. SUBJECT: GENERAL SERVICES - APPROVE THIRD AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT FOR THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY, 1250 MORENA BOULEVARD, SAN DIEGO AND NOTICE OF EXEMPTION (DISTRICT: 4)**

### **OVERVIEW**

The Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) has operated the North Central Behavioral Health Center, located at 1250 Morena Boulevard in San Diego since 1988. HHSA, through its Behavioral Health Services Department, provides mental health and substance use disorder services to San Diego County residents of all ages. The current lease, approved by the Board of Supervisors (Board) on June 15, 2004 (17), and amended on March 23, 2010 (13), expired on June 30, 2025. The lease went into holdover as additional time was needed to negotiate an amendment. The holdover has allowed the County of San Diego to continue occupancy on a month-to-month basis.

Staff from the Department of General Services have negotiated a lease amendment that will extend the term by three years, with two consecutive options of one year each. Today's request is for Board approval of the third amendment to the lease agreement.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Find that the proposed lease amendment is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15301.
2. Approve and authorize the Director, Department of General Services, to execute the proposed lease amendment for the premises located at 1250 Morena Boulevard, San Diego.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

It is anticipated that the proposed lease amendment for the Health and Human Services Agency will have a positive impact on the community by ensuring access for all through a fully optimized health and social service delivery system.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Implementing effective sustainability objectives is crucial to ensuring safe and healthy communities and contributing to the overall success of the region. The approval of the lease amendment is appropriate as it supports the County's Strategic Initiative of Sustainability to ensure the capability to respond to immediate needs for individuals, families, and the region.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Operational Plan for the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). If approved, this request will result in estimated costs and revenue of \$527,880 in FY 2025-26 based on an amendment commencement date of July 1, 2025. Fiscal Year 2026-27 costs are estimated at \$544,520, which includes a 3% rent adjustment to go into effect July 1, 2026. Funds for the remaining contract term and for each option year (if exercised) will be included in future years' operational plans for HHSA. The funding source is existing Mental Health Realignment. There will be no change in General Funds cost and no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

13. **SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM:**  
**SECOND CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:**  
**ORDINANCES AMENDING THE COMPENSATION ORDINANCE**  
**AND ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION RELATING TO**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS AND THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT**  
**PENDING RATIFICATION FOR THE EMPLOYEE BARGAINING**  
**UNITS - CC AND CS REPRESENTED BY THE SAN DIEGO DEPUTY**  
**COUNTY COUNSELS ASSOCIATION (SDDCCA) AND AMENDING**  
**SECTIONS 492, 493.1 AND 495 OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE**  
**(8/26/25 - First Reading; 9/9/25 - Second Reading, unless the ordinance is**  
**modified on second reading) (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

On August 26, 2025 (16), the Board of Supervisors took action to further consider and adopt the Ordinances on September 9, 2025.



Today's actions reflect the compensation ordinance and administrative code changes that have been negotiated with SDDCCA and other compensation changes. The County reached a tentative agreement for a three-year Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the SDDCCA, which is currently undergoing the Union's ratification process.

Today's recommendations are for the Board to approve the introduction of the ordinances (first reading) to amend the Compensation Ordinance and Administrative Code. If the Board takes the action as recommended, then on September 9, 2025, staff recommends the Board adopt the ordinance (second reading). If the proposed ordinance is altered on September 9, 2025, then on that date a subsequent meeting date will be selected for the adoption of the ordinance (second reading).

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

#### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Approve the adoption of the Ordinances (second reading):

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COMPENSATION ORDINANCE SECTIONS  
AND ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION RELATING TO THE TENTATIVE  
AGREEMENT WITH THE SAN DIEGO DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSELS  
ASSOCIATION.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ADMINISTRATIVE CODE SECTIONS 492, 493.1,  
AND 495.

If the proposed ordinance(s) are altered on September 9, 2025, then on that date a subsequent meeting date will be selected for adoption of the ordinance(s).

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's actions reflect a strong partnership between the County and SDDCCA, demonstrating our shared commitment to equitable salaries, and fair compensation. These efforts support recruitment, retention and benefits for all employees.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed actions amending the Compensation Ordinance and Administrative Code align with the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals by promoting sustainable economic growth for our community. The proposed actions included in this letter provide just and equitable wages and benefits.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Today's recommendations are estimated to result in ongoing costs and one-time costs as noted in the table below. The estimated fiscal impact is comprised of ongoing base salary and benefit increases, ongoing market and range increases, ongoing flex credit increases, and one-time monetary payments. Funding for ongoing costs is included in the Fiscal Year 2025-27 Operational Plan, supported by General Purpose Revenues and various program funding. One-time payments are contingent upon a change to the County's Reserve Policy which provides additional one-time funds.

Included in today's compensation ordinance amendment is a change to the Tier D retention premium. This change would result in future fiscal impacts and will be included in future Operational Plans.

<i>in millions</i>		<b>FY25-26</b>	<b>FY26-27</b>	<b>FY27-28</b>
<b>A</b>	Ongoing Base Salary and Benefit Increases	0.75	0.95	0.95
<b>B</b>	Ongoing Market & Range Increases	1.29	1.35	1.34
<b>C</b>	Ongoing Flex Credit Increases	0.05	0.10	0.10
<b>D (A+B+C)</b>	<b>Total Ongoing Cost (incremental)</b>	2.09	2.40	2.39
<b>E</b>	<b>Total One-time Cost</b>	0.15	0.07	0.04
<b>F (D+E)</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	2.24	2.47	2.43

#### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

#### **14. SUBJECT: APPOINTMENTS: VARIOUS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

##### **OVERVIEW**

These appointments are in accordance with applicable Board Policy A-74, "Citizen Participation in County Boards, Commissions and Committees" and Board Policy A-77, "Appointments to Fill Vacancies and Cancellation of Election where Insufficient Nominations Filed Prior to Uniform District Election and Citizen Planning Group Election". Board Policy I-1, "Planning and Sponsor Group Policies and Procedures."

##### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

##### **VICE-CHAIR MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE**

Appoint Christopher Harding to the SPRING VALLEY COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP, Seat 6, for a term to expire January 4, 2027.

Appoint Matelda Ramsis to the SPRING VALLEY COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP, Seat 8, for a term to expire January 4, 2027.

Appoint David Olander to the VALLE DE ORO COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP, Seat 5, for a term to expire January 8, 2029.

**SUPERVISOR JOEL ANDERSON**

Appoint Roderick Streeper to LAKESIDE COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP, Seat 10, for a term to expire January 4, 2027.

