

ATTACHMENT

For Item

#01

June 12, 2023

June 15, 2023

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION RECEIVED BY THE
CLERK OF THE BOARD

DISTRIBUTED 6/16/2023

From: [David H. Weibel](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Joseph D. Petta](#)
Subject: [External] FW: June 27, 2023 Board of Supervisors Hearing on Proposed Budget
Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 4:40:46 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Comment Letter to Board of Supervisors re 6-27-23 Hearing - 6-14-23.pdf](#)

Good afternoon.

Pursuant to an out-of-office response received from Andrew Potter, we are forwarding the e-mail below (and attachment) to your e-mail address.

Thank you,



David H. Weibel
Legal Secretary
Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP
396 Hayes Street
San Francisco, CA 94102-4421
p: 415/552-7272 x234 |
www.smwlaw.com | A San Francisco Green Business

From: David H. Weibel
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 4:08 PM
To: andrew.potter@sdcounty.ca.gov
Cc: district1community@sdcounty.ca.gov; joel.anderson@sdcounty.ca.gov; terra.lawson-remmer@sdcounty.ca.gov; jim.desmond@sdcounty.ca.gov; cao_mail@sdcounty.ca.gov; Joseph D. Petta <petta@smwlaw.com>
Subject: June 27, 2023 Board of Supervisors Hearing on Proposed Budget

Mr. Potter,

Attached is a letter to the San Diego Board of Supervisors and Chief Administrative Officer on behalf of our clients, Save Our Forest and Ranchlands and Cleveland National Forest Foundation, regarding the June 27, 2023 hearing and, more specifically, the Alpine Park Sports Complex Project.

Please let me know if you have any difficulty accessing the attachment.

Thank you,

David H. Weibel



Legal Secretary
Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP
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SHUTE MIHALY
& WEINBERGER LLP

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JOSEPH D. PETTA
Attorney
Petta@smwlaw.com

June 14, 2023

Via Electronic Mail Only

Board of Supervisors & Chief Administrative Officer
County of San Diego
1600 Pacific Highway, Fourth Floor, Room 402
San Diego, California 92101
Telephone: (619) 531-5600
E-mail: Andrew.Potter@sdcounty.ca.gov

Re: June 27, 2023 Board of Supervisors Hearing on Proposed Budget

Dear Board of Supervisors and Chief Administrative Officer:

On behalf of our clients Save Our Forest and Ranchlands (“SOFAR”) and the Cleveland National Forest Foundation (“CNFF,” together the “Clients”), we submit the following comments on the Chief Administrative Officer’s proposed County budget for Fiscal Years 2023 through 2025. As organizations dedicated to the protection of vital natural resources and to good city and regional planning, our Clients would like to bring to your attention a particular proposed budget item, the appropriation of an additional \$5 million in funding (Fiscal Year 2023-24) for the planning of the Alpine Park Sports Complex Project (the “Project”), misleadingly named “Alpine Local Park” in the proposed budget. For the reasons below, our Clients sincerely request that the item be amended.

The Project proposes construction of a massive sports complex, including all-road vehicle facilities, immediately adjacent to Wrights Field, a 230-acre nature reserve. The Project, which would develop 25 acres (requiring 22 acres of grading, see Draft EIR (“DEIR”) at p. 3-5) for various recreational uses and include parking spaces for up to 275 vehicles, conflicts with the rural setting and designated open space area nearby. The park’s location immediately adjacent to the nature preserve has the potential to result in significant edge effects such as degradation of habitat and habitat fragmentation due to new roadways and increased human activity, impacts to wildlife movement due to construction, impacts to breeding birds and other animals due to increased traffic and noise, and disruption of essential behavior and ecological processes due to increased

lighting and human activity. A sports complex of this size in a rural setting would attract people from distant areas, resulting in increased vehicle miles traveled (“VMT”) and corresponding increases in greenhouse gas emissions. The Project and its related background project, the Alpine Community Plan Update, together constitute a direct assault on the integrity of local and regional planning principles. Funding for such a park should be contingent on identification of a more suitable location.¹

Taken together with the County’s proposed Alpine Community Plan Update—which would have *twenty-two* unmitigable long-term impacts, and which the County approved in 2016 *in spite of* these impacts for the reason of “fair share of regional General Plan housing growth”—the proposed park Project would further add to this list of unmitigated impacts. Approval of the Project would fly in the face of both recent and longstanding State and local directives regarding climate, fire danger, and VMT reduction, and the County public’s mandate to protect the Cleveland National Forest. The proposed Park also contravenes the spirit of the County Board of Supervisors’ 2020 decision to provide vital lands in and surrounding the National Forest with special overlay protection.²

