

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
MEETING AGENDA  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025, 9:00 AM**  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER  
BOARD CHAMBER, ROOM 310  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, XX, 20XX, 9:00 AM AND WEDNESDAY, XX, 20XX, 9:00 AM  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER,  
BOARD CHAMBER, ROOM 310  
1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

**GENERAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025, 9:00 AM**

Order Of Business

- A. Roll Call
- B. Statement (just cause) and/or Consideration of a Request to Participate Remotely (emergency circumstances) by a Supervisor, if applicable.
- C. Invocation
- D. Pledge of Allegiance
- E. Presentation or Announcement of Proclamations and Awards
- F. Non-Agenda Public Communication: Individuals can address the Board on topics within its jurisdiction that are not on the agenda. According to the Board's Rules of Procedure, each person may speak at only one Non-Agenda Public Communication session per meeting. Speakers can choose to speak during either the General Legislative or Land Use Legislative Session.
- G. Approval of the Statement of Proceedings/Minutes for the sessions of February 11, 2025 and February 12, 2025.
- H. Consent Agenda
- I. Discussion Items
- J. Board Member Committee Updates. This is an opportunity for Members of the Board to provide informational updates on their committee assignments. No action may be taken.
- K. Recess to Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 9:00 AM for the Land Use Legislative Session

NOTICE: THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE ANY ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THE

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

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

**ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:**

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

**LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION ASSISTANCE:**

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

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

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

**Board of Supervisors' Agenda Items**

| <b>Category</b> | <b>#</b> | <b>Subject</b>  |
|-----------------|----------|---|
| Public Safety   | 1.       | SHERIFF - APPROVAL OF SHERIFF'S STAFF TRAVEL OUT OF COUNTRY FOR GLOBAL LARGE-SCALE EVENTS TRAINING BY POLICE SCOTLAND |

- |  |    |   |
|--|----|---|
| Health and<br>Human Services           | 2. | SECOND CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE:<br>ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE XVI OF THE SAN<br>DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RELATING TO THE SAN<br>DIEGO COUNTY CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING<br>COUNCIL (2/11/25 First Reading; 2/25/25 Second Reading); APPROVAL<br>OF BY-LAWS; APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS  |
| Financial and<br>General<br>Government | 3. | GENERAL SERVICES - AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE AND<br>AWARD A CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK CONTRACT FOR<br>MAJOR SYSTEMS RENOVATION OF THE SAN DIEGO CENTRAL<br>JAIL AND RELATED CEQA EXEMPTION  |
| Appointments                           | 4. | APPOINTMENTS: VARIOUS   |
| Communications<br>Received             | 5. | COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED   |
| Public Safety                          | 6. | NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING:<br>APPROVING A TRANSFER OF PROPERTY TAX REVENUES FROM<br>THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AND INCREASING THE PROPERTY<br>TAX ALLOCATIONS FOR THE VALLEY CENTER AND DEER<br>SPRINGS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS   |
| Financial and<br>General<br>Government | 7. | NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING (TEFRA):<br>ISSUANCE OF REVENUE OBLIGATIONS BY THE CALIFORNIA<br>ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF<br>EDCO REFUSE SERVICES, INC., BURRTEC WASTE & RECYCLING<br>SERVICES, LLC, BURRTEC ENVIRONMENTAL, LLC, BURRTEC<br>RECOVERY & TRANSFER, LLC, JEMCO EQUIPMENT CORP.,<br>SANCO SERVICES, L.P., AND/OR A RELATED OR SUCCESSOR<br>ENTITY IN AN AGGREGATE MAXIMUM STATED PRINCIPAL<br>AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$73,500,000 |
|  | 8. | NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING (TEFRA):<br>ISSUANCE OF REVENUE BONDS BY THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC<br>FINANCE AUTHORITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF PROVIDENT<br>RESOURCES GROUP INC., AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES, IN AN<br>AGGREGATE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$120,000,000 AND<br>RELATED APPROVALS   |
|  | 9. | WITHDRAWN-CONTINUED ITEM FROM 02/11/2025 (11):<br>RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO'S<br>STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS, ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE<br>AND AMENDMENTS TO BOARD POLICIES RELATED TO THE<br>COUNTY'S FINANCIAL POLICIES FOR ALIGNMENT TO THE<br>STRATEGIC PLAN (2/25/2025 - first reading; 3/11/2025 - second reading<br>unless ordinance is modified on second reading)   |

10. WITHDRAWN-CONTINUED ITEM FROM 02/11/2025 (12):  
EVALUATING SUSTAINABLE FUNDING OPTIONS TO SUPPORT  
THE CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN
11. SUPPORTING SAFER PRACTICES WHEN SITING BATTERY  
ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM PROJECTS
- Land Use and Environment 12. REDUCING FIRE DANGER THROUGH EMERGENCY  
ENCAMPMENT CLEARINGS DURING RED FLAG WARNINGS
- Closed Session 13. CLOSED SESSION

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**1. SUBJECT: SHERIFF - APPROVAL OF SHERIFF'S STAFF TRAVEL OUT OF COUNTRY FOR GLOBAL LARGE-SCALE EVENTS TRAINING BY POLICE SCOTLAND (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