Appoint Michele Silverthorn to the PINE VALLEY COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP, Seat 11, for a term to expire January 8, 2029.

Appoint Mary Hall to the POTRERO COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP, Seat 3, for a term to expire January 8, 2029.

Re-appoint Philip Kendro to the SAN DIEGO MILITARY AND VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL, Seat 7, for a term to expire September 9, 2029.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

County government includes standing and special citizen boards, commissions, committees, and task forces formed to advise the Board of Supervisors and County staff on issues and policy and to serve as links to the community. Boards, commissions, and committees provide an inter-relationship between the residents and the government of the County. The nominations in this Board Letter enable the County of San Diego to provide individual residents the opportunity to impart valuable insight and input into the operation of the government.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The County of San Diego has over one hundred boards, commissions, committees, and task forces that serve as voice in the County government. Advisory bodies are an essential role in resident engagement that allow citizens to participate on issues relating to the welfare and quality of life in the County. They are fundamental to the County of San Diego's ability to navigate complex and dynamic policy challenges, are a conduit to the County Bureaucracy, and a broker to community voice. This board letter supports the County of San Diego Sustainability Goal No.1 by "encourage[ing] people and diverse stakeholders to partner and participate in decisions that impact their lives and communities."

**FISCAL IMPACT**

N/A

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**15. SUBJECT: COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED (DISTRICTS: ALL)****OVERVIEW**

Board Policy A-72, Board of Supervisors Agenda and Related Process, authorizes the Clerk of the Board to prepare a Communications Received for Board of Supervisors' Official Records. Routine informational reports, which need to be brought to the attention of the Board of Supervisors yet not requiring action, are listed on this document. Communications Received documents are on file in the Office of the Clerk of the Board.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Note and file.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT**

This board letter is a list of documents received by the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and/or Board of Supervisors from other entities, other county departments, the public, and internal documents presented to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors or the Board of Supervisors. This contributes to the overall sustainability of the county by engaging the community in meaningful ways and promote an environment that provides equitable access opportunities for public engagement.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

N/A

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**16. SUBJECT: NO CHILD ALONE IN COURT: EXPANDING THE IMMIGRANT  
LEGAL DEFENSE PROGRAM TO PROTECT UNACCOMPANIED  
MINORS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

Beginning October 1, 2025, hundreds of unaccompanied immigrant children, some as young as toddlers, will be forced to stand before an immigration judge without an attorney. They will face federal prosecutors alone, with their futures and safety on the line.

This crisis was manufactured by the federal Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and the U.S. Department of Justice, which on March 21, 2025, moved to eliminate legal representation for tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors. On April 29, 2025, a federal court ordered funding to continue but only through September 30, 2025. After that date, children in our community will again be left without counsel in deportation proceedings. This is about the most basic right to due process and a fair day in court.

The local impact is already clear. Earlier this year, roughly 300 children in San Diego County lost their attorneys when federal contracts were abruptly cut, including fifty left mid-case when a nonprofit's contract was terminated. These are children in our neighborhoods and schools, abandoned to navigate a system stacked against them.

Jose was 4 and Maria was 16 when they came to San Diego, fleeing persecution and reuniting with a family member in the United States. At their first immigration hearing they stood alone, told to find an attorney who could help them pursue legal status. They had no money for counsel and spent months searching before finding a pro bono lawyer.

Eventually, a lawyer guided them through a maze of filings: asylum applications, immigration court hearings, and a California Superior Court petition for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), a pathway for children who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected to pursue permanent residency. Because their safety depended on multiple forms of relief, legal representation was essential.

Both Jose and Maria were scheduled for asylum interviews before other cases concluded. They were ultimately granted asylum, securing permanent status and safety in the United States.

Starting October 1, hundreds of children in San Diego will stand alone in court and face the same impossible odds, unless they have counsel.

San Diego County knows what works. We were one of the first counties in the nation to establish a publicly funded Immigrant Legal Defense Program (ILDP), a model that has become a lifeline for families facing deportation. In just four years, ILDP has provided counsel to more than 3,000 San Diegans, ensuring their cases received a fair hearing. The results are stark: without an attorney, only 5 percent of people prevail in immigration court; with an attorney, the success rate rises to 66 percent. That difference has kept families together, prevented children from being returned to danger, and upheld the principle that due process applies to everyone. The ILDP is also highly cost-effective, delivering services at up to 80% lower cost than private attorneys.

Today's action expands the ILDP, so unaccompanied minors are not left alone in court as federal protections are rolled back. When the federal administration retreats, our County will step forward to defend our residents and uphold the promise of justice for all. No child in San Diego will stand in court alone.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **CHAIR TERRA LAWSON-REMER**

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to immediately categorize "unaccompanied minors" as eligible for ILDP representation to protect the due process rights of this most vulnerable of populations from unjust deportation without legal representation.
2. Direct the Public Defender to study and implement recruitment efforts to add paralegal ancillary service professionals to the ancillary service provider system. Upon panel attorney request and individual OAC approval, paralegals will assist counsel with direct case preparation to add further ILDP growth and add case capacity.
3. Approve the request to add 1.0 staff year to be classified by the Department of Human Resources, in the Public Defender to assist with the growing number of intake phone calls, ILDP case assignments and general program clerical work.
4. Direct the CAO to create an annual Finance and Assessments 'Needs Report through the Public Defender that can forecast program needs, including identifying funding opportunities, and exploring the budgetary needs to move towards a true universal representation model. Report should be produced annually no later than February 28th.

- a. Funding opportunities include, but are not limited to, possibilities of philanthropic and charitable funding, and state funding opportunities to fully meet the needs to protect the due process rights of San Diego County immigrants for a public/private partnership in maintaining a sustainable funding future for the ILDP.
  - b. Reporting should also forecast the estimated number of panel attorneys needed to provide representation towards a true universal representation model.
  - c. Forecast any additional staff needed to assist and manage the expansion efforts.
5. Direct the CAO to update the description on all resources and materials related to the ILDP from the “Immigrant Rights Legal Defense Program” to “Immigrant Legal Defense Program.”
6. In accordance with Administrative Code section 66 and Board Policy A-112, direct the CAO to identify and accept philanthropic and charitable donations for the Immigrant Legal Defense Program and support long-term sustainability of legal representation services for immigrants in San Diego County.
  - a. Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, and/or designee, to submit, accept, negotiate and execute all grant and grant-related documents, including applications and agreements requiring an authorized representative from the County of San Diego, and any annual extensions, amendments and/or revisions that do not materially impact or alter the services or funding levels, until June 30, 2035.
  - b. Waive Board Policy B-29, Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts - Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery, which requires prior approval of grant applications and full cost recovery for grants.
7. Direct the CAO to work with the Public Defender on updating its record retention schedule to include ILDP records pursuant to the shortest retention required by law, or, as determined by the Public Defender and OAC, as reasonable and appropriate to effectively carry out their ethical obligations in providing legal representation to this population.
8. Direct the CAO to work with the Public Defender to amend any contracts, as needed, to ensure the confidentiality and destruction of ILDP records in accordance with applicable laws.
9. Waive Board Policy A-87 and authorize DPC to amend ILDP contracts as needed to include unaccompanied minors as designated by the CAO, and to reflect changes in funding and services subject to the approval of the Public Defender.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

