

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2025
Legislative Services Section: (619) 531-5434

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Revised Pages

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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

(Moved to the Consent Agenda)

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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
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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:
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AND ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION RELATING TO
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(8/26/25 – First Reading; 9/9/25 – Second Reading, unless the ordinance is
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- 14. APPOINTMENTS: VARIOUS
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- 23. SECOND CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE:
REFORMING THE COUNTY RESERVE POLICY TO PROTECT CORE
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DISCUSSION ITEMS

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Health and Human Services	17.	ENHANCING REGIONAL EFFORTS AND FEDERAL ADVOCACY TO ADVANCE SOLUTIONS TO THE TIJUANA RIVER SEWAGE CRISIS
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	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

Moved to
Consent Agenda

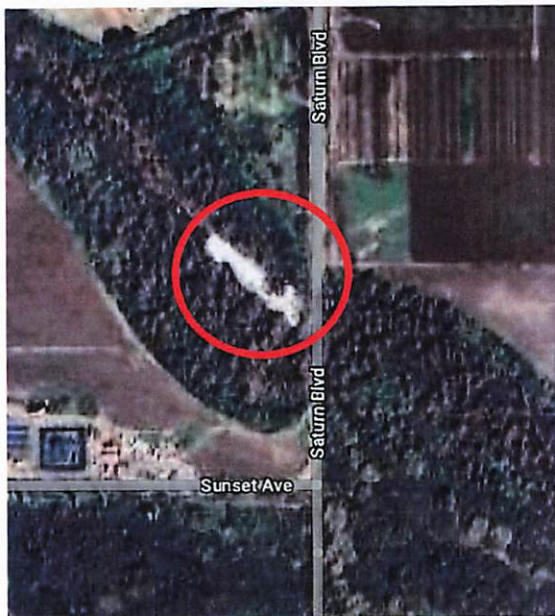
~~23. SECOND CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE:
REFORMING THE COUNTY RESERVE POLICY TO PROTECT CORE
SERVICES AND VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES FROM FEDERAL
DISINVESTMENT~~

24. CLOSED SESSION

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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

- 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 (HHS). If approved, this request will result in the use of existing staff time in the County of San Diego (County) HHS 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.

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.

24. SUBJECT: CLOSED SESSION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

- A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Tina Bligh v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2023-00018153-CU-PA-NC

- B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
David Collins v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2017-00028981-CU-PN-CTL
- C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Jane Dorotik v. County of San Diego, et al.;
United States District Court Case No. 3:23-CV-01045
- D. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**
Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph 4 of subdivision (d) of Government
Code section 54956.9: (Number of Cases – 1)
- E. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**
Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph 4 of subdivision (d) of Government
Code section 54956.9: (Number of Cases – 1)
- F. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Todd Easterling v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU012232N

Litigation re January 22, 2024, Storm Event

- G. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Gregory Montoya v. City of San Diego, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2024-00021327-CU-EI-NC
- H. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Afterglow Bay, L.L.C. v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU012742N
- I. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Cecilio Aguilar v. City of San Diego, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU031479C
- J. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Manuel Aguirre v. City of San Diego, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU017722N

- K. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Graydon Anderson v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU011515N
- L. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Brenda Arnold, et al. v. City of Coronado, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU018563C
- M. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Melanie Arroyo Rodriguez, et al. v. City of National City, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU025594N
- N. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Daniela Avila, et al. v. City of San Diego, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU028107N
- O. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Anne Baker, et al. v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU009946N
- P. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Luis Barrios v. County of San Diego, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 25CU003492N
- Q. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Logan Bethke v. City of San Diego, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU027524N
- R. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Stuart Bloom v. City of San Diego, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 25CU003502N
- S. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
David Brauner, et al. v. City of Lemon Grove, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 25CU003372N

- T. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Nautica Bryant v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 25CU022360C
- U. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Kimberly Cimoli v. County of San Diego, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU028986N
- V. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Yasmin Cortez v. City of San Diego, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU026011N
- W. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Brian Croft v. County of San Diego, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2024-00029980-CU-PO-NC
- X. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Francisco Gonzales v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU000231N
- Y. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Clive Morgan, et al. v. County of San Diego, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU025748N
- Z. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
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San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU000666N
- AA. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Cristian Rodriguez, et al. v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU000273N
- BB. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Timoteo Rodriguez, et al. v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU000278N