In accordance with Board of Supervisors Policy D-7, Out-of-County Business and Related Guidelines and Processes and Administrative Code section 470, this is a request to approve two staff from San Diego County Sheriff's Office (Sheriff's Office) to attend an event hosted by Police Scotland's International Academy. Graduates from the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) National Executive Institute (NEI) were specifically invited for this 5-day program called "Preparing for Major Football Events" Training. Today's request is for the San Diego County Board of Supervisors to approve the Undersheriff and the Sergeant of the Sheriff's Emergency Planning Detail travel to the United Kingdom to attend this training scheduled for March 12-16, 2025.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)  
SHERIFF**

1. Per Administrative Code 470, approve the Undersheriff and the Sergeant of the Sheriff's Emergency Planning Detail travel to the United Kingdom for participation in the "Preparing for Major Football Events" Training scheduled for March 12-16, 2025.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The San Diego County Sheriff's Office (Sheriff's Office) mission is to provide the highest quality public safety services to everyone in San Diego County. By participating in high-level executive training, the Sheriff has opportunities to discuss and learn about best practices in leading public safety agencies, which enhances the Sheriff's perspective in approaching issues and developing policies for the betterment of the communities served. The training participants will include leaders from various large law enforcement agencies, to include the FBI, federal law enforcement partners, military criminal investigative branches, and international police departments.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's action contributes to the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goal of engaging the community in meaningful ways to foster inclusive and sustainable communities. The event and security planning for major events involves community engagement, input, and partnership. Additionally, engaging in this program provides leaders a cross-cultural opportunity as participants will be executive police leadership from across the globe.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan for the Sheriff's Office. If approved, all associated travel and accommodation costs, estimated total at \$4,000, will be funded by existing General Purpose Revenue within the Sheriff's Office. Both Sheriff's staff will receive regular salary and benefits, and no overtime will be incurred as a result of this trip. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

2. **SUBJECT: SECOND CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE: ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE XVI OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RELATING TO THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING COUNCIL (2/11/25 First Reading; 2/25/25 Second Reading); APPROVAL OF BY-LAWS; APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

On February 11, 2025 (01), the Board of Supervisors took action to further consider and adopt the Ordinance on February 25, 2025.

The San Diego County Child Care and Development Planning Council (CCDPC) is advisory to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) and the San Diego County Superintendent of Schools in order to identify local child care and development needs and issues. The San Diego County CCDPC is a local board that is required by California Welfare and Institutions Code section 10480 et seq.

Today’s action requires two steps. On February 11, 2025, Board action is requested to approve the introduction of an Ordinance amending provisions in Article XVI of the San Diego County Administrative Code relating to the San Diego County CCDPC (first reading). If the Board approves the recommended actions for February 11, 2025, then on February 25, 2025, the Board is requested to consider and adopt the Ordinance, approve conforming amendments to the San Diego County CCDPC By-Laws, appoint members to the San Diego County CCDPC, and certify the 2025 membership composition.

Today’s actions support the County of San Diego (County) vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in San Diego County that have been historically left behind, as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished by continuing services that assist County families with their child care needs and improving access to quality child care and early education programs.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Consider and adopt the Ordinance: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE XVI OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RELATING TO THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING COUNCIL
2. Approve confirming amendments to the San Diego County Child Care and Development Planning Council (CCDPC) By-Laws.
3. Appoint six new members to the San Diego County CCDPC to serve a two-year term to expire December 31, 2026.
4. Reappoint six members to the San Diego County CCDPC whose terms are ending on December 31, 2024 to serve another two-year term to expire December 31, 2026.
5. Approve the San Diego County CCDPC Membership Roster for 2025 and authorize the Clerk of the Board to certify the membership composition as required by the California

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The San Diego County Child Care and Development Planning Council (CCDPC) membership list recommendations ensure that the ethnic, racial and geographic composition of the San Diego County CCDPC is reflective of the population of San Diego County. The 2025 membership list will be comprised of: 19% Black or African American, 26% Hispanic or Latinx, 11% Asian or Pacific Islander, 41% white (non-Hispanic), 3% Native American or Alaskan Native. This demographic closely resembles the demographics of San Diego County (Attachment F).

The San Diego County CCDPC assesses the child care and child development needs of San Diego County children and develops a Child Care Plan to address those needs. The Child Care Plan provides recommendations gathered through community engagement solicited during San Diego County CCDPC monthly meetings. Meeting times alternate between morning and evening to better accommodate working parents, child care providers, and other community partners. Members of the San Diego County CCDPC also conduct outreach efforts to solicit new members, with an emphasis on engaging areas of the community with the highest need.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today’s proposed actions support the County of San Diego Sustainability Goal #2 to provide just and equitable access by providing building blocks to create a more equitable, accountable, accessible, and affordable child care system that meets San Diego County families’ needs and pays the early learning and care workforce a fair and professional wage.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

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

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

- 3. **SUBJECT: GENERAL SERVICES - AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE AND AWARD A CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK CONTRACT FOR MAJOR SYSTEMS RENOVATION OF THE SAN DIEGO CENTRAL JAIL AND RELATED CEQA EXEMPTION (DISTRICT: 1)**

**OVERVIEW**

The San Diego Central Jail (SDCJ) located in downtown San Diego opened in 1998 and serves as the primary point of intake for incarcerated males in San Diego County. The facility is staffed by just over 200 sworn employees and nearly 200 professional staff members. The population at SDCJ is about 1,000 incarcerated persons, including newly booked incarcerated persons awaiting transfer to other facilities, and pre-arraignment incarcerated persons.