The Project is also fundamentally inconsistent with SANDAG’s Regional Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (“SCS”), which includes among its strategies to “focus housing and job growth in the urbanized areas where there is existing and planned transportation” and to “protect the environment and help ensure the success of smart growth land use policies by preserving sensitive habitat, open space, cultural resources, and farmland.” The preeminent goal and performance target of SANDAG’s Regional

¹ As Preserve Alpine’s Heritage noted in its law firm’s comments on the DEIR, that document “does not even consider inclusion of a singular Alternative Location Alternative, and summarily dismisses the inclusion of an Alternative Locations (“miniparks”) Alternative in one paragraph. (DEIR, p. 6-4.) The DEIR also fails to demonstrate it actually considered, or is actively seeking, other locations, including those that would not result in the same harmful impacts. No evidence is provided regarding the rejection of these alternatives for further consideration. (DEIR, pp. 6-4 to 6-5.) The County’s refusal to disclose the alternative locations that were supposedly considered but rejected on the basis of ‘confidentiality for the owners of the potential properties’ is improper and prevents the public and decision makers from evaluating the propriety of rejecting these alternative locations for failure to ‘meet many of the project objectives’ (DEIR, p. 6-5.).” See comments of Chatten-Brown, Carstens & Minter LLP submitted November 15, 2021, pp. 4-5.

² <https://eccalifornian.com/fci-overlay-approved>

Plan, as mandated by SB 375, is to reduce per-capita CO2 emissions from cars and light-duty trucks to meet the California Air Resources Board's 2020 and 2035 reduction targets for the region. Id.

In addition, the July 2020 Regional Housing Needs Allocation ("RHNA") Plan reduced the housing allocation for the 2021-2029 planning cycle in the County's unincorporated areas by 15,000 units compared to the allocation in the previous cycle. The units were transferred from the rural unincorporated areas to already urbanized areas that have established infrastructure, transit corridors, and jobs for the express reasons of making housing and transportation more affordable and to reduce VMT and greenhouse gas emissions. This means that compliance with SANDAG's Regional Plan and the RHNA would limit development in rural lands in and adjacent to forest lands, such as Alpine.

The Alpine Park Project was purportedly planned to accommodate population growth and demographic changes anticipated in the area. However, the most recent Regional Plan indicates otherwise. SANDAG adopted the 2021 Regional Plan and certified the associated EIR, both of which incorporate the Series 14 Regional Growth Forecast which SANDAG adopted in October 2019. The Regional Plan shows a drastic reduction in the projected growth in the County's unincorporated areas.

Specifically, whereas SANDAG's Series 13 housing forecast calculated an increase of 51,123 housing units in the unincorporated county between 2012 and 2050, SANDAG's current Series 14 housing forecast reduces this projected growth to an increase of just 7,419 housing units in all unincorporated areas countywide during a similar timeframe (2021 Regional Plan, Appendix F at p. F-13). This reduction in population growth in the County's unincorporated areas consequently means the Project is not necessary to accommodate growth, because the projected growth rate for the Alpine area is now substantially reduced.

In short, in order to be consistent with SANDAG's 2021 Regional Plan and Series 14 forecast and RHNA, the County will have to reduce Alpine's housing allocation from the current General Plan, which will result in significantly less population growth in the Alpine area. Based on the foregoing, there no reasonable argument supporting the need for a park Project of the proposed size, or location.

In this context, the proposed budget's \$5 million funding for the Alpine Park Sports Complex Project raises serious questions about misuse of public funds. The Project is oversized, incompatible with the rural character of Alpine, would substantially increase overall VMT, and would convert open space in an area with substantial sensitive

biological resources to an active recreational facility. The County has failed to demonstrate an actual need for the Project, or provide an accurate and complete accounting of its potentially significant impacts—especially in connection with the highly impactful Alpine Community Plan Update.

If County staff and elected officials are serious about ecological sustainability, they should begin by avoiding the disastrous, combined effect of the Alpine Park Sports Complex Project and the Alpine Community Plan Update on these projects' biologically sensitive Forest setting. Now is the time to change course before it is too late and to start building communities for people and nature, not cars.

