

ATTACHMENT

For Item

#31

Tuesday, December
5, 2023

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION RECEIVED BY THE CLERK
OF THE BOARD

DISTRIBUTED 11/30/2023

From: henkinp@earthlink.net
To: [Council District 4 - Monica Montgomery Steppe](#); [Desmond, Jim](#); [Anderson, Joel](#); [Vargas, Nora \(BOS\)](#); [Lawson-Remer, Terra](#)
Cc: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] DIVESTMENT OF COUNTY FUNDS IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN (please file with agenda item 31)
Date: Thursday, November 30, 2023 9:29:18 AM

Hi Supervisors,

What are we doing with funds in a country like Iran - waiting for a currency devaluation, for their stocks to tank, or maybe for the funds to become inaccessible? We should be investing wisely, in stable markets, preferably in countries that uphold Democratic values.

I am shocked that we have funds in Iran. SHOCKED!!!

But it is important for you to know the risks of the international market. There must be over 50 countries out there, maybe even 100, where the country is not stable, assets or funds could be lost, stolen, or destroyed, Looks like you need an international economics class too.

So of course this is a needed divestiture.

Regards,

Paul Henkin
henkinp@earthlink.net

From: [Kulis, Michael](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: FW: [External] SUPPORT - Islamic Republic of Iran Divestment
Date: Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:36:42 AM

Below is an email sent to our office providing comments on Item #31 on the 12/5/23 Board of Supervisors agenda.

Michael Kulis

Director of Policy
Office of Supervisor Joel Anderson
County of San Diego
O: 619-531-5522 | C: 858-285-5669
Michael.Kulis@sdcounty.ca.gov



www.supervisorjoelanderson.com

From: Jamie M. VanderWal <jamievanderwal@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 5:39 PM
To: Kulis, Michael <Michael.Kulis@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Subject: [External] SUPPORT - Islamic Republic of Iran Divestment

November 28, 2023

The Honorable Nora Vargas
The Honorable Joel Anderson
The Honorable Terra Lawson-Remer
The Honorable Jim Desmond

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to express my STRONG support for the Board Letter introduced by Supervisor Joel Anderson to **ensure funds invested through the San Diego County Investment Pool and the investment portfolio managed by the San Diego County Employees Retirement Association are in compliance with all sanctions and laws restricting investment in the Islamic Republic of Iran and companies conducting business with them.**

The Islamic Republic of Iran has a long-standing history of supporting terrorist organizations operating throughout the Middle East. According to the U.S. Department of State, the Islamic Republic of Iran provides approximately \$100 million annually to terrorist organizations, including Hamas, Hezbollah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and similar groups. Their leaders, along with the Islamic Republic of Iran's supreme leader, continue to call for the destruction of Israel. The most recent attack by the terrorist group Hamas, occurring on October 7th,

resulted in the loss of over 1,400 innocent lives in Israel – including 32 Americans – with more than 200 people still held captive.

Following the enactment of AB 221 (Anderson) into law, it was discovered that over \$24 billion in public funds managed by the California's State retirement agencies were being invested with the Islamic Republic of Iran in conflict with sanctions prohibiting such action. It is critical for the County of San Diego to do its part to prevent the Islamic Republic of Iran's continued backing of terrorist groups by ensuring that the \$26 billion - \$32 billion in funds invested through County-controlled investment portfolios will in no way benefit the Islamic Republic of Iran or allow it to fund terrorist groups and their barbaric activities.

Supervisor Anderson's recommendations call for a review of the actions that the County of San Diego Treasurer and San Diego County Employees Retirement Association take to certify they are in compliance with all laws and sanctions restricting investments with the Islamic Republic of Iran and companies that conduct business with them. He is also recommending that these organizations report back to the Board annually to verify that their investment portfolios continue to comply with all laws and sanctions restricting investments with this regime and to amend their Environmental, Social and Governance investing strategies and policies to specifically prohibit unlawful investments with the Islamic Republic of Iran, those doing business with them and any other entities identified by the U.S. government as contributors to terrorist organizations.