By expanding the Immigrant Legal Defense Program (ILDP) to protect unaccompanied minors will advance equity in San Diego County by ensuring that the most vulnerable population have access to legal representation. Unaccompanied minors are disproportionately from low-income, immigrant, and refugee backgrounds, many fleeing violence, persecution, or abuse. Without counsel, these children face structural inequities in the immigration system, including language barriers, cultural isolation, and a lack of resources to navigate complex legal proceedings

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

This action supports long-term community resilience by prioritizing local resources to protect due process. Promoting legal representation and stable families reduces the risk of unjust deportations, strengthens trust in government, and fosters the social cohesion that underpins a safe and sustainable region.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with Recommendation 1 to categorize “unaccompanied minors”, Recommendation 5 to update the program name, and Recommendation 6 related to philanthropic and charitable funding. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

Funds for Recommendation 3 to add 1.0 staff year in the Office of Assigned Counsel are included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operational Plan in the Public Defender. If approved, this action will result in costs of approximately \$300,000 in Fiscal Year 2025-26 based on existing General Purpose Revenue from the \$5.0 million annual allocation for ILDP. There will be no change in net General Fund cost.

Funds for Recommendation 4 to create an annual report, Recommendation 7 related to ILDP records and Recommendations 8 and 9 related to contract amendments are included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operational Plan based on existing General Purpose Revenue. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years. There may be fiscal impacts associated with future related recommendations which staff would return to the Board for consideration and approval.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

- 17. SUBJECT: ENHANCING REGIONAL EFFORTS AND FEDERAL ADVOCACY TO ADVANCE SOLUTIONS TO THE TIJUANA RIVER SEWAGE CRISIS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### **OVERVIEW**

The Tijuana River sewage crisis has had profound impacts across multiple shorelines and surrounding communities in our region for decades, especially the communities of Imperial Beach, San Ysidro, southern San Diego, and Coronado. The coastal waters of numerous San Diego County Beaches and the Tijuana River Valley have been contaminated by continuous flows containing raw sewage and industrial waste from the Tijuana River. On July 22, 2025 (4) the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors (Board) renewed its proclamation for the existence of a county-wide local emergency due to the Tijuana River sewage crisis for the 17th consecutive time. Ultimately, this is an issue of systemic neglect that has persisted due to chronic failures and inadequate capacity of wastewater infrastructure on both sides of the United States-Mexico border. Since December 2022, the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) has recorded over 89 billion gallons of toxic sewage-laden water crossing the border into the United States. Imperial Beach has been closed for over 1,300 consecutive days, representing one of the longest and most severe beach closure runs in the history of the United States. This ongoing crisis threatens public health, marine ecosystems, the local

economy, and recreational opportunity for tens of thousands of people living in South Bay. This crisis is resulting in lasting negative health impacts to children and families and serious economic harm, impacting small businesses and the workers who rely on these jobs for their livelihood. This issue can no longer be ignored or treated as a nuisance to be swept away or kicked down the road. This is a full-scale public health and environmental emergency demanding immediate, sustained binational action from all levels of government.

Impacted communities in District 1 cannot be clearer in expressing their ongoing suffering and concerns regarding the health of their families and community. Recent studies conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including the Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) and the Assessment of Chemical Exposure (ACE), provide documentation of the growing health and safety risks faced by those who live and work in communities adjacent to the Tijuana River Valley.

The ACE study was conducted by the CDC's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) between October 21 and November 22, 2024. ACE offered a platform for nearly 2,100 community members to share their lived experiences with Tijuana River Valley pollution. The findings were alarming with 97% of survey respondents expressing concern about air quality and 96% concerned about beach water quality. 92% of respondents reported they do not feel safe in the areas where they live, work, or visit. 64% of respondents reported new or worsening physical symptoms they attributed to the sewage crisis in the past 30 days with the most common being headache, runny nose, congestion, and respiratory symptoms such as coughing and difficulty breathing. All of these symptoms are consistent with symptoms related to hydrogen sulfide exposure. 28% of participants reported symptoms of anxiety and 21% reported symptoms of depression. Notably, the rates of mental health symptoms were higher among those reporting severe sewage smell and a staggering 65% of participants felt their mental health symptoms were related to the sewage crisis.

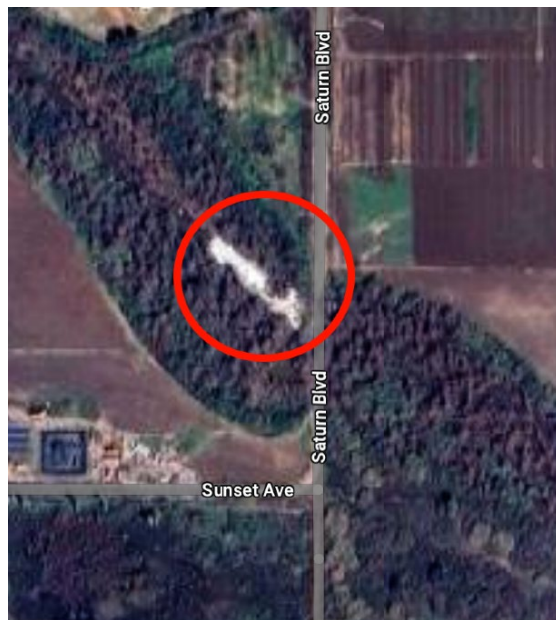
The CASPER survey included approximately 190 in-person interviews, proportionately representing nearly 41,000 households across the region. The results of the CASPER also paint a deeply concerning picture. 81% of respondents expressed the health of their household was their top concern and 65% reported taking extra steps to avoid areas of their own neighborhood. Nearly half of respondents reported experiencing at least one health symptom such as headaches, nausea, respiratory problems, or gastrointestinal distress which they believe to be connected to sewage exposure. Over 80% of households expressed concern for the health of a family member and 70% reported disruptions in their life including exercise, social activity, and sleep; some of the most fundamental behaviors involved in establishing and sustaining a healthy lifestyle. The people of South Bay who live in these impacted communities deserve the same opportunities to engage in social and physical activity and to get quality sleep as anyone else in San Diego County. This further illustrates the need for immediate actions to optimally understand and address the sewage crisis.