The proposed project is to renovate the SDCJ major systems, including mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, kitchen and laundry facilities, and to modernize dormitory rooms and office spaces. Major systems within the jail have reached “end of life” and must be replaced. Today’s request is for the Board of Supervisors approval to authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to advertise and award a Construction Manager at Risk contract

for the renovation of major systems at SDCJ. If approved, construction is expected to begin in the Fall of 2025 and complete in the Summer of 2027.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Find that the proposed major systems renovation project at the San Diego Central Jail is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 and 15302.
2. Authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to take any action authorized by Article XXIII, Section 401, et seq. of the Administrative Code and Public Contract Code Section 20146 to advertise, award, and administer a single Construction Manager at Risk contract for the major systems renovation project at the San Diego Central Jail.
3. Designate the Director, Department of General Services as the County officer responsible for administering the awarded Construction Manager at Risk contract for the major systems renovation project at the San Diego Central Jail.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The authorization and award of a construction contract for the major systems renovation project at San Diego Central Jail would contribute to the County of San Diego's Strategic Plan Community Goal of Safety to support programs and services that focus efforts to reduce disparities and disproportionality across the justice system.

Expenditures resulting from this action will create private sector jobs and economic opportunities in San Diego County. The procurement of a Construction Manager at Risk contract will encourage participation from local, small, and disadvantaged businesses. The awarded contractor will be encouraged to engage with local subcontractors for the project and this procurement follows the requirements of the Working Family Ordinance. Examples of such local participation include partnering with local organizations, local apprentice programs, local employment resource centers, workforce community outreach programs. To ensure equity, inclusionary contracting criteria will be incorporated into the source selection process. The contractor must also comply with the Board Policy B-39a, Veteran Owned Business (VOB) and Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise program, which requires at least 3% VOB or Disabled Veteran Owned participation.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Implementing effective sustainability objectives is crucial to ensuring safe and healthy communities and contributing to the overall success of the region, including the San Diego Central Jail (SDCJ) population. The authorization and award of a Construction Manager at Risk contract for the major systems renovation at SDCJ will contribute to the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals of engaging the community, providing equitable access to County services, transitioning to a green, carbon-free economy, and protecting the health and well-being of County employees, incarcerated persons at SDCJ, and the families who visit them.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan for the Sheriff. If approved, this request will result in estimated costs of \$26,558,263. The funding sources are Sheriff's existing General Purpose Revenue (\$21,400,000) and General Fund fund balance (\$5,158,263). There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

The approval to advertise and award a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) contract for the major systems renovation at San Diego Central Jail would result in the creation of private sector jobs and economic opportunities in San Diego County. It is anticipated that members of all equity seeking groups could benefit which helps stimulate the local economy. CMAR contracts are subject to the Working Families Ordinance and consider local, small, and disadvantaged business participation worth 20% of the total evaluation.

**4. SUBJECT: APPOINTMENTS: VARIOUS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

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

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**SUPERVISOR JOEL ANDERSON**

Appoint Jeffrey Jones to SAN DIEGO COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, Seat 4, for a term to expire January 8, 2029.

**SUPERVISOR MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE**

Appoint Joe Montenegro to the CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, Seat 4, for a term to expire January 06, 2031.

**SUPERVISOR JIM DESMOND**

Appoint Michael Collier to the BONSALL COMMUNITY SPONSOR GROUP, Seat 1, for a term to expire January 8, 2029.

Re-appoint Jared Rowley to the BONSALL COMMUNITY SPONSOR GROUP, Seat 3, for a term to expire January 8, 2029.

Re-appoint Steve Norris to the BONSALL COMMUNITY SPONSOR GROUP, Seat 5, for a term to expire January 8, 2029.

Re-appoint Larissa Anderson to the BONSALL COMMUNITY SPONSOR GROUP, Seat 7, for a term to expire January 8, 2029.

Appoint Alma Plancarte to CSA No. 138 VALLEY CENTER PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE, Seat 2, for a term to expire January 4, 2027.

Appoint Brian Nowlin to the NORTH COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT, Seat 5, for a term to

expire January 8, 2029.

Re-appoint William Leininger to the PALOMAR MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY SPONSOR GROUP, Seat 5, for a term to expire January 8, 2029.

Appoint Jill Broadfoot to the TWIN OAKS VALLEY SPONSOR GROUP, Seat 3, for a term to expire January 8, 2029.

Appoint Peggy Pico-Pearce to the TWIN OAKS VALLEY SPONSOR GROUP, Seat 5, for a term to expire January 8, 2029.

Appoint Michael Johnson to the WARNER SPRINGS COMMUNITY SPONSOR GROUP, Seat 5, for a term to expire January 8, 2029.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

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

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

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

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

N/A

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

## **5. SUBJECT: COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### **OVERVIEW**

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

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

#### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Note and file.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

## **SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT**

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

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

N/A

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- 6. SUBJECT: NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING:  
APPROVING A TRANSFER OF PROPERTY TAX REVENUES FROM  
THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AND INCREASING THE PROPERTY  
TAX ALLOCATIONS FOR THE VALLEY CENTER AND DEER  
SPRINGS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS (DISTRICT: 5)**

### **OVERVIEW**

On October 8, 2024 (9), the Board of Supervisors (Board) received several options for increasing financial resources to the Deer Springs Fire Protection District (DSFPD) and the Valley Center Fire Protection District (VCFPD) to provide for additional fire protection and emergency response services. The Board directed the Chief Administrative Officer to pursue an increase in the DSFPD and VCFPD property tax allocation to 6%, effective Fiscal Year 2025-26, reducing the funding in the existing Memorandum of Agreement with DSFPD, return to the Board with a resolution and take other necessary steps to complete a property tax reallocation.