- CC. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Karin Saunders v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU026759N

- DD. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Vera Skop v. La Mesa-Spring Valley School District, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 25CU003562N

- EE. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE**
(Government Code section 54957)
Title: County Counsel

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PALOMA AGUIRRE

**SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: September 9, 2025

17

TO: Board of Supervisors

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),

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

provide documentation of the growing health and safety risks faced by those who live and work in communities adjacent to the Tijuana River Valley

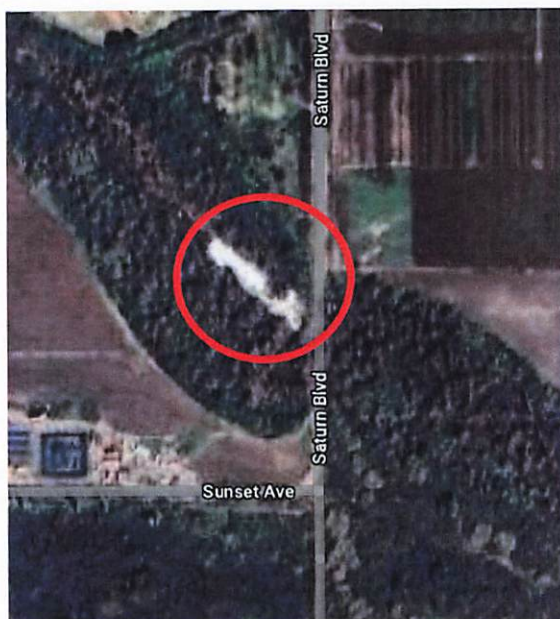
The ACE study was conducted by the CDC's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) between October 21 and November 22, 2024. ACE offered a platform for nearly 2,100 community members to share their lived experiences with Tijuana River Valley pollution. The findings were alarming with 97% 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.

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

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

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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)
SUPERVISOR 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

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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 it's 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.

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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.

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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.

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

N/A

BACKGROUND

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

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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.

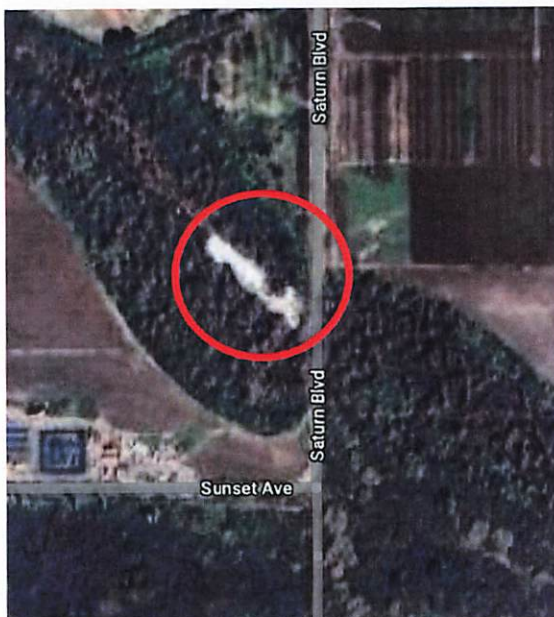
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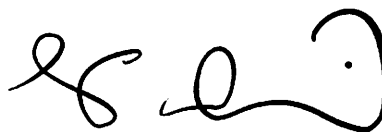
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LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

Today's proposed action supports the County of San Diego's 2025–2030 Strategic Plan Initiatives of Equity (Health), Community (Quality of Life), and Justice (Environmental) by advancing initiatives that will improve water quality, air quality, public health, and environmental sustainability for impacted communities.

Respectfully submitted,



PALOMA AGUIRRE
Supervisor, First District

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

ATTACHMENT(S)

Click here to enter text.



PALOMA AGUIRRE
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: September 9, 2025

17

TO: Board of Supervisors

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.

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provide documentation of the growing health and safety risks faced by those who live and work in communities adjacent to the Tijuana River Valley

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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

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

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.