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of Supervisor Anderson's Board letter to ensure our American dollars are not being used to fund terrorism and to demonstrate the strong support that exists in San Diego County for our friends in Israel.

Sincerely,
Jamie VanderWal

From: [Kulis, Michael](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: FW: [External] Divesture from Iran.
Date: Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:46:39 AM

Below is an email sent to our office providing comments on Item #31 on the 12/5/23 Board of Supervisors agenda.

Michael Kulis

Director of Policy
Office of Supervisor Joel Anderson
County of San Diego
O: 619-531-5522 | C: 858-285-5669
Michael.Kulis@sdcounty.ca.gov



www.supervisorjoelanderson.com

From: Dustin Gillman <dustingillman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 12:15 PM
To: Kulis, Michael <Michael.Kulis@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Subject: [External] Divesture from Iran.

As a Jewish American the movement to fund my persecution is so scary. Please do all in your power to protect us by understanding how scary it's been since October 7. Many people want my kind to not exist. We are scared. We are innocent. Please protect us!

Best
Dustin

3315 Lilac Summit
Encinitas, CA 92024
11-25-2023

The Honorable Nora Vargas
The Honorable Joel Anderson
The Honorable Terra Lawson-Remer
The Honorable Jim Desmond

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to convey my strong endorsement of Supervisor Joel Anderson's Board Letter, which seeks to ensure that funds invested through the San Diego County Investment Pool and the investment portfolio managed by the San Diego County Employees Retirement Association remain compliant with all sanctions and laws about investments in the Islamic Republic of Iran and businesses engaged with them.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has a well-documented history of supporting terrorist organizations operating across the Middle East. According to the U.S. Department of State, the Islamic Republic of Iran allocates approximately \$100 million annually to terrorist organizations, including Hamas, Hezbollah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and similar groups. Their leaders, in conjunction with the Islamic Republic of Iran's supreme leader, persistently advocate for the destruction of Israel.

Most recently, a terrorist attack by Hamas on October 7th resulted in the tragic loss of over 1,400 innocent lives in Israel, including 32 Americans. Furthermore, more than 200 individuals are still held captive as a result of this incident.

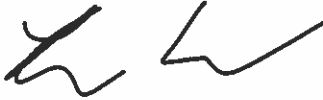
Following the enactment of AB 221 (Anderson) into law, it was discovered that over \$24 billion in public funds managed by California's state retirement agencies were being invested with the Islamic Republic of Iran, violating sanctions prohibiting such actions. It is of utmost importance for the County of San Diego to play its role in preventing the Islamic Republic of Iran's ongoing support of terrorist groups. This can be achieved by ensuring that the \$26 billion to \$32 billion in funds invested through County-controlled investment portfolios do not in any way benefit the Islamic Republic of Iran or enable it to finance the activities of terrorist groups.

Supervisor Anderson's recommendations include reviewing the actions taken by the County of San Diego Treasurer and the San Diego County Employees Retirement Association to certify their compliance with all laws and sanctions governing investments with the Islamic Republic of Iran and affiliated companies. Furthermore, he recommends that these organizations report annually to the Board to confirm that their investment portfolios adhere to all relevant laws and sanctions. They should also amend their Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) investing strategies and policies to explicitly prohibit unlawful investments with the Islamic Republic of

Iran, companies doing business with them, and any other entities identified by the U.S. government as contributors to terrorist organizations.