The DSFPD Board of Directors and VCFPD Board of Directors held hearings on December 11, 2024, and December 19, 2024, respectively, to take action on how the districts intend to utilize the additional property tax funding. Today's actions include the Board of Supervisors adopting resolutions that satisfy the specific requirements in California Government Code Section 99.02 for a transferring agency to increase the property tax allocations for Deer Springs and Valley Center from approximately 2% to 6% effective Fiscal Year 2025-26.

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

#### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Find the adoption of the property resolutions of increased property tax allocations is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to state CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4) because the proposed actions involved government fiscal

activities that do not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result in potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

2. Pursuant to Section 99.02(e) of the California Revenue and Taxation Code, hold a public hearing to consider the effect of the proposed transfers of property tax revenue allocable between the County of San Diego and the Deer Springs and Valley Center Fire Protection Districts on fees, charges, assessments, taxes, or other revenues.
3. Adopt the Resolution entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO REGARDING A TRANSFER OF PROPERTY TAX REVENUES FROM THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AND INCREASING THE PROPERTY TAX ALLOCATION FOR THE DEER SPRINGS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT (Attachment A)
4. Adopt the Resolution entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO REGARDING A TRANSFER OF PROPERTY TAX REVENUES FROM THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AND INCREASING THE PROPERTY TAX ALLOCATION FOR THE VALLEY CENTER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT (Attachment B)

#### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The Deer Springs and Valley Center Fire Protection Districts receive lower property tax allocations than all other fire protection districts in the region. Increasing the share of property taxes to these districts increases the financial resources to both agencies and allows them to maintain and/or increase services. Additional firefighting personnel improves service levels for all residents during an emergency.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Additional property tax revenue to the Deer Springs and Valley Center Fire Protection Districts supports resilience in both unincorporated communities and improves resources to chronically under-resourced fire protection districts.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact in Fiscal Year 2024-25. The requested action from Recommendation 2 will result in a decrease of the County's share of available General Purpose Revenue by approximately \$1.3 million annually beginning in FY 2025-26, plus approximately 3.9% of the annual growth within the Deer Springs Fire Protection District. The requested action from Recommendation 3 will result in a decrease of the County's share of available General Purpose Revenue by approximately \$1.6 million annually beginning in FY 2025-26, plus approximately 3.8% of the annual growth within the Valley Center Fire Protection District. There will be no change in General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

#### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

7. **SUBJECT: NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING (TEFRA): ISSUANCE OF REVENUE OBLIGATIONS BY THE CALIFORNIA ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF EDCO REFUSE SERVICES, INC., BURRTEC WASTE & RECYCLING SERVICES, LLC, BURRTEC ENVIRONMENTAL, LLC, BURRTEC RECOVERY & TRANSFER, LLC, JEMCO EQUIPMENT CORP., SANCO SERVICES, L.P., AND/OR A RELATED OR SUCCESSOR ENTITY IN AN AGGREGATE MAXIMUM STATED PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$73,500,000 (DISTRICTS: 2 AND 5)**

**OVERVIEW**

The County has received a request from the California Enterprise Development Authority (“Authority”) to conduct a public hearing as required by the Internal Revenue Code and to approve the Authority’s issuance of one or more series of tax-exempt and/or taxable revenue obligations in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$73,500,000 (the “Revenue Obligations”), for the benefit of EDCO Refuse Services, Inc., Burrtec Waste & Recycling Services, LLC, Burrtec Environmental, LLC, Burrtec Recovery & Transfer, LLC, Jemco Equipment Corp., and/or a related or successor Entity Sanco Services, L.P. (collectively, the “Borrower”).

The Borrower has applied for the financial assistance of the Authority. The proceeds of the Revenue Obligations will be loaned to the Borrower to: (1) finance, refinance and/or reimburse the cost of: (a) the acquisition, construction, installation, improvement and equipping of solid waste disposal facilities including, but not limited to, improvements to existing buildings, conversion of the existing diesel fleet to renewable natural gas, transfer stations, waste and recycling terminals, organics facilities, anaerobic digester facilities, container yards, hauling yards, material recovery facilities, maintenance yards and administrative facilities; and (b) the acquisition of collection trucks, transfer trailers and loaders, carts, bins and other solid waste disposal machinery and equipment, all of which will be located at and 1035 and 1044 West Washington Avenue, Escondido, California 92025 in the approximate amount of \$72,000,000 and 324 Maple Street, Ramona, California 92065 in the approximate amount of \$1,500,000 (collectively, the “Facilities”); and (2) pay interest on the Revenue Obligations and the costs of issuance and other related costs in connection with the financing (collectively the “Project”).

The Authority is authorized to assist in financing projects of nonprofit public benefit organizations or for-profit corporations with a public benefit wishing to issue or reissue bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness, including the Borrower. In order to initiate such a financing, the Borrower is asking the County of San Diego, a member jurisdiction in which the Project is located to: (1) conduct a public hearing to satisfy the public approval requirement of Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code; and (2) approve the Authority’s issuance of the Revenue Obligations. Although the Authority will be the issuer of the Revenue Obligations for the Borrower, the financing cannot proceed without the approval of one of the applicable legislative bodies.