For all of these reasons, our Clients highly recommend that the budgeted monies for the Alpine Park Sports Complex Project not be earmarked for this specific location. Rather, the money should be generalized for another location if the findings warrant such a regional recreational park.

Very truly yours,

SHUTE, MIHALY & WEINBERGER LLP



Joseph "Seph" Petta

cc: Nora Vargas, Chair, Supervisor, District 1 (district1community@sdcounty.ca.gov)
Joel Anderson, Supervisor, District 2 (joel.anderson@sdcounty.ca.gov)
Terra Lawson-Remer, Supervisor, District 3 (terra.lawson-remer@sdcounty.ca.gov)
Jim Desmond, Supervisor, District 5 (jim.desmond@sdcounty.ca.gov)
Helen N. Robbins-Meyer, Chief Administrative Officer (cao_mail@sdcounty.ca.gov)

From: [Alexa Wohrman](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Chelsea Walczak Vircks](#)
Subject: [External] Letters Regarding County Budget - Support for Produce Prescriptions
Date: Thursday, June 15, 2023 10:18:05 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[AHA - Letter of Support Produce Rx\[66\].pdf](#)
[Vista Community Clinic - Support for Produce Prescriptions\[95\].pdf](#)
[SBCS - Produce Prescriptions Support\[13\].pdf](#)
[Union of Pan Asian Communities - Produce Rx\[88\].pdf](#)
[Yasukochi Family Farms - Produce Prescriptions Support\[89\].pdf](#)
[Alliance Health Clinic - Signed Letter Produce Rx\[10\].pdf](#)

Good morning,

I am submitting six letters regarding the 2023-24 County budget. The local organizations and small businesses listed below write in support of including Produce Prescription programming in the budget.

- American Heart Association of San Diego
- Yasukochi Family Farms
- Alliance Health Clinic
- SBCS (formerly South Bay Community Services)
- Vista Community Clinic
- Union of Pan Asian Communities

Thank you,
Alexa Wohrman



Alexa Wohrman
Community Advocacy Sr. Advisor
American Heart Association
M (808) 298-3414



June 13, 2023

San Diego Division

9404 Genesee Avenue
Suite 240
San Diego, CA 92037

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2022-2023

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Deloitte

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David Zumaya, MS

Executive Director
Jessica Newmyer

The Honorable Nora Vargas, Chair
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
County Administration Center
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: Including Produce Prescriptions in the San Diego County Budget

Dear Chair Vargas and Members of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

San Diego County families are finding it harder than ever to put food on the table. Drastic cuts to CalFresh benefits and soaring inflation have exacerbated a problem that has long existed in San Diego County: nutrition insecurity, or when someone is unable to access or afford enough nutritious food for their overall health. **To help feed our families, reduce health risks and promote local economic growth, we urge San Diego County to commit to an annual \$2 million investment in local Produce Prescription programming.**

Today, nearly 1 in 4 San Diego County residents are nutrition insecure. Produce Prescription programs such as ¡Mas Fresco! Plus are locally driven solutions that improve nutrition security by helping under-resourced families access healthy food. These programs use a Food Is Medicine approach by working with health care professionals to deliver a "prescription" for fruits and vegetables to community members experiencing low income, food insecurity and/or other health disparities.

This person-centered program is key to advancing health equity across the county. Those experiencing food insecurity are at a higher risk for diet-related chronic disease, and this disproportionately affects Black and Hispanic/Latino people and other groups due to societal and historical inequities. Providing families with healthier options not only promotes better diets, but also teaches children healthy behaviors that lead to lifelong habits that support their health and wellness.

These programs are also powerful economic drivers for local businesses. San Diego County farmers and other small businesses reap benefits from higher sales of produce. Nutrition incentive programs like this directly impact revenues for local merchants and generate job growth.

Thank you for your consideration to support long-term community and economic well-being across the county.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Juli Moran".

Juli Moran, MBA
Chair, Board of Directors
American Heart Association- Greater San Diego Division



June 6, 2023

The Honorable Nora Vargas, Chair
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
County Administration Center
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: Providing Critical Funding for Produce Prescriptions in the County of San Diego Budget

Dear Chair Vargas and Members of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of Vista Community Clinic, we write in support of County funding for Produce Prescription nutrition incentive programs. Despite continued recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, nutrition insecurity in San Diego County remains high with more than 1 in 4 residents unable to access or afford enough nutritious food for their overall health and wellbeing. **To help feed our families, reduce health risks, and catalyze local economic growth, we encourage San Diego County to invest in Produce Prescription and nutrition incentive programs like ¡Mas Fresco! Plus.**

Through ¡Mas Fresco! Plus, Vista Community Clinic has been able to support the health and well-being of SNAP recipients across San Diego County by connecting them to fresh produce and addressing food insecurity.