On June 24, 2025 (10) the Board directed the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to begin conducting a feasibility assessment for a long-term Epidemiological Public Health Impact Study as well as a robust Economic Impact Study related to impacts of the sewage crisis with a return back to the Board on September 30, 2025. The time for implementation of these studies is now. Today's item directs the CAO to immediately begin implementation of both of these studies so the County can better understand the broad health and economic impacts to affected



communities. With this additional data, the Board will be optimally positioned to advocate for future resources to protect our residents and economy and pursue bold actions that will bring an end to this public health and environmental crisis.

Saturn Boulevard in South San Diego is a documented hot spot for pollution and noxious chemicals from the Tijuana River. At the hot spot there is a large foam pit which can be seen from satellite images (see image). The turbulent flow at Saturn Boulevard is caused by the channel's drop structure and constricted design. As contaminated river water flows over this drop and collides with obstacles in the channel below, it churns violently, mixing air into the water. This agitation releases dissolved gases, including hydrogen sulfide, into the air. Researchers from UC San Diego and San Diego State University have conducted sampling at the Saturn Blvd site and found hydrogen sulfide readings that exceed occupational safety standards. The San Diego Air Pollution Control District has also recorded multiple exceedances of California's health-based thresholds in the area.



*Aerial view of the Tijuana River sewage hotspot on Saturn Blvd located in the City of San Diego. This area has been linked to toxic gas emissions, including hydrogen sulfide, posing environmental and public health concerns for the surrounding neighborhoods*

Critical infrastructure upgrades are needed at Saturn Blvd in order to eliminate river turbulence that is contributing to the aerosolization of hydrogen sulfide. Today's item directs the CAO to fund a feasibility study for infrastructure projects at Saturn Blvd to mitigate aerosolization of hydrogen sulfide and other potential harmful compounds. Through these infrastructure upgrades, the County can protect the health and well-being of nearby residents and marine ecosystem.

The scope and scale that is required to bring full resolution to the Tijuana River sewage crisis exceed the County's jurisdiction and resources, making federal engagement and leadership essential to advancing permanent solutions. Aggressive advocacy at the Federal level is critical moving forward as root-cause solutions to the crisis require binational cooperation and

significant infrastructure projects that only the federal government can negotiate and fund. While the County will continue to work tirelessly to address local impacts, the federal government has the diplomatic leverage to work with Mexico, direct agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the International Boundary and Water Commission, and secure the substantial funding needed for diversion of the Tijuana River, wastewater treatment infrastructure upgrades, and long-term maintenance and monitoring. This advocacy includes but is not limited to educating legislators outside of our delegation who are not familiar with our region and building coalitions across the nation to advocate for programs that will improve the quality of life for our residents. By advocating aggressively in Washington, the County ensures that the lived struggles of border communities are heard at the highest levels. Such actions will position the San Diego region to receive the federal investments necessary to protect public health, restore coastal waters, and safeguard the regional economy.

Today's item directs the CAO to immediately begin implementation of an epidemiological public health impact study on chronic hydrogen sulfide exposure to impacted communities, an Economic Impact Study to assess the full scope of losses caused by the sewage crisis - including impacts to small businesses, property values, and regional tourism - to strengthen future funding and mitigation efforts, and to fund a feasibility study for infrastructure projects at Saturn Blvd to mitigate aerosolization of hydrogen sulfide and other potential harmful compounds. Lastly, today's item directs the CAO to competitively procure federal advocacy services to advance solutions to the Tijuana River Sewage Crisis on behalf of the County of San Diego.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **CHAIR PRO TEM PALOMA AGUIRRE**

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to implement an epidemiological public health impact study in impacted communities.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to fund and implement an Economic Impact Study assessing the full scope of losses caused by the sewage crisis - including impacts to small businesses, property values, and regional tourism - to strengthen future funding and mitigation efforts.
3. Cancel appropriations of \$270,000 and associated Operating Transfers In from the General Fund in the Capital Outlay Fund for Capital Project 1025569 Tijuana River Valley Regional Park Active Recreation and Community Park; *and* transfer appropriations of \$270,000 from the Contribution to Capital Outlay Fund, Operating Transfers Out to the Department of Parks and Recreation, Services & Supplies, to provide funding for a feasibility study based on the transfer from Capital Project 1025569 Tijuana River Valley Regional Park Active Recreation and Community Park to fund a feasibility study for infrastructure projects at Saturn Blvd to mitigate aerosolization of hydrogen sulfide and other potential harmful compounds. **(4 VOTES)**
4. In accordance with Section 401, Article XXIII of the County Administrative Code, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to competitively procure federal advocacy services focused on the Tijuana River Valley, and upon successful negotiation and determination of fair and reasonable price, award a contract for an initial

term of one (1) year, with five (5) one-year option periods and up to an additional six (6) months if needed, and to amend the contract as needed to reflect changes in services and funding.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Residents living in communities near the Tijuana River Valley continue to endure repeated exposure to polluted air and environmental dangers. Affected communities are largely communities of color and of lower socioeconomic status than other zip codes throughout the region. This item directs resources towards comprehensive analyses of harms to local residents and small businesses from the sewage crisis while continuing to advance the region toward permanent solutions. By concentrating efforts in the areas where health impacts are most severe, the County is demonstrating an equitable commitment to safeguarding public health and ensuring that every community, no matter its socioeconomic demographics, has the right to clean air and water.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

With the adoption of these recommendations, the County of San Diego will support Sustainability Goal #4 to protect the health and well-being of everyone in the region. These actions will improve water and air quality for impacted communities throughout the County allowing individuals and families to live healthier lives with enhanced economic opportunities.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for developing options to conduct an epidemiological public health impact study in Recommendation 1 are included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. The actual costs of conducting the study will depend on the study type selected. There are various study types being analyzed that could range in cost from \$500,000 to \$6,000,000. Options will be presented to the Ad Hoc Subcommittee for consideration and input. Depending on the option selected, staff will explore what resources may be available and will return to the Board for any necessary appropriations and/or options to reallocate existing General Purpose Revenue as needed.

Funds for the actions requested in Recommendation 2 to implement an Economic Impact Study are included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operational Plan in the Finance & General Government Executive Office, previously planned for a personnel costing software implementation project. The software implementation project had no plans of moving forward prior to this action. If approved, this request will result in estimated costs of \$250,000 in Fiscal Year 2025-26 based on General Purpose Revenue.