Today’s recommendations will provide the Authority with the required authorization to pursue its determination to issue the Revenue Obligations on behalf of the Borrower.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Pursuant to Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code, hold a public hearing regarding the financing of the Project.

2. Adopt a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO APPROVING THE ISSUANCE BY THE CALIFORNIA ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF ITS REVENUE OBLIGATIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF EDCO REFUSE SERVICES, INC., AND/OR RELATED OR SUCCESSOR ENTITIES, IN AN AGGREGATE MAXIMUM STATED PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$73,500,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING, REFINANCING AND/OR REIMBURSING THE COST OF ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION, IMPROVEMENT AND EQUIPPING OF SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT, PROVIDING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR SUCH REVENUE OBLIGATIONS AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO

#### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The Authority was established to assist in financing projects of nonprofit public benefit organizations or for-profit corporations with a public benefit wishing to issue or reissue revenue obligations. The Revenue Obligations issued will be used to: (1) finance, refinance and/or reimburse the cost of: (a) the acquisition, construction, installation, improvement and equipping of solid waste disposal facilities, including, but not limited to, improvements to existing buildings, conversion of the existing diesel fleet to renewable natural gas, transfer stations, waste and recycling terminals, organics facilities, anaerobic digester facilities, container yards, hauling yards, material recovery facilities, maintenance yards and administrative facilities; and (b) the acquisition of collection trucks, transfer trailers and loaders, carts, bins and other solid waste disposal machinery and equipment, all of which will be located at one or more of the addresses and in the approximate dollar amounts set forth below; and (2) pay interest on the Revenue Obligations and the costs of issuance and other related costs in connection with the financing. The Borrower is focused on enhancing community recycling efforts through an extensive network of Material Recovery Facilities, Construction and Demolition Processing Facilities, Commingled Recycling Processing Centers, Recycling Buyback Centers, Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers, and an Anaerobic Digestion Facility. The Facilities will allow the Borrower to continue its investment in diversion facilities to achieve the mandates of AB 939 and SB 1383.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed action would result in economic, social, health and wellbeing benefits for the community by allowing the Borrower to meet the waste collection, disposal and recycling needs of a broad segment of the San Diego population, while ensuring a safe and rewarding career for its employees. The proposed action will contribute to County of San Diego Sustainability Goal No. 3 by minimizing waste and promoting responsible consumption and reuse to create more restorative and regenerative operations. The proposed action will also result in the investment of more energy efficient operations and in a reduction of emissions through the conversion of the Borrower's diesel fleet to renewable natural gas.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

If approved, the proposal will result in approximately \$991 of unanticipated revenue to be used to reimburse the County for staff time associated with this non-County financing. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

The Borrower will be responsible for the payment of all present and future costs in connection

with the financing. The County will incur no obligation of indebtedness as a result of these actions.

## **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

8. **SUBJECT:**
9. **SUBJECT: RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO'S STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS, ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE AND AMENDMENTS TO BOARD POLICIES RELATED TO THE COUNTY'S FINANCIAL POLICIES FOR ALIGNMENT TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN (2/25/2025 - first reading; 3/11/2025 - second reading unless ordinance is modified on second reading) (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

## **OVERVIEW**

The County of San Diego (County) is responsible for hundreds of programs, some of them mandated by the State and federal governments, as well as those that the local community and Board of Supervisors (Board) identifies as priorities and needs. These programs provide vital services and support to the region. To plan, operationalize, and evaluate its operations, the County engages in a robust strategic planning process and uses a tool called the General Management System (GMS). These processes ensure that the County is able to respond to and provide the services the community relies on it for. To respond to community needs, the County updated its General Management System, Strategic Plan, Mission, Vision, and Values on January 11, 2022 (9). The reimagined governing documents for the County built upon the success of the past, identified opportunities for improvements, and provided the ongoing foundation to ensure the County's operations are aligned with the Board's priorities and communities' needs.

The action before the Board today is to receive an update on the implementation of the County's Strategic Plan which serves as the basis for the annual operational planning process. This action also presents the Board with an update on the development and implementation of Key Performance Indicators that will be used to measure the County's long-term success of achieving its strategic initiatives. The General Management System lays out that operational planning occurs annually and is in alignment with the Strategic Plan's direction. To ensure the success of achieving strategic initiatives, today's action will also update several key financial policies to promote the alignment between financial planning activities and advancement of the strategic plan.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

## **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

### **On February 25, 2025:**

1. Receive a staff presentation.
2. Approve amendments to Board Policy B-29, Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts— Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery (Attachment D, on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors).
3. Approve amendments to Board Policy B-65, Financial Management and Long-Term Obligations Policy (Attachment F, on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors).
4. Approve the introduction of the Ordinance:  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE VII OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, RELATING TO BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PROCEDURES AND APPROPRIATION, REVENUE AND STAFFING LIMITATIONS

### **If, on February 25, 2025, the Board takes action as recommended, then, on March 11, 2025:**

5. Consider and adopt the Ordinance:  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE VII OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, RELATING TO BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PROCEDURES AND APPROPRIATION, REVENUE AND STAFFING LIMITATIONS