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of Supervisor Anderson's Board Letter to ensure that our American dollars are not used to support terrorism. This action also signifies the unwavering support within San Diego County for our allies in Israel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Weinrib', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ben Weinrib

619-249-5949

November, 21, 2023

The Honorable Nora Vargas
The Honorable Joel Anderson
The Honorable Terra Lawson-Remer
The Honorable Monica Montgomery Steppe
The Honorable Jim Desmond

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Board Letter introduced by Supervisor Joel Anderson to ensure funds invested through the San Diego County Investment Pool and the investment portfolio managed by the San Diego County Employees Retirement Association are in compliance with all sanctions and laws restricting investment in the Islamic Republic of Iran and companies conducting business with them.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has a long-standing history of supporting terrorist organizations operating throughout the Middle East. According to the U.S. Department of State, the Islamic Republic of Iran provides approximately \$100 million annually to terrorist organizations, including Hamas, Hezbollah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and similar groups. Their leaders, along with the Islamic Republic of Iran's supreme leader, continue to call for the destruction of Israel. The most recent attack by the terrorist group Hamas, occurring on October 7th, resulted in the loss of over 1,400 innocent lives in Israel – including 32 Americans – with more than 200 people still held captive.

Following the enactment of AB 221 (Anderson) into law, it was discovered that over \$24 billion in public funds managed by the California's State retirement agencies were being invested with the Islamic Republic of Iran in conflict with sanctions prohibiting such action. It is critical for the County of San Diego to do its part to prevent the Islamic Republic of Iran's continued backing of terrorist groups by ensuring that the \$26 billion - \$32 billion in funds invested through County-controlled investment portfolios will in no way benefit the Islamic Republic of Iran or allow it to fund terrorist groups and their barbaric activities.

Supervisor Anderson's recommendations call for a review of the actions that the County of San Diego Treasurer and San Diego County Employees Retirement Association take to certify they are in compliance with all laws and sanctions restricting investments with the Islamic Republic of Iran and companies that conduct business with them. He is also recommending that these organizations report back to the Board annually to verify that their investment portfolios continue to comply with all laws and sanctions restricting investments with this regime and to amend their Environmental, Social and Governance investing strategies and policies to specifically prohibit unlawful investments with the Islamic Republic of Iran, those doing business with them and any other entities identified by the U.S. government as contributors to terrorist organizations.

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of Supervisor Anderson's Board letter to ensure our American dollars are not being used to fund terrorism and to demonstrate the strong support that exists in San Diego County for our friends in Israel.

Sincerely,
Nola Jean Blacksher
San Diego, CA 92117

The Honorable Nora Vargas
The Honorable Joel Anderson
The Honorable Terra Lawson-Remer
The Honorable Jim Desmond

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Board Letter introduced by Supervisor Joel Anderson to ensure funds invested through the San Diego County Investment Pool and the investment portfolio managed by the San Diego County Employees Retirement Association are in compliance with all sanctions and laws restricting investment in the Islamic Republic of Iran and companies conducting business with them.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has a long-standing history of supporting terrorist organizations operating throughout the Middle East. According to the U.S. Department of State, the Islamic Republic of Iran provides approximately \$100 million annually to terrorist organizations, including Hamas, Hezbollah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and similar groups. Their leaders, along with the Islamic Republic of Iran's supreme leader, continue to call for the destruction of Israel. The most recent attack by the terrorist group Hamas, occurring on October 7th, resulted in the loss of over 1,400 innocent lives in Israel – including 32 Americans – with more than 200 people still held captive.

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I strongly urge you to vote in favor of Supervisor Anderson's Board letter to ensure our American dollars are not being used to fund terrorism and to demonstrate the strong support that exists in San Diego County for our friends in Israel.

All the best,
Matt Rinkey
Matt Rinkey, CEPA®

Founder & Chief Financial Life Officer



Rabbi Mathew Marko
rabbimarko@tiferethisrael.com

November 21, 2023

The Honorable Nora Vargas
The Honorable Joel Anderson
The Honorable Terra Lawson-Remer
The Honorable Monica Montgomery Steppe
The Honorable Jim Desmond

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Board Letter introduced by Supervisor Joel Anderson to ensure funds invested through the San Diego County Investment Pool and the investment portfolio managed by the San Diego County Employees Retirement Association are in compliance with all sanctions and laws restricting investment in the Islamic Republic of Iran and companies conducting business with them.