Funds for the actions requested in Recommendation 3 to fund a feasibility study for infrastructure projects at Saturn Blvd are partially included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operational Plan in the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). If approved, this request will result in costs of \$270,000 in Fiscal Year 2025-26 based on transfer of funds from Capital Project 1025569 Tijuana River Valley Regional Park Active Recreation and Community Park to DPR Services & Supplies. Future year costs are unknown at this time as it will be determined in the feasibility study, and will be included in future years Operational Plans based on available funding sources.

Funds for the actions requested in Recommendation 4 to procure advocacy services are included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operational Plan in the Chief Administrative Office - Economic Development and Government Affairs (EDGA), based on existing funding that will be repurposed currently planned for Salaries & Benefits supporting an existing staff position which is vacant. Continued vacancy of this position will result in a reduction in support service levels for Arts & Culture efforts within EDGA, until the position can be funded and filled. If approved, this request will result in costs of up \$130,000 in Fiscal Year 2025-26 based on existing General Purpose Revenue. Future years annual costs will be included in future Operational Plans based on available funding sources.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

Frequent beach closures and sewage contamination directly harm local businesses and economic development by reducing tourism, limiting customers for local businesses, and cutting off recreational opportunities for tens of thousands of South Bay residents. Addressing the Tijuana River Valley sewage crisis would eliminate these harms.

18. **SUBJECT: ADOPT A RESOLUTION ENTITLED “A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RELATING TO ADVOCACY FOR STATE FUNDING ALLOCATIONS TO ADDRESS THE TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY SEWAGE CRISIS” AND A-72 WAIVER (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### **OVERVIEW**

The Tijuana River sewage crisis has had profound environmental, economic, and public health impacts across multiple communities in South San Diego County, with over 100 billion gallons of sewage crossing the international border into our region through the Tijuana River since 2018.

The Board of Supervisors (Board) declared the water pollution crisis a state of emergency in June 2023. Harmful levels of bacteria in beach water originating from the Tijuana River have caused the closure of some South County beaches for over 1,300 consecutive days. The County of San Diego (County) has since made advocacy on the Tijuana River Valley a priority to increase investment and attention towards solving this crisis.

Proposition 4, a statewide bond measure authorizing the State to borrow \$10 billion for clean water efforts, fire prevention, stormwater management, and climate resilience, was passed by the voters during the November 2024 General Election. Proposition 4 directs \$50 million to be available to the State Water Resources Control Board for projects in the Tijuana River Valley and New River watersheds that will “address water quality problems arising in the California-Mexico cross-border rivers and coastal waters.” Today’s action would adopt a resolution requesting that the State Water Resources Control Board allocate the full \$50 million of Proposition 4 cross-border rivers funding to projects aimed at addressing the ongoing environmental and public health crises in the Tijuana River Valley.

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

#### **CHAIR PRO TEM PALOMA AGUIRRE**

1. Waive Board Policy A-72 Agenda and Related Process, Section 2.C.2.ii, which establishes required timelines for review when preparing a Board Letter.

2. Adopt a Resolution entitled: “A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RELATING TO ADVOCACY FOR STATE FUNDING ALLOCATIONS TO ADDRESS THE TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY POLLUTION CRISIS”.
3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to send a letter to the State Legislative Delegation requesting their support in advocacy to the State Water Resources Control Board for the allocation of \$50 million in Proposition 4 cross-border rivers funding to projects aimed at addressing the ongoing environmental and public health crises in the Tijuana River Valley
4. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to send a letter to the State Water Resources Control Board requesting allocation of the full \$50 million in Proposition 4 cross-border rivers funding to projects in the Tijuana River Valley
5. Direct CAO to include the following publications as attachments to the letters included in Recommendations 3 and 4:
  - Copy of the Resolution entitled “A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RELATING TO ADVOCACY FOR STATE FUNDING ALLOCATIONS TO ADDRESS THE TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY POLLUTION CRISIS”;
  - a summary of the results of the Assessment of Chemical Exposures (ACE) survey as well as the full report;
  - a summary of the results of the Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) survey as well as the full report;
  - the findings of the County of San Diego’s 2023 study on the Economic Impacts of Transboundary Pollution;
  - and the following academic publications:
    - Heavily polluted Tijuana River drives regional air quality crisis by Prather, Granados, et al.
    - Tijuana River Contamination from Urban Runoff and Sewage: A Public Health Crisis at the Border by Granados, Sant, et al.
    - Health Impacts in Residents Exposed to Tijuana River Pollution A Community-Based Assessment of Environmental and Public Health Risks in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region by Granados et al.
    - Low level exposure to hydrogen sulfide: a review of emissions, community exposure, health effects, and exposure guidelines by Batterman et al.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The communities closest to the San Diego International Border, including the communities of Imperial Beach, San Ysidro, Otay Mesa, and Tijuana River Valley are identified by SB 535 (2012) and CalEnviroScreen 4.0 as being Environmental Justice communities having high pollution burdens, elevated linguistic isolation, and poverty rates. The County of San Diego (County) remains committed to working with local, State, federal, and binational authorities to improve the quality of life for these communities and residents. By advocating for increased State funding to address the pollution crisis in the Tijuana River Valley, the County aligns with

the efforts of local Environmental Justice communities to raise their concerns to various agencies and elevate the need for more investment to address the crisis and protect the local environment, economy, and public health.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

This action aligns with the County of San Diego's (County) Sustainability Goals: protect health and wellbeing and the environment. The proposed action contributes to the County's Sustainability Goal No. 6 to protect the environment and promote our natural resources, diverse habitats, and cultivate a natural environment for residents, visitors, and future generations to enjoy.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with the request to adopt a resolution requesting State funding allocations for local projects in the Tijuana River Valley. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

Increased beach water closures and other sewage impacts have a direct effect on the surrounding community due to decreased tourism, patronage of local businesses, and opportunities for youth recreation and camps. Obtaining funding to address the Tijuana River Valley Pollution crisis will allow for the undertaking of projects to mitigate and eliminate these impacts.