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

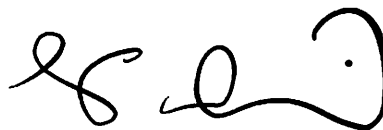
The scope and scale that is required to bring full resolution to the Tijuana River sewage crisis exceed the County’s jurisdiction and resources, making federal engagement and leadership essential to advancing permanent solutions. Aggressive advocacy at the Federal level is critical moving forward as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

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

Today’s proposed action supports the County of San Diego’s 2025–2030 Strategic Plan Initiatives of Equity (Health), Community (Quality of Life), and Justice (Environmental) by advancing initiatives that will improve water quality, air quality, public health, and environmental sustainability for impacted communities.

Respectfully submitted,



PALOMA AGUIRRE
Supervisor, First District

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

ATTACHMENT(S)

Click here to enter text.



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: September 9, 2025

22

TO: Board of Supervisors

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

1. 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.¹ 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

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE STATE’S UTILITY AFFORDABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Institute.² 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

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

N/A

BACKGROUND

Across California, utility rates continue to increase the cost of living for millions of residents. Since 2013, bundled residential average rates have increased at an average annual rate greater than the assumed rate of inflation up to 12 percent for PG&E, and 7 percent for SCE and SDG&E.³ San Diego had the highest price for electricity in the country in November 2024, averaging 42 cents per kilowatt-hour.⁴ According to a 2023 California State Audit, San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) had the highest electricity rate of the large investor-owned utilities (IOUs) in California, and, as of March 2023, more than 25 percent of SDG&E customers were more than 30 days behind on paying their utility bills.⁵

Support for the bills included in the 2025 Utility Affordability and Accountability Legislative Package is consistent with previous actions by the County Board of Supervisors (Board) to ensure investor-owned utilities are held accountable and to protect California ratepayers by opposing income-graduated fixed energy charges⁶.

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

The 2025 Utility Affordability and Accountability Legislative Package is comprised of the following State bills⁷:

- AB 825 (Petrie-Norris) Energy: electricity: would restructure ratepayer obligations to lower costs, shift responsibility for wildfire mitigation funding away from ratepayers, and increase transparency standards for investor-owned utilities (IOUs).
- ~~AB 1020 (Schiavo) Public utilities: energy: taxpayer funding: reporting: would prevent utilities from double dipping spending schemes. This bill would boost accountability by tightening utility reporting and would ensure financial deals truly benefit customers. The bill would also prevent double charging, increase transparency, and guarantee that any savings are fully passed on to ratepayers.~~
- AB 1167 (Berman and Addis) Electrical corporations and gas corporations: rate recovery: political activities and promotional advertising: would prohibit utilities from misusing ratepayer dollars. This bill would keep the cost of utility lobbying, promotional advertising, and other activities and other non-energy related expenses out of monthly energy bills. The bill would also ensure greater accountability and transparency.
- SB 24 (McNerney) Public utilities: review of accounts: electrical and gas corporations: rates: political influence activities and promotional advertising: would prohibit for-profit Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs) from undermining the Local Establishment of Municipal Utility Districts. This bill would protect ratepayers from abuse and would prohibit IOUs from using customer dollars to interfere with or undermine local municipalities from establishing their own utility districts.
- SB 254 (Becker) Electricity: wildfire mitigation: rate assistance: Policy-Oriented and Wildfire Electric Reimbursement (POWER) Program: would protect ratepayers from rising utility costs. This bill would restructure how utility costs are funded by shifting wildfire expenses off ratepayers and creating a low-cost public financing option for electric infrastructure. The bill would boost accountability for investor-owned utilities and would require new limits on how much rates can rise, ensuring long-term affordability and stronger oversight.
- SB 330 (Padilla) Electrical transmission infrastructure: financing: would promote alternative financing for transmission to lower costs and would authorize the Governor to establish pilot programs to explore more affordable ways to build out the additional electrical transmission

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE STATE’S UTILITY AFFORDABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE (DISTRICTS: ALL)

infrastructure needed to meet California’s climate goals.

- ~~SB 332 (Wahab) Investor Owned Utility Accountability Act: would cap residential rate increases to align with the Consumer Price Index, prohibit utility shutoffs for vulnerable populations, mandate regular audits and timely replacement of aging infrastructure in high fire risk areas, tie executive compensation to safety performance metrics, and would commission a study to evaluate the feasibility of transitioning investor owned utilities (IOUs) to public or nonprofit ownership models.~~
- SB 500 (Stern) Energy: usage data: would enhance the alignment of electrical corporations’ operations with public policy goals by authorizing the California Public Utilities Commission to evaluate and implement performance metrics and financial incentives that promote cost-effective, safe, and reliable electric service, while minimizing costs for ratepayers.