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Create a Jewish Legacy



Rabbi Mathew Marko
rabbimarko@tiferethisrael.com

Governance investing strategies and policies to specifically prohibit unlawful investments with the Islamic Republic of Iran, those doing business with them and any other entities identified by the U.S. government as contributors to terrorist organizations.

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of Supervisor Anderson's Board letter to ensure our American dollars are not being used to fund terrorism and to demonstrate the strong support that exists in San Diego County for our friends in Israel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. Marko", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rabbi Mathew Marko

Create a Jewish Legacy

A Conservative Congregation
Affiliated with United Synagogue
of Conservative Judaism

6660 Cowles Mountain Boulevard, San Diego, California 92119-1827
phone (619) 697-6001 • fax (619) 697-1102
www.tissd.org • e-mail: tifereth@tiferethisrael.com

November 21, 2023

6618 Murray Park Dr,
San Diego, CA 92120

The Honorable Nora Vargas
The Honorable Joel Anderson
The Honorable Terra Lawson-Remer
The Honorable Monica Montgomery Steppe
The Honorable Jim Desmond

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Board Letter introduced by Supervisor Joel Anderson to ensure funds invested through the San Diego County Investment Pool and the investment portfolio managed by the San Diego County Employees Retirement Association are in compliance with all sanctions and laws restricting investment in the Islamic Republic of Iran and companies conducting business with them.

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The most recent attack by the terrorist group Hamas, occurring on October 7th, resulted in the loss of over 1,400 innocent lives in Israel – including 32 Americans – with more than 200 people still held captive.

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I strongly urge you to vote in favor of Supervisor Anderson's Board letter to ensure our American dollars are not being used to fund terrorism and to demonstrate the strong support that exists in San Diego County for our friends in Israel.

Sincerely,
Norman Kort

11/29/2023

The Honorable Nora Vargas
The Honorable Joel Anderson
The Honorable Terra Lawson-Remer
The Honorable Jim Desmond

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Board Letter introduced by Supervisor Joel Anderson to ensure funds invested through the San Diego County Investment Pool and the investment portfolio managed by the San Diego County Employees Retirement Association are in compliance with all sanctions and laws restricting investment in the Islamic Republic of Iran and companies conducting business with them.

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I strongly urge you to vote in favor of Supervisor Anderson's Board letter to ensure our American dollars are not being used to fund terrorism and to demonstrate the strong support that exists in San Diego County for our friends in Israel.

Sincerely,



Esperanza Daniel
SD Resident

The Honorable Nora Vargas
The Honorable Joel Anderson
The Honorable Terra Lawson-Remer
The Honorable Jim Desmond

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Board Letter introduced by Supervisor Joel Anderson to ensure funds invested through the San Diego County Investment Pool and the investment portfolio managed by the San Diego County Employees Retirement Association are in compliance with all sanctions and laws restricting investment in the Islamic Republic of Iran and companies conducting business with them.

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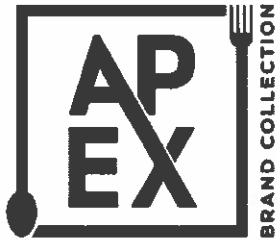
Supervisor Anderson's recommendations call for a review of the actions that the County of San Diego Treasurer and San Diego County Employees Retirement Association take to certify they are in compliance with all laws and sanctions restricting investments with the Islamic Republic of Iran and companies that conduct business with them. He is also recommending that these organizations report back to the Board annually to verify that their investment portfolios continue to comply with all laws and sanctions restricting investments with this regime and to amend their Environmental, Social and Governance investing strategies and policies to specifically prohibit unlawful investments with the Islamic Republic of Iran, those doing business with them and any other entities identified by the U.S. government as contributors to terrorist organizations.