19. **SUBJECT: ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 340, 340.9, AND 340.15 OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY CODE OF ADMINISTRATIVE ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO THE DUTIES AND JURISDICTION OF THE CITIZENS LAW ENFORCEMENT REVIEW BOARD (September 9, 2025- First Reading; September 30, 2025 - Second Reading unless ordinance is modified on second reading) (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### **OVERVIEW**

On December 10, 2024 (35), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the amendment of the County of San Diego (County) laws governing the Citizens Law Enforcement Review Board (CLERB) to expand CLERB's jurisdiction related to in-custody death investigations and increase its effectiveness as well as analyze staffing and resources needed if jurisdiction was expanded, identify other oversight boards with expanded jurisdictions, engage in the meet-and-confer process with the affected labor unions, and ultimately returning to the Board with a final proposed amended ordinance and final proposed rules and regulations as approved by CLERB.

On August 7, 2025, the CLERB approved changes to their Rules and Regulations. The changes adopted provides additional jurisdiction to investigate the death of any individual which arises out of or in connection with the actions of any peace officer, custodial officer, employee or contractor, including any Health Care Provider of the Sheriff's Office or Probation while the individual was in custody of the Sheriff or Probation. The additional jurisdiction also includes the authority to investigate the death of any individual that occurs within six months of that individuals release from custody pursuant to "compassionate release."

Today's item requests the Board to consider the introduction of an ordinance related to the expansion of CLERB's jurisdiction over in-custody death investigations to include Sheriff and Probation employees and contractors, such as Health Care Providers. If the Board acts as recommended, then on September 30, 2025, the Board is requested to adopt the ordinance (second reading) and take related actions. If the proposed ordinance is altered on September 30, 2025, then on that date, a subsequent meeting date will be selected for the ordinance's adoption.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

On September 9, 2025:

1. Consider the recommendation to approve the introduction of the Ordinance (first reading):  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 340, 340.9, AND 340.15 OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY CODE OF ADMINISTRATIVE ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO THE DUTIES AND JURISDICTION OF THE CITIZENS LAW ENFORCEMENT REVIEW BOARD

If, on September 9, 2025, the Board takes action within recommendation #1 above, then on September 30, 2025:

1. Consider and adopt the Ordinance:  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 340, 340.9, AND 340.15 OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY CODE OF ADMINISTRATIVE ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO THE DUTIES AND JURISDICTION OF THE CITIZENS LAW ENFORCEMENT REVIEW BOARD
2. Pursuant to subparagraph (b) of section 340.7 of the San Diego Code of Administrative Ordinances, consider the approval of the August 7, 2025, amendments to the Citizens Law Enforcement Review Board's rules and regulations.
3. If the Board acts on Recommendations #1 and #2 above:
  - a. Consider the approval of the request to add 2.00 staff years to support the Citizens Law Enforcement Review Board and direct the Department of Human Resources to classify the positions at the appropriate level.
  - b. Transfer appropriations of \$417,260 from County Counsel, Services & Supplies, to Citizens Law Enforcement Review Board, Salaries & Benefits (\$217,260) and Services & Supplies (\$200,000) for the purpose of funding two full-time positions and consultant services based on General Purpose Revenue.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The requested action supports the County's Strategic Initiatives, and its vision for a San Diego that is promoting Health, Community and Justice, by protecting San Diegans, especially those disproportionately at risk of law enforcement and detention facility health care providers interaction, which increase transparency and accessibility in civilian law enforcement oversight and fostering better relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed action supports the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goal #2 of providing just and equitable access to County services, by using data-driven and analytical analysis of detention and medical services policies and procedures to not only protect the health and well-being of our incarcerated community, but to protect the economic sustainability of the County.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

If CLERB jurisdiction is amended, CLERB anticipates the need for two staff years along with contracted services totaling \$489,680 annually. Based on implementation in October 2025, an estimated \$417,260 in expenditures would result in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26. To fund these requests beginning in October 2025, \$417,260 in General Purpose Revenue is proposed to be reallocated from County Counsel in FY 2025-26. This reallocation will impact timing for projects, within County Counsel, particularly one-time projects such as information technology. For FY 2025-26 actions, there will be no net General Fund cost increase; there will be an increase in two staff years.

Depending on caseload, an additional two staff years may be required to fully implement the change in CLERB jurisdiction beginning in FY 2026-27, for a total of four additional staff years. With the two additional staff years along with contracted services, the total annual cost beginning in FY 2026-27 is estimated to be \$817,537 and would need to be considered in the development of the Operational Plan, pending availability of funding.

There may be future fiscal impacts based on additional need for administrative support for the Probation Department and the Sheriff's Office. Staff will monitor the need for additional resources based on today's actions. The Chief Administrative Officer will continue to collaborate with the Sheriff's Office and Probation Department through the Five-Year Financial Forecast process to determine exact financial impact and availability of funding, and will return to the Board with determined fiscal impacts and related recommendations for consideration and approval by the Board.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

### **20. SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR STATE ASSEMBLY BILL 847 - PEACE OFFICERS: CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

#### **OVERVIEW**

The State legislature has granted counties the authority to establish civilian oversight commissions to oversee sheriffs' departments. The State legislature has also given these commissions the ability to issue subpoenas when deemed necessary to investigate matters within their jurisdiction. However, while numerous counties, including the County of San Diego, have created these commissions, many are not able to perform meaningful oversight of law enforcement without access to confidential information.



Currently, state law explicitly allows grand juries, district attorneys, and the Attorney General's Office to access confidential officer personnel files when investigating conduct of officers, or an agency that employs those officers. Much like these entities, civilian oversight commissions are charged with reviewing complaints from residents, determining if misconduct investigations occurred in a timely manner, and evaluating if decisions about officer discipline were appropriate. State Assembly Bill 847 (AB 847), authored by Assembly Member Dr. LaShae Sharp-Collins, expands current state law to grant civilian oversight commissions and Inspectors General the same authority as other oversight entities to access misconduct files that are required to carry out their duties. Due to the privacy concerns of law enforcement officers, AB 847 also requires oversight boards to maintain the confidentiality of those records and authorizes them to conduct closed sessions, as specified, to review confidential records.

In 1990, San Diego County voters established the Citizens Law Enforcement Review Board (CLERB) pursuant to County Charter § 606. CLERB has the power to subpoena and require attendance of witnesses and to administer oaths. However, CLERB has rarely, if ever, recommended imposition of discipline in response to a citizen complaint against San Diego County Sheriff's deputies due to the fact that CLERB has never had access to officer personnel files, which would provide guidance on the processes and discipline imposed by the Sheriff.

Only with the same access to confidential information as other oversight bodies will civilian oversight commissions, including CLERB, be able to provide the increased transparency into the policies and practices of police and sheriff departments that the public was promised with their creation.