Produce Prescription and nutrition incentive programs like ¡Mas Fresco! Plus help residents in-need access fruits and vegetables from local retailers thereby helping to reduce hunger, improve nutrition, and support local agriculture and the economy. These programs work with community-based organizations including health care providers to provide a "prescription" for fruits and vegetables to community members experiencing food insecurity, poverty, and/or other health disparities. Local growers, farmers, and other and small businesses directly benefit from increased sales and revenue.

In order to address the systemic issues of food insecurity and healthy food access that stand in the way of health equity, as well as promote long-term community and economic recovery, an annual investment in Produce Prescription programs in San Diego County is essential.

Thank you for your consideration to support the health of San Diego County residents.

Sincerely,

Fernando Sañudo
CEO



June 2, 2023

The Honorable Nora Vargas, Chair
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
County Administration Center
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: Providing Critical Funding for Produce Prescriptions in the County of San Diego Budget

Dear Chair Vargas and Members of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of SBCS, we write in support of County funding for Produce Prescription nutrition incentive programs. Despite continued recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, nutrition insecurity in San Diego County remains high with more than 1 in 4 residents unable to access or afford enough nutritious food for their overall health and wellbeing. **To help feed our families, reduce health risks, and catalyze local economic growth, we encourage San Diego County to invest in Produce Prescription and nutrition incentive programs like ¡Mas Fresco! Plus.**

Produce Prescription and nutrition incentive programs like ¡Mas Fresco! Plus help residents in-need access fruits and vegetables from local retailers thereby helping to reduce hunger, improve nutrition, and support local agriculture and the economy. These programs work with community-based organizations including health care providers to provide a “prescription” for fruits and vegetables to community members experiencing food insecurity, poverty, and/or other health disparities. Local growers, farmers, and other and small businesses directly benefit from increased sales and revenue.

In order to address the systemic issues of food insecurity and healthy food access that stand in the way of health equity, as well as promote long-term community and economic recovery, an annual investment in Produce Prescription programs in San Diego County is essential.

Thank you for your consideration to support the health of San Diego County residents.

Sincerely,

Mauricio Torre
Vice President of Program Operations



Union of Pan Asian Communities
1031 25th Street
San Diego, California 92102
(619) 232-6454 | (619) 235-9002 Fax
www.upacsd.com

June 13, 2023

The Honorable Nora Vargas, Chair
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
County Administration Center
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: Providing Critical Funding for Produce Prescriptions in the County of San Diego Budget

Dear Chair Vargas and Members of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of Union of Pan Asian Communities, we write in support of County funding for Produce Prescription nutrition incentive programs. Despite continued recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, nutrition insecurity in San Diego County remains high with more than 1 in 4 residents unable to access or afford enough nutritious food for their overall health and wellbeing. **To help feed our families, reduce health risks, and catalyze local economic growth, we encourage San Diego County to invest in Produce Prescription and nutrition incentive programs like ¡Mas Fresco! Plus.**

The mission of the Union of Pan Asian Communities (UPAC) is to improve the general well-being and education of the Asian, Pacific Islander and other ethnic communities of San Diego County. UPAC recognizes the diverse ethnic and cultural identities and strengths of these communities and their need for self-sufficiency. Our UPAC Neighborhood Enterprise Center (NEC), located in City Heights, is grateful and proud to take part in the Mas Fresco Plus Program. The NEC has enrolled approximately 100 families in need of additional food assistance. The feedback from these families regarding Mas Fresco Plus have all been positive and the program has helped them tremendously.

Produce Prescription and nutrition incentive programs like ¡Mas Fresco! Plus help residents in-need access fruits and vegetables from local retailers thereby helping to reduce hunger, improve nutrition, and support local agriculture and the economy. These programs work with community-based organizations including health care providers to provide a "prescription" for fruits and vegetables to community members experiencing food insecurity, poverty, and/or other health disparities. Local growers, farmers, and other and small businesses directly benefit from increased sales and revenue.

In order to address the systemic issues of food insecurity and healthy food access that stand in the way of health equity, as well as promote long-term community and economic recovery, an annual investment in Produce Prescription programs in San Diego County is essential.