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of Supervisor Anderson's Board letter to ensure our American dollars are not being used to fund terrorism and to demonstrate the strong support that exists in San Diego County for our friends in Israel.

Cheers

Scott Slater | President

slater@apexbrandcollection.com



The Honorable Nora Vargas
The Honorable Joel Anderson
The Honorable Terra Lawson-Remer
The Honorable Jim Desmond

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Board Letter introduced by Supervisor Joel Anderson to ensure funds invested through the San Diego County Investment Pool and the investment portfolio managed by the San Diego County Employees Retirement Association are in compliance with all sanctions and laws restricting investment in the Islamic Republic of Iran and companies conducting business with them.

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I strongly urge you to vote in favor of Supervisor Anderson's Board letter to ensure our American dollars are not being used to fund terrorism and to demonstrate the strong support that exists in San Diego County for our friends in Israel.

Sincerely,
Robert

Robert A. Fink, J.D.
CA License #0B66282
RAF Strategies LLC
4350 La Jolla Village Dr., Suite 110
San Diego, CA 92122
P (858) 625-0800
F (858) 200-0602

November 30, 2023

The Honorable Nora Vargas
The Honorable Joel Anderson
The Honorable Terra Lawson-Remer
The Honorable Jim Desmond

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Board Letter introduced by Supervisor Joel Anderson to ensure funds invested through the San Diego County Investment Pool and the investment portfolio managed by the San Diego County Employees Retirement Association are in compliance with all sanctions and laws restricting investment in the Islamic Republic of Iran and companies conducting business with them.

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I strongly urge you to vote in favor of Supervisor Anderson's Board letter to ensure our American dollars are not being used to fund terrorism and to demonstrate the strong support that exists in San Diego County for our friends in Israel.

Sincerely,
Stacy Abraham
San Diego, CA 92130

The Honorable Nora Vargas
The Honorable Joel Anderson
The Honorable Terra Lawson-Remer
The Honorable Jim Desmond

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Board Letter introduced by Supervisor Joel Anderson to ensure funds invested through the San Diego County Investment Pool and the investment portfolio managed by the San Diego County Employees Retirement Association are in compliance with all sanctions and laws restricting investment in the Islamic Republic of Iran and companies conducting business with them.

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I strongly urge you to vote in favor of Supervisor Anderson's Board letter to ensure our American dollars are not being used to fund terrorism and to demonstrate the strong support that exists in San Diego County for our friends in Israel.

Sincerely,

Rachel Cohen

November 28, 2023

The Honorable Nora Vargas
The Honorable Joel Anderson
The Honorable Terra Lawson-Remer
The Honorable Jim Desmond

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Board Letter introduced by Supervisor Joel Anderson to ensure funds invested through the San Diego County Investment Pool and the investment portfolio managed by the San Diego County Employees Retirement Association are in compliance with all sanctions and laws restricting investment in the Islamic Republic of Iran and companies conducting business with them.

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Following the enactment of AB 221 (Anderson) into law, it was discovered that over \$24 billion in public funds managed by the California's State retirement agencies were being invested with the Islamic Republic of Iran in conflict with sanctions prohibiting such action. It is critical for the County of San Diego to do its part to prevent the Islamic Republic of Iran's continued backing of terrorist groups by ensuring that the \$26 billion - \$32 billion in funds invested through County-controlled investment portfolios will in no way benefit the Islamic Republic of Iran or allow it to fund terrorist groups and their barbaric activities.

Supervisor Anderson's recommendations call for a review of the actions that the County of San Diego Treasurer and San Diego County Employees Retirement Association take to certify they are in compliance with all laws and sanctions restricting investments with the Islamic Republic of Iran and companies that conduct business with them. He is also recommending that these organizations report back to the Board annually to verify that their investment portfolios continue to comply with all laws and sanctions restricting investments with this regime and to amend their Environmental, Social and Governance investing strategies and policies to specifically prohibit unlawful investments with the Islamic Republic of Iran, those doing business with them and any other entities identified by the U.S. government as contributors to terrorist organizations.