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Equity is both a Strategic Initiative in the County's Strategic Plan and a County value. The Equity County value means that we apply an equity lens to appropriately design programs and services so that underserved communities have equitable opportunities. The County does this by using data driven metrics, lived experiences, and the voices of our community through all policies and programs. Strategic Planning and Evaluation and Accountability are core components of the County's General Management System. To effectively measure success of the Strategic Plan, a team of staff experts from across the County who possess unique subject matter expertise and extensive operational knowledge were brought together to review the Strategic Plan and collaborate on the creation of Key Performance Indicators. The team considered the Board of Supervisors' priorities, internal data requirements and availability, community needs, and the needs of our workforce in this process. The resulting Key Performance Indicators will provide a

transparent view into the County's operational performance and a clear vision for the County's Strategic Plan.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's action to receive an update on the County's Strategic Plan and the implementation of Key Performance Indicators contributes to County of San Diego Sustainability Goal #1 (Engage the Community) and #2 (Provide Just and Equitable Access). The County's Strategic Plan lays

out the path for County operations into the future and includes specific strategic initiatives of Community, Equity, and Sustainability. In addition, adding Key Performance Indicators as a method of measuring success ensures access to information on how the County's services and programs are performing at a broader scale. Receiving this update provides the Board with the opportunity to reaffirm the ongoing commitments within the Strategic Plan and set the vision for continuous improvement in all areas of County services and programs.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with today's recommended action. There will be no change in General Fund costs and no additional staff years as a result of acting on the recommendations within this Board letter.

#### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**THIS ITEM HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

- 10. SUBJECT: CONTINUED ITEM FROM 02/11/2025 (12):  
EVALUATING SUSTAINABLE FUNDING OPTIONS TO SUPPORT  
THE CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN  
(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

#### **OVERVIEW**

This item was continued to February 25, 2025 at the request of Vice-Chair Lawson-Remer.

The County of San Diego has a long track record of responsible fiscal stewardship and efficient use of taxpayer dollars through results-oriented service delivery. As a custodian of public funds, the County has maintained a focus on providing vital services while avoiding waste and inefficiency.

Forecasts by the County Office of Financial Planning project shifts in the fiscal environment due to declining State and Federal tax revenues. Nearly half of the County's budget depends on State and Federal revenue sources, emphasizing the need for thoughtful, proactive planning to sustain County services. This proposal equips the Board and the County's leadership team with an analysis of potential tools to help the County navigate these headwinds while ensuring continued progress on core service delivery and the adopted Strategic Plan.

In accordance with Board direction, the County has worked to strengthen service delivery in areas outlined in the Strategic Plan such as public safety, mental health and substance use disorder, homelessness, and attainable housing while maintaining top-tier credit ratings and effectively leveraging state and federal resources. Recent accomplishments include:

- **Fire Safety:** Doubling the size of the County's fire response system, improving call response times, increasing firefighter and first responder staffing, expanding fire response infrastructure including Mt. Laguna, Valley Center, and Deer Springs, and investing in advanced tools like fire helicopters that can prevent catastrophic wildfires and assist in remote rescues.

- **Public Safety:** Strengthening law enforcement through expanded staffing, including the addition of over 300 new positions in recent years, and targeted recruitment and retention efforts to address workforce needs. The County has invested in new Sheriff facilities, crime lab, and advanced tools like upgraded body-worn cameras and digital evidence systems to enhance accountability and efficiency.
- **Behavioral Health:** Expanding regional capacity with 6 new crisis stabilization units already serving over 14,000 admissions, supporting additional sober living homes, and adding 200 long-term mental health beds, nearly doubling the region's capacity. Additionally, the launch of mobile crisis response teams (MCRT) staffed by trained clinicians has diverted over 13,000 calls from law enforcement, allowing deputies to focus on crime prevention and community safety.
- **Housing:** The County has recently funded the creation of over 2,000 affordable housing units through the Innovative Housing Trust Fund, while streamlining building codes to encourage senior and assisted living housing and reducing regulatory barriers to construction. The County is on track to exceed regional housing construction goals by over 50%.
- **Homelessness:** Expanding shelter capacity with the creation of over 900 new shelter spaces, including safe parking lots and supportive housing options. The County has also launched targeted prevention initiatives like the Diversion Program and the Senior Shallow Rent Subsidy program, which has kept over 400 at-risk seniors in their homes with a 100% success rate in avoiding homelessness. Outreach teams have provided services to thousands of individuals living in encampments, connecting them with housing, shelter, and behavioral health resources.
- **Unincorporated Service Delivery:** As the primary governmental entity responsible for providing essential services to the 500,000+ residents of San Diego County's unincorporated communities, the County continues to deliver high-quality public safety, road maintenance, emergency response, planning, and environmental health services. With no municipal government in these areas, the County has committed to ensuring efficient service delivery, maintaining infrastructure, and addressing community needs while upholding high standards of customer service and responsiveness.

This progress has been achieved while maintaining the County's strong financial position, including a top-tier credit rating. However, the ability to continue to meet these commitments in the face of a changing fiscal outlook requires proactive financial analysis and planning. This item proposes an in-depth analysis of available municipal finance tools to ensure the County remains fiscally secure and capable of sustaining its commitments amid shifting economic conditions. This analysis will help the County evaluate options for maintaining critical services and infrastructure while continuing to implement the Strategic Plan.