Thank you for your consideration to support the health of San Diego County residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dante Dauz', with a large checkmark-like flourish at the end.

Dante Dauz
Community Engagement & Business
Development Director
Union of Pan Asian Communities



Yasukochi Family Farms
430 Valley Heights Dr.
Oceanside, CA 92057

June 1, 2023

The Honorable Nora Vargas, Chair
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
County Administration Center
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: Providing Critical Funding for Produce Prescriptions in the County of San Diego Budget

Dear Chair Vargas and Members of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of Yasukochi Family Farms, we write in support of County funding for Produce Prescription nutrition incentive programs. Despite continued recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, nutrition insecurity in San Diego County remains high with more than 1 in 4 residents unable to access or afford enough nutritious food for their overall health and wellbeing. **To help feed our families, reduce health risks, and catalyze local economic growth, we encourage San Diego County to invest in Produce Prescription and nutrition incentive programs like ¡Mas Fresco! Plus.**

Yasukochi Family Farms has worked with the ¡Mas Fresco! Plus program for over a year now and has seen how much the program has impacted the community while also helping our farm. We have delivered over 8,000 produce boxes to families in need addressing just a small portion of the food insecurity in San Diego. It also has greatly benefited our small business from Oceanside in which we are able to have a consistent amount of financial support from this program in order to continue operating. With the financial support of this program, we have been able to continue our produce box delivery business as well as maintain jobs here in Oceanside, CA.

Produce Prescription and nutrition incentive programs like ¡Mas Fresco! Plus help residents in-need access fruits and vegetables from local retailers thereby helping to reduce hunger, improve nutrition, and support local agriculture and the economy. These programs work with community-based organizations including health care providers to provide a "prescription" for fruits and vegetables to community members experiencing food insecurity, poverty, and/or other health disparities. Local growers, farmers, and other and small businesses directly benefit from increased sales and revenue.

In order to address the systemic issues of food insecurity and healthy food access that stand in the way of health equity, as well as promote long-term community and economic recovery, an annual investment in Produce Prescription programs in San Diego County is essential.

Thank you for your consideration to support the health of San Diego County residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a horizontal line that ends in a small upward tick.

Donal Yasukochi
Owner
Yasukochi Family Farms



Walter Lam
President & CEO

**...providing culturally
sensitive primary
medical care in
eighty-four languages.**

5952 El Cajon Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92115
Tel: (619) 229-8030
Fax: (619) 229-8031
www.alliancehealthclinic.org

6/1/2023

The Honorable Nora Vargas, Chair
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
County Administration Center
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: Providing Critical Funding for Produce Prescriptions in the County of San Diego Budget

Dear Chair Vargas and Members of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of Alliance Health Clinic, we write in support of County funding for Produce Prescription nutrition incentive programs. Despite continued recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, nutrition insecurity in San Diego County remains high with more than 1 in 4 residents unable to access or afford enough nutritious food for their overall health and wellbeing. **To help feed our families, reduce health risks, and catalyze local economic growth, we encourage San Diego County to invest in Produce Prescription and nutrition incentive programs like ¡Mas Fresco! Plus.**

The Alliance Health Clinic (AHC) is a non-profit 501(c)3 primary care, mental health and dental care facility providing comprehensive, family practice care to the community regardless of age, sex, or pre-existing condition. It provides routine and urgent medical, dental, and mental health services ranging from pediatrics to geriatrics.

Produce Prescription and nutrition incentive programs like ¡Mas Fresco! Plus, help residents in-need access fruits and vegetables from local retailers thereby helping to reduce hunger, improve nutrition, and support local agriculture and the economy. These programs work with community-based organizations including health care providers to provide a "prescription" for fruits and vegetables to community members experiencing food insecurity, poverty, and/or other health disparities. Local growers, farmers, and other and small businesses directly benefit from increased sales and revenue.

In order to address the systemic issues of food insecurity and healthy food access that stand in the way of health equity, as well as promote long-term community and economic recovery, an annual investment in Produce Prescription programs in San Diego County is essential.

Thank you for your consideration to support the health of San Diego County residents.