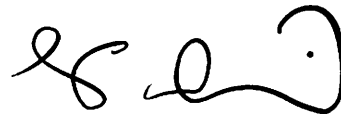
LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

Today’s proposed action to support a package of State bills addressing utility affordability and accountability supports the Sustainability Strategic Initiative in the County of San Diego’s 2025-2030 Strategic Plan by supporting policies that reduce poverty and provide economic and environmental sustainability for all residents in the San Diego region.

Respectfully submitted,



MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE
Supervisor, Fourth District



PALOMA AGUIRRE
Supervisor, First District

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE STATE’S UTILITY AFFORDABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE (DISTRICTS: ALL)

¹ United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (n.d). *HUD’s Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy Data Background*. Office of Policy Development and Research. Retrieved August 22, 2025, from https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/cp/CHAS/bg_chas.html

² University of San Diego (n.d.). *Equinox Institute Quality of Life Dashboard: Housing - How Are We Doing?* University of San Diego Non-Profit Institute. Retrieved August 22, 2025, from <https://www.sandiego.edu/soles/centers-and-institutes/nonprofit-institute/signature-programs/dashboard/housing.php>

³ California Public Utilities Commission. (2024). *Senate Bill 695 Report to the Governor and Legislature on Actions to Limit Utility Cost and Rate Increases Pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 913.1*. Sieren Smith, B et. al. Retrieved August 22, 2025, from <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/office-of-governmental-affairs-division/reports/2024/2024-sb-695-report.pdf>

⁴ Nikolewski, R (2024, December 17). New Rate Proposal Calls for a Smaller Increase for SDG&E Customers with Natural Gas. *San Diego Union Tribune*. Retrieved August 22, 2025, from <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2025/07/21/will-it-help-san-diego-city-council-backs-legislation-in-sacramento-targeting-high-utility-bills/>

⁵ California Public Utilities Commission. *Auditor Report 2022-115: Electricity and Natural Gas Rates*. California Public Utilities Commission Auditor. Retrieved August 22, 2025, from <https://information.auditor.ca.gov/reports/2022-115/index.html>

⁶ Item 29 at the December 5, 2023, Board of Supervisors Meeting, Retrieved August 22,2025 from <https://file.sandiegocounty.gov/COB/COBPublicView?FileId=28076057>

⁷ The bills included in the legislative package are active and being considered at the time of docketing this item and are subject to change.

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COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: September 9, 2025

22

TO: Board of Supervisors

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 1167, SB 24, SB 254, SB 330, 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

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SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE STATE’S UTILITY AFFORDABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE (DISTRICTS: ALL)

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BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

N/A

BACKGROUND

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

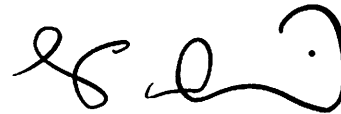
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Respectfully submitted,



MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE
Supervisor, Fourth District



PALOMA AGUIRRE
Supervisor, First District

ATTACHMENT(S)
N/A

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE STATE’S UTILITY AFFORDABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE (DISTRICTS: ALL)

¹ United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (n.d.). *HUD’s Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy Data Background*. Office of Policy Development and Research. Retrieved August 22, 2025, from https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/cp/CHAS/bg_chas.html

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³ California Public Utilities Commission. (2024). *Senate Bill 695 Report to the Governor and Legislature on Actions to Limit Utility Cost and Rate Increases Pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 913.1*. Sieren Smith, B et. al. Retrieved August 22, 2025, from <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/office-of-governmental-affairs-division/reports/2024/2024-sb-695-report.pdf>

⁴ Nikolewski, R (2024, December 17). New Rate Proposal Calls for a Smaller Increase for SDG&E Customers with Natural Gas. *San Diego Union Tribune*. Retrieved August 22, 2025, from <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2025/07/21/will-it-help-san-diego-city-council-backs-legislation-in-sacramento-targeting-high-utility-bills/>

⁵ California Public Utilities Commission. *Auditor Report 2022-115: Electricity and Natural Gas Rates*. California Public Utilities Commission Auditor. Retrieved August 22, 2025, from <https://information.auditor.ca.gov/reports/2022-115/index.html>

⁶ Item 29 at the December 5, 2023, Board of Supervisors Meeting, Retrieved August 22,2025 from <https://file.sandiegocounty.gov/COB/COBPublicView?FileId=28076057>

⁷ The bills included in the legislative package are active and being considered at the time of docketing this item and are subject to change.