This approach mirrors the Board-approved process requested by the Sheriff's Office in November 2023, which authorized a similar analysis of revenue options to support the public safety and facility modernization called for in the Detention Facilities Strategic Framework Plan.

Today's proposal builds on the thoughtful and transparent methodology applied by the Sheriff's Office in November 2023, reflecting the County's tradition of proactive fiscal planning.

This analysis will provide the Board with the information needed to evaluate potential revenue tools thoughtfully and ensure the County is positioned to sustain its commitments responsibly, with a commitment to efficiency, accountability, and the responsible use of taxpayer dollars.

This analysis does not commit the County to pursuing any specific or general strategies or approaches. Rather, it equips the Chief Financial Officer and the Board with data to explore viable options and make informed decisions that align with the Strategic Plan. By conducting this analysis now, we can ensure the County remains financially secure, capable of meeting its current commitments, and adaptable to the challenges of tomorrow.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **~~VICE-CHAIR TERRA LAWSON-REMER~~**

- ~~1. In accordance with Section 401(c) of the County Administrative Code, authorize the Director of the Department of Purchasing and Contracting to solicit quotations, and upon successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award contract(s) for consulting services to evaluate the feasibility of local revenue generation and funding options that support the continued delivery of core services in alignment with the Strategic Plan, with a contract option to support the implementation of any such initiatives selected by the Board, and to amend the contract(s) as needed to reflect changes to services and funding. The solicitation shall include selection criteria to ensure the consultant team possesses extensive experience in public opinion research, stakeholder engagement, revenue measure design, ballot measure planning and strategic implementation. The team should have a proven track record in San Diego County, particularly in collaboration with public agencies, non-governmental organizations, and local governments on similar projects, with a strong preference for recent experience working with the County of San Diego specifically on similar projects. Additionally, the consultant team must demonstrate a history of successfully guiding revenue measures through public approval processes. The consultant should evaluate implementation considerations and voter attitudes for potential revenue streams, including but not limited to, a Documentary Transfer Tax, Transaction and Use Tax, a Sales Tax, and a Stormwater District. The analysis should focus on identifying revenue mechanisms that yield the highest potential return while having the greatest likelihood of successful adoption and implementation, including consideration of voter thresholds. The analysis will also consider community values, stakeholder input, Board Member input, County priorities, and strategies that have the potential to leverage State and Federal resources. The analysis may potentially also examine the feasibility of partnerships with other municipalities to pursue joint revenue strategies or coordinated funding initiatives.~~
- ~~2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a preliminary memo to the Board by July 1, 2025, summarizing progress to date and any early insights. The CAO should return to the Board by the August 26, 2025, Board Meeting to present the consultant's initial report, findings, and recommendations. The CAO's return to the Board should include options for possible next steps, including but not limited to, implementation strategies and potential public education and outreach that could support~~

~~and build on the consultant's recommendations.~~

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

This proposal directly supports the County's commitment to aligning services with community priorities and ensuring that taxpayer resources are used effectively and transparently. By identifying responsible funding solutions, this initiative aims to ensure that essential services remain accessible to all residents while promoting fairness and opportunity across the County. By identifying sustainable solutions for critical service areas such as behavioral health, public safety, and infrastructure, this initiative aims to support the Board's recent efforts to close service gaps that have disproportionately affected marginalized and underserved communities across San Diego County.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

This proposal advances the County's commitment to environmental sustainability by exploring fiscally responsible funding solutions to support programs such as those that protect natural resources, improve stormwater infrastructure, reduce pollution, and enhance climate resilience. By aligning these efforts with the Board's adopted sustainability goals, this analysis will allow this Board to ensure the County is poised to meet regulatory requirements and maintain critical environmental services without compromising its financial health or future obligations.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are not included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan in the Finance and General Government Group Executive Office, Office of Financial Planning. If approved by the Board, funding of \$400,000, could be provided redirecting budgeted appropriations of General Purpose Revenue currently allocated to the Office of Financial Planning for information technology costs, and would not impact service delivery. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

***THIS ITEM HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN AT THE REQUEST OF VICE-CHAIR TERRA LAWSON-REMER***

## **11. SUBJECT:**

### **OVERVIEW**

Under current state law, eligible privately initiated battery energy storage system (BESS) projects may be approved through the California Energy Commission's "opt-in" certification program. Going through this state process is in lieu of obtaining any local permits that may be required. Although not commonly used, it may become more lucrative as local jurisdictions begin implementing stricter rules for BESS projects. If a project were to utilize this program for a project located within the County of San Diego (County), it would unfortunately be exempted from our zoning and other regulations. As a result, we would lose control over decisions regarding how BESS projects are designed and located, and the opportunity for meaningful community input would be significantly reduced or eliminated.

On July 17, 2024 (8), the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed County staff to develop specific

land use classifications and development standards for new BESS projects in the unincorporated areas. That effort is presently underway, and staff anticipates returning to the Board in mid to late 2026 with an ordinance for Board consideration and adoption.