Today's action recommends the Board of Supervisors adopt a position of support for AB 847, which would clarify the law to make sure civilian oversight commissions are able to access the files they need to hold officers accountable to those they are sworn to serve.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **VICE-CHAIR MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE**

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to express the County's support for State Assembly Bill 847, consistent with Board Policy M-2.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Encouraging effective civilian oversight of law enforcement, including access to confidential misconduct files necessary to carry out oversight responsibilities, reflects the County's commitment to advancing equity, justice, and inclusivity. Strengthening oversight promotes fairness, increases transparency, and builds community trust, particularly among communities who have historically experienced disproportionate impacts from law enforcement practices. This action supports the County's vision of creating a safer, more equitable, and inclusive environment for all residents.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Encouraging effective civilian oversight of law enforcement supports the County of San Diego's ongoing commitment to advancing social sustainability by promoting fairness, accountability, and justice for all residents. Strengthening public trust through oversight helps ensure equitable treatment across communities, which aligns with the County's Live Well San Diego vision, and contributes to a safer, more resilient, and inclusive region.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this recommendation. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

### **21. SUBJECT: ADVANCING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN OUR HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

#### **OVERVIEW**

The County of San Diego has made substantial investments to address homelessness across the region. This includes funding for emergency shelters, bridge housing, affordable housing development, behavioral health services, substance use recovery programs, and wrap-around support. These efforts reflect a strong commitment by this Board to reduce homelessness and ensure vulnerable residents have a pathway toward stability and self-sufficiency.

The 2025 Point in Time Count shows an 11% reduction in homelessness in the unincorporated area. While this is a significant improvement, there are still around 200 people living on our streets. This is unacceptable, and it underscores the urgency of continuing to refine our strategies, close service gaps, and ensure no one is left behind.

To inform our policy moving forward, we need to know what is working, and what is not. To accomplish this, we need transparent, consistent, and actionable updates on progress in our efforts to house every homeless person in the unincorporated area. Without this data, our ability to evaluate the effectiveness of our strategies is hampered. The unincorporated area faces unique challenges, and it is our responsibility to ensure that we understand those challenges and adapt our strategies as needed. Utilizing the By-Name-List will be critical to this effort.

Today's action directs the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to explore the feasibility of providing a monthly memo to update the Board of Supervisors and the public on how many homeless individuals are in the unincorporated area, the barriers each individual faces, how many were connected to emergency shelter/the Regional Housing Assistance Program, and how many exited to permanent housing. The return to the Board should address barriers to acquiring data, explorations of other relevant data and information, and include a draft format for the proposed monthly memo.

#### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

##### **SUPERVISOR JIM DESMOND**

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to explore the feasibility of providing a monthly memo to the Board of Supervisors detailing progress on efforts to house every homeless individual in the unincorporated areas of San Diego County and return to the Board within 90 days with a draft memo. This memo should include, but is not limited to:

- The number of homeless individuals.
- The number of individuals who exited homelessness.
- The number of individuals in the Regional Housing Assistance Program.

- The number of homeless individuals at the end of the month.
- Include data on how individuals are exiting homelessness (permanent housing, family reunification, entering a treatment program etc...)
- Identify the primary barrier(s) to housing for each homeless individual.
- Track the number of contacts made with each homeless individual.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed action aims to ensure equitable oversight of County of San Diego's (County) housing initiatives for people experiencing homelessness in the unincorporated area. These communities often lack access to the same level of infrastructure and supportive services available in urban cores. By requiring regular, transparent tracking, this action promotes equity by holding the County accountable for delivering services to historically underserved populations and geographies.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

This proposed action contributes to the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goal of protecting the health and well-being of all San Diegan residents by working towards housing solutions for the entire homeless population.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for the actions requested are included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operational Plan for the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). If approved, this request will result in the use of existing staff time in the County of San Diego (County) HHSA Housing and Community Development Services. The funding source is existing General Purpose Revenue. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

## **22. SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE STATE'S UTILITY AFFORDABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### **OVERVIEW**

The 2025 Utility Affordability and Accountability Legislative Package (Package) consists of bills in the California State Senate and Assembly that aim to lower utility costs, ensure fair electricity pricing and advance equitable and affordable energy for residents across the state. The Package includes the following bills: AB 825, AB 1020, AB 1167, SB 24, SB 254, SB 330, SB 332 and SB 500. The bills collectively address issues that impact utility affordability such as capping rates to align with the Consumer Price Index (CPI), increased transparency for energy data, and relief programs for residents who experienced family deaths or are victims of wildfires and natural disasters. Today's request is to direct the Chief Administrative Officer to take action that reflects the County's support for the 2025 Utility Affordability and Accountability Legislative Package.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **VICE CHAIR MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE AND CHAIR PRO TEM PALOMA AGUIRRE**

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to express the County's support for the 2025 Utility Affordability and Accountability Legislative Package consisting of: AB 825, AB 1020, AB 1167, SB 24, SB 254, SB 330, SB 332, and SB 500 consistent with Board Policy M-2.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The 2025 Utility Affordability and Accountability Legislative Package (Package) advances equity by addressing the cost of living and relieving the hardships of housing cost-burdened San Diegans. Housing Cost-Burden is defined under the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development as households that spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent or mortgages. 38 percent of homeowners and 58 percent of renters in San Diego County spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing, according to the University of San Diego's Non-Profit Institute. Supporting the Package offers equitable economic opportunities to preserve the household income of all San Diegans by lowering utility bills and requiring more transparency from investor-owned utilities (IOUs).

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The 2025 Utility Affordability and Accountability Legislative Package (Package) addresses economic sustainability by capping residential rate increases in alignment with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and providing low-cost financing options for electric infrastructure. The bills included in the Package promote environmental sustainability through lowering transmission costs by incentivizing microgrids and ensuring increased wildfire prevention and mitigation responsibilities for investor-owned utilities (IOUs).

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

- 23. SUBJECT: SECOND CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE:  
REFORMING THE COUNTY RESERVE POLICY TO PROTECT CORE  
SERVICES AND VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES FROM FEDERAL  
DISINVESTMENT (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

## **OVERVIEW**

On August 26, 2025 (23), the Board of Supervisors took action to further consider and adopt the Ordinance on September 9, 2025.

The County of San Diego's (County) recently adopted Operational Plan for Fiscal Year 2025–26 is balanced and demonstrates strong fiscal discipline and careful belt-tightening to manage projected funding shortfalls. County leadership has shown commendable responsibility in safeguarding taxpayer dollars and prioritizing essential local needs.