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of Supervisor Anderson's Board letter to ensure our American dollars are not being used to fund terrorism and to demonstrate the strong support that exists in San Diego County for our friends in Israel and the U.S. Department of State policies.

Sincerely,
Selwyn Isakow
9404 Genesee Avenue, #200
La Jolla, California, 92037



5717 Lindo Paseo
San Diego, CA 92115
619-583-6080
www.hillelsd.org

President*
Wayne Harris

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Karen Parry

President Elect*
Mitch Siegler

VP of Finance*
Steve Levine

Secretary*
Jerry Goldberg

Immediate Past President*
Todd Kirschen

**At-Large Executive
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Larry Katz
Michael Levinson
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Audit Committee Chair
Mitch Dubick

Student Representatives
Hodaya Knafo (UCSD)
Danielle York (SDSU)
Sophia King (CSUSM/USD)

* Executive Committee

November 27, 2023

The Honorable Nora Vargas

The Honorable Joel Anderson

The Honorable Terra Lawson-Remer

The Honorable Monica Montgomery Steppe

The Honorable Jim Desmond

Dear Supervisors,

Hillel of San Diego ("Hillel") provides on-campus services to thousands of students at four university campuses in San Diego County: University of California San Diego, San Diego State University, California State University, San Marcos and University of San Diego.

On behalf of Hillel, we are writing to express our strong support for the Board Letter introduced by Supervisor Joel Anderson to ensure funds invested through the San Diego County Investment Pool and the investment portfolio managed by the San Diego County Employees Retirement Association are in compliance with all sanctions and laws restricting investment in the Islamic Republic of Iran and companies conducting business with them (collectively "Iran").

Iran has a long-standing history of supporting terrorist organizations operating throughout the Middle East, and in fact, throughout the world. According to the U.S. Department of State, Iran provides approximately \$100 million annually to Hamas, recognized by the State Department as a terrorist organization (based on 2020 data). Iran also provides considerable financial support to Hizbollah and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, also on the State Department's terrorism list.

The leaders of these groups, along with the Islamic Republic of Iran's supreme leader, continue to call for the destruction of Israel. The most recent attack by the terrorist group Hamas, occurring on October 7th, resulted in the loss of over 1,400 innocent lives in Israel – including 32 Americans – with more than 200 people still held captive. Of course, Iran and Hizbollah are also complicit in the deaths of more than 240 U.S. Marines, sailors and soldiers in 1983.

Following the enactment of AB 221 (Anderson) into law, it was discovered that over \$24 billion in public funds managed by the California's State retirement agencies were being invested with the Islamic Republic of Iran in conflict with sanctions prohibiting such action. It is critical for the County of San Diego to do its part to prevent the Iran's continued backing of terrorist groups by ensuring that the \$26 billion-\$32 billion in funds invested through County-controlled investment portfolios will in no way benefit the Iran or enable it to fund terrorist groups and their barbaric activities.



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Supervisor Anderson's recommendations call for a review of the actions that the County of San Diego Treasurer and San Diego County Employees Retirement Association take to certify that they are in compliance with all laws and sanctions restricting investments with Iran and companies that conduct business with Iran. Supervisor Anderson is also recommending that these organizations report back to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors annually to verify that their investment portfolios continue to comply with all laws and sanctions restricting investments with this regime and to amend their Environmental, Social and Governance investing strategies and policies to specifically prohibit unlawful investments with Iran, those doing business with Iran and any other entities identified by the U.S. government as contributors to terrorist organizations.

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of Supervisor Anderson's Board letter to ensure our American tax dollars are not being used to fund terrorism and to demonstrate the strong support that exists in San Diego County for our friends in Israel and against terrorism.

Sincerely,

Karen Parry
Executive Director