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COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

PALOMA AGUIRRE
First District

JOEL ANDERSON
Second District

TERRA LAWSON-REMER
Third District

MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE
Fourth District

JIM DESMOND
Fifth District

DATE: September 9, 2025

24

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT
CLOSED SESSION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

- A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Tina Bligh v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2023-00018153-CU-PA-NC
- B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
David Collins v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2017-00028981-CU-PN-CTL
- C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Jane Dorotik v. County of San Diego, et al.;
United States District Court Case No. 3:23-CV-01045
- D. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph 4 of subdivision (d) of Government
Code section 54956.9: (Number of Cases – 1)
- E. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph 4 of subdivision (d) of Government
Code section 54956.9: (Number of Cases – 1)
- F. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Todd Easterling v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU012232N

SUBJECT: CLOSED SESSION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Litigation re January 22, 2024, Storm Event

- G. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Gregory Montoya v. City of San Diego, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2024-00021327-CU-EI-NC
- H. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Afterglow Bay, L.L.C. v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU012742N
- I. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Cecilio Aguilar v. City of San Diego, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU031479C
- J. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Manuel Aguirre v. City of San Diego, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU017722N
- K. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Graydon Anderson v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU011515N
- L. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Brenda Arnold, et al. v. City of Coronado, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU018563C
- M. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Melanie Arroyo Rodriguez, et al. v. City of National City, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU025594N
- N. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Daniela Avila, et al. v. City of San Diego, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU028107N
- O. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Anne Baker, et al. v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU009946N

SUBJECT: CLOSED SESSION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

- P. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Luis Barrios v. County of San Diego, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 25CU003492N**
- Q. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Logan Bethke v. City of San Diego, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU027524N**
- R. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Stuart Bloom v. City of San Diego, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 25CU003502N**
- S. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
David Brauner, et al. v. City of Lemon Grove, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 25CU003372N**
- T. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Nautica Bryant v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 25CU022360C**
- U. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Kimberly Cimoli v. County of San Diego, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU028986N**
- V. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Yasmin Cortez v. City of San Diego, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU026011N**
- W. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Brian Croft v. County of San Diego, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2024-00029980-CU-PO-NC**
- X. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Francisco Gonzales v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU000231N**

SUBJECT: CLOSED SESSION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

- Y. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Clive Morgan, et al. v. County of San Diego, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU025748N
- Z. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Quarry Self Storage v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU000666N
- AA. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Cristian Rodriguez, et al. v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU000273N
- BB. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Timoteo Rodriguez, et al. v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU000278N
- CC. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Karin Saunders v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 24CU026759N
- DD. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Vera Skop v. La Mesa-Spring Valley School District, et al.;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 25CU003562N
- EE. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE
(Government Code section 54957)
Title: County Counsel

RECOMMENDATION(S)
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
At the direction of the Board.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT
N/A

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT
N/A

SUBJECT: CLOSED SESSION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

N/A

BACKGROUND

N/A

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

N/A

Respectfully submitted,



DAVID J. SMITH
Acting County Counsel

ATTACHMENT(S) N/A

N/A

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County of San Diego Board of Supervisors
AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

AGENDA ITEM SUBJECT/TITLE:
CLOSED SESSION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES:

Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION §1000.1 REQUIRED:

Yes No

NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING REQUIRED:

Yes No

PROJECT UNDER CEQA:

Yes No

If Yes, approval of CEQA document required?

Yes No

DECISION WITHIN GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 84308:

Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:
N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:
N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:
N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:
N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):
N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: County Counsel

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): N/A

INTERNAL REVIEW COMPLETED: YES NO David J. Smith

Digitally signed by David J. Smith
Date: 2025.09.04 16:07:05 -0700'

Signature

CONTACT PERSON(S):

David J. Smith

Name
(619) 515-4437

Phone
David.Smith@sdcounty.ca.gov

E-mail

Name

Phone

E-mail

David J. Smith

Digitally signed by David J. Smith
Date: 2025.09.04 16:07:16 -0700'

Signature

Signature

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