However, the County now faces threats from deep cuts due to the passage of H.R. 1, or the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”—a law that hands massive tax breaks to billionaires and big corporations while slashing the critical services thousands of our residents rely on. In San Diego, the impacts are immediate and severe: over \$300 million in new annual costs to the County, and significant cuts to food assistance, healthcare, and core social services that put local families, seniors, and veterans at risk. These aren’t abstract numbers. The proposed cuts will impact our neighbors, children, parents, and seniors who rely on the services the federal government now wants to discontinue.

Over 350,000 San Diegans on Medicaid will soon be required to double their redetermination paperwork, and 325,000 San Diegans will face new Medicaid work requirements. CalFresh food assistance is also affected, with nearly 100,000 San Diegans potentially facing new work requirements. These federal policies will cause people to lose access to food, healthcare, and critical support. Moreover, the impacts will ripple across our communities, hurting our hospitals, healthcare workers, grocery stores, farms and farmworkers, and lead to rising costs for all San Diegans.

The County must step in to fill the void the federal government leaves behind. We can’t control what Congress does, but we can ensure we leverage all our tools to protect our communities. That means planning responsibly, spending wisely, and updating outdated financial policies that don’t reflect the needs or risks we face today.

It is time to update our County’s reserve policy. Our current policy, last updated in 2017, does not align with national best practice standards from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). It inflates reserve requirements by including one-time capital projects and ignores significant flexible funds already under local control, limiting our ability to respond to federal shortfalls. Two key problems must be fixed:

- Our reserve formula is inflated. Today, we base our emergency savings on total spending, including one-time capital projects that could be delayed in a crisis. That’s like saving for a rainy day by setting aside money for a kitchen remodel. GFOA recommends basing reserve levels on everyday operating expenses. Using the current formula, the County must hold about \$973 million in reserves as of June 30, 2024. Under GFOA’s approach, it would be closer to \$945 million.
- We ignore hundreds of millions in flexible funds. The County’s current policy only counts “unassigned” reserves, even though “assigned” funds are also fully within the Board’s control. GFOA’s recommendation is based on “unrestricted fund balance,” which includes both, because what matters most in a crisis is whether the money is local, flexible, and ready to protect the public.

The updates proposed today would free up approximately \$380 million in flexible, Board-controlled funds “Unlocked Reserves.” To protect taxpayers and safeguard core services, we propose guardrails on how these funds may be used. We propose that these funds may be used for one-time uses only when the County faces cuts in federal or State funding to core programs, or during a recognized economic recession. Even then, no more than 25% could be spent in any single fiscal year. This ensures the County stays ready to respond to real

emergencies, not short-term pressures, preserving fiscal strength while protecting San Diego families when they need it most.

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) flagged the need to reform the reserve policy earlier this year, on February 11, 2025, recognizing that the County’s current approach is not aligned with recommended fiscal practice. By modernizing our reserve policy, we will ensure our fiscal house remains strong, without forcing false choices between maintaining a prudent reserve and meeting urgent community needs. The ordinance also preserves accountability: any use of reserves or the Unlocked Reserves would still require a Board vote and must be tied to an emergency or core service protection.

When federal leaders walk away, local government must lead. This ordinance ensures our ability to act with clarity, flexibility, and responsibility, not austerity. Our job isn’t just to protect balance sheets or protect people. It’s to protect both, ensuring we meet urgent needs today while safeguarding San Diego’s future.

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

#### **SUPERVISOR TERRA LAWSON-REMER AND SUPERVISOR MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE**

1. Consider and adopt the Ordinance:  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE VII OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, RELATING TO BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PROCEDURES AND APPROPRIATION, REVENUE AND STAFFING LIMITATIONS.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to develop a framework of funding recommendations for the first year of “Unlocked Reserves,” based on core County strategic priorities, prior assessments of program and investment gaps, along with an analysis of service gaps resulting from federal and State cuts, including eligibility and administrative changes under H.R. 1. The analysis should incorporate consultant findings, input from relevant Ad Hoc Subcommittees, previous memos, and any memos submitted by Board offices. Provide interim updates on the framework to relevant Ad Hoc Subcommittees and return to the Board with the proposed framework for deliberation and adoption no later than January 2026.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Modernizing the County’s reserve policy enhances our ability to respond to emergencies and fiscal challenges in a way that protects core services relied upon by historically underserved communities. By ensuring greater flexibility and transparency in how reserves are defined and managed, this policy change supports more equitable budget decisions, particularly during times of economic uncertainty when service disruptions disproportionately affect low-income residents, seniors, and working families.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Aligning the County’s reserve policy with best practices strengthens long-term fiscal sustainability by ensuring that reserve targets are realistic, risk-informed, and based on ongoing operational needs. A more accurate and transparent reserve framework allows for better planning, reduces the risk of unnecessary service cuts, and supports a resilient public sector capable of withstanding economic and environmental disruptions over time.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with introduction and adoption of the Ordinance as requested in Recommendations 1 and 2. Funds for the actions requested in Recommendation 3 are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025–26 Operational Plan based on existing staff time in the Finance and General Government Group funded by General Purpose Revenue. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

If adopted, the proposed amendments would impact, in part, amounts in the General Fund Reserve that have been designated for operations of the County. While these amounts have been previously allocated to support various programs and services, they remain within the control of the Board of Supervisors (Board) and may be reallocated. The proposed amendments would make available an amount of Unassigned General Fund fund balance, and the proposed direction to the CAO would provide information for the Board’s consideration as it relates to management of General Fund fund balance and the use of this one-time resource in light of federal decisions.

A revision of the County’s Reserve Policy will prompt one-time lump sum payments to employees, as provided in the Compensation Ordinance, which the Board updated, based on negotiated labor agreements. The Compensation Ordinance updates include one-time lump sum payments to General employees in fiscal years 2025–26 through 2027–28 contingent upon a change to the County’s Reserve Policy. Funds for the one-time lump sum payments are not included in the fiscal year 2025–26 Operational Plan. If changes to the Reserve Policy are adopted, there will be fiscal impacts based on these one-time lump sum payments in the current fiscal year, and appropriations will be needed to implement the agreements approved by the Board. Staff will return with additional recommendations to fund lump-sum payments in the current year using unassigned General Fund balance from “Unlocked Reserves” for the Board’s consideration and approval. Costs for future fiscal years will be included in future Operational Plans based on available funding source(s).

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

Modernizing the County’s reserve policy supports a more stable and predictable fiscal environment, which benefits the broader business community. By aligning with best practices and ensuring greater transparency in reserve planning, this policy change reduces the likelihood of abrupt service reductions that could disrupt local economic activity. A well-calibrated reserve framework also signals strong fiscal governance, reinforcing confidence among private sector partners, vendors, and investors in the County’s long-term financial health.

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