Since the July 2024 Board direction, legislation was introduced at the state level that would mandate certain development standards for new BESS projects. Assembly Bill 303 (AB 303) was introduced on January 23, 2025, and, if approved - *as introduced* - would result in the following:

1. Remove eligibility from privately initiated BESS projects for approval through the California Energy Commission opt-in certification program.
2. Direct the California Energy Commission to deny all pending applications for new BESS projects under the opt-it certification program.
3. Prohibit local jurisdictions from approving new BESS projects capable of storing 200 megawatthours (MWh) or more of energy, if they are within 3,200 feet of a sensitive receptor (e.g., housing, schools, daycares, hospitals, businesses open to the public, etc.), or located on an environmentally sensitive site (e.g., coastal zone, prime farmland, wetlands, very high fire zones, etc.).

The language in AB 303 largely aligns with efforts the County is already taking to ensure communities remain safe from the hazards associated with BESS facilities. We should make it abundantly clear to residents living in the unincorporated areas, along with lawmakers in Sacramento, that we continue to stand firmly for local land use control and community safety. It's in this spirit that today's action recommends that the County adopt a position of support for AB 303, as introduced on January 23, 2025.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**  
**SUPERVISOR JIM DESMOND**

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to express the County's support for Assembly Bill 303 (AB 303), *as introduced on January 23, 2025*, consistent with Board Policy M-2.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Battery energy storage system (BESS) projects may pose significant health, safety and environmental risks to surrounding communities, especially when located within or near existing residential neighborhoods. These risks range from acute noise nuisances to fire and thermal run-away hazards. To protect and buffer residential areas from these risks and to ensure historically disadvantaged communities don't bear the brunt of new BESS projects moving forward, the Board of Supervisors (Board) must continue to prioritize and demonstrate our commitment to public safety.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

There are many benefits that BESS projects have that contribute to the County's sustainability goals, such as strengthening grid reliability and increasing energy efficiency. However, there are

also several potential adverse consequences, including fire and thermal runaway risks, managing the limited life cycle and degradation of batteries over time, and extraction of rare earth minerals that can have devastating environmental and societal consequences. The key here is striking a balance between the pros and cons of these facilities. Adopting rules for how we process and locate BESS projects in the unincorporated areas is a necessary first step, and support for Assembly Bill 303 (AB 303) largely aligns with the efforts already underway at the County to do just that.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with today's recommendation to support AB 303. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years, at this time.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

## **12. SUBJECT:**

### **OVERVIEW**

The County of San Diego faces a significant fire risk due to homeless encampments in high-risk areas. In January alone, multiple fires-including the Friars Fire in Mission Valley, the Center Fire in Rancho Bernardo, and the Gilman Fire in La Jolla-originated in homeless encampments. These fires have threatened homes, destroyed property, forced emergency evacuations, and put the lives of both first responders and residents in danger.

In Los Angeles, 54% of all fires in 2023 were attributed to homeless encampments, with similar trends emerging in the Bay Area and across California. Wildfire remains an ever-present threat in San Diego County, where dry conditions, high winds, and dense vegetation create a constant risk of disaster.

Homeless encampments, often located in canyons, riverbeds, and other fire-prone areas, add an unpredictable and dangerous element to this equation. Open flames used for cooking and warmth, combined with flammable debris and a lack of fire prevention measures, pose a serious fire hazard-not only to surrounding communities but also to those living within the encampments themselves.

Today's action prioritizes public safety by directly addressing the fire risks posed by homeless encampments and implementing proactive fire prevention measures. By improving the process of emergency encampment clearings to address fire risk, we can significantly reduce the likelihood of devastating wildfires. Wildfires do not recognize jurisdictional boundaries, making regional coordination essential. Therefore, today's action also calls for collaboration with neighboring jurisdictions to enhance fire prevention efforts and strengthen public safety across the region.

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

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to return to the Board in 90 days with (1) a report on current County policies and practices on removal of illegal encampments, including emergency removal based on fire risk; (2) recommendations to improve the process of removing illegal encampments.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to identify high fire-risk areas within the County that have significant homeless encampments and prioritize these locations for removal and the issuance of stay-away orders as deemed appropriate.
3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to work with other jurisdictions interested in implementing similar measures to enhance regional fire prevention efforts.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The year-round threat of wildfires disproportionately impacts rural, low-income, and underserved communities in San Diego County, where limited water infrastructure and resources heighten vulnerabilities. About 79% of the County's unincorporated area is designated as High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. More than 80% of County Fire's jurisdictional area qualifies as a disadvantaged unincorporated community based on a San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission report on funding, administration, and performance of the former County Service Area No. 135 (now San Diego County Fire Protection District).

### **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. Enhancing public safety is of paramount priority for the County's more vulnerable residents.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for the actions requested in Recommendation 1 are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan for the Departments of Park and Recreation, Public Works and Planning and Development Services based on existing staff time. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years associated with Recommendation 1. There may be fiscal impacts associated with future related recommendations which staff would return to the Board for consideration and approval.

Funds for the action requested in Recommendation 2 are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan in for the Departments of Park and Recreation, Public Works and Planning and Development Services based on existing staff time. There may be additional fiscal impacts associated with future encampment abatements. Depending on the number and complexity of the abatements, additional funding may need to be identified. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years associated with Recommendation 2.

Funds for the action requested in Recommendation 3 are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan in County Fire and Office of Emergency Services based on existing staff time. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years associated with Recommendation 3.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**13. SUBJECT: CLOSED SESSION (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

**A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION**

(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)

Gabriela Ivanova v. County of San Diego, et al.; San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2024-00022390-CU-PA-CTL.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

At the direction of the Board.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**FISCAL IMPACT**

N/A

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A