Sincerely,

Simin Khadivi
Executive Director

From: [Satomi Zeigler](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] Letter of Support
Date: Thursday, June 15, 2023 11:34:55 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[San Diego Region LDP - CLC\[30\].docx](#)



Satomi Rash-Zeigler

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San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council

June 15, 2023

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego CA 92101

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

In May of 2021, your board approved the Legal Defense Program to provide immigrants facing deportation access to legal representation. By providing legal representation to anyone in immigration proceedings who cannot afford a lawyer, we protect the widely shared American values of due process and justice for all. **In the face of an immigration crisis, this Board is not waiting on Washington DC to act. You are all taking action and we applaud your efforts to be a leader in this area.**

The San Diego & Imperial Counties Labor Council organization supports the CAO's recommended budget for an additional \$5 million to continue to support these efforts. The impact of this program on our community is transformative, and we take great pride in the County's commitment to taking action. In fact, data from the Office of Assigned Counsel indicates a positive trajectory in the number of individuals who now have access to legal representation.

In San Diego County, we are demonstrating to the entire country our ability to guide with our principles and guarantee the realization of the goals outlined in our nation's Constitution. This board has consistently taken action to support working families, individuals without homes, and those striving to achieve the American dream. **We applaud the CAO for including funding to continue this program and ensure everyone in our community has the right to fair representation in a court.**

Thank you for your leadership and we look forward to the impact this program will continue to have in our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brigitte R." followed by a long, sweeping flourish.

Brigitte Browning
Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the San Diego & Imperial Counties Labor Council

From: [Selma Hassane](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] SDOP Support the Legal Defense Program
Date: Friday, June 16, 2023 11:06:55 AM
Attachments: [SDOP Supports LDP.pdf](#)

Hello,

Please find attached a letter on behalf of the San Diego Organizing Project in support of the Legal Defense Program. Thank you.

Best,

Selma Hassane سلمى حسان
Development & Communications Coordinator
[San Diego Organizing Project](#)

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San Diego Organizing Project
5011 Holly Drive San Diego, CA 92113

info@sdop.net

June 16, 2023

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego CA 92101

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

In May of 2021, your board approved the Legal Defense Program to provide immigrants facing deportation access to legal representation. By providing legal representation to anyone in immigration proceedings who cannot afford a lawyer, we protect the widely shared American values of due process and justice for all. **In the face of an immigration crisis, this Board is not waiting on Washington DC to act. You are all taking action and we applaud your efforts to be a leader in this area.**

The San Diego Organizing Project (SDOP) supports the CAO's recommended budget for an additional \$5 million to continue to support these efforts. This program is changing lives in our community, and we are proud of the County's effort to step up. In fact, numbers provided by the Office of Assigned Counsel demonstrate an upward trend in those now having access to a lawyer.

We are a faith-based organization and we see the need for legal resources in the community. This program has been beneficial to the people detained. For example, our community member, Maria's brother, was detained by immigration officers. Maria was worried about her brother because he has medical issues. She didn't know where he was or what to expect and they were unable to pay a lawyer. Maria called the Legal Defense Program. They were able to find Maria's brother, inform the family and make sure he got the medications he needs. Although he is still in the process, having a free Legal Defense Program helped Maria's brother and their family.

In San Diego County, we are showing the nation how we can lead with our values and ensure that the aspirations laid out in our nation's Constitution are met. This board has continued to step up for working families, for those that are unhoused, and for those pursuing the American dream. **We applaud the CAO for including funding to continue this program and ensure everyone in our community has the right to fair representation in a court.**

Thank you for your leadership and we look forward to the impact this program will continue to have in our region.

Sincerely,

Dinora Reyna, Executive Director
San Diego Organizing Project

From: [Chris Olsen](#)
To: [EGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] JFS Letter of Support for Legal Defense Program - County Budget
Date: Friday, June 16, 2023 3:33:31 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[JFS Letter of Support for Legal Defense Program 06.16.23.docx](#)

Dear Clerk of the Board,

Attached is a letter to the Board of Supervisors in support of the Legal Defense Program in the County's budget. It is addressed to the full Board of Supervisors. Thank you.

Regards,

Chris Olsen

[he/him]

Chief of Staff

Jewish Family Service of San Diego

Mobile: (415) 680-5187 | Main Office: (858) 637-3000 | Fax: (858) 637-3001

chriso@jfssd.org | www.jfssd.org

JOAN & IRWIN JACOBS CAMPUS, Turk Family Center, 8804 Balboa Ave., San Diego, CA 92123



Moving Forward Together

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Our Purpose

Jewish Family Service partners with people of all backgrounds to build stable and dignified lives. Together, we create a stronger and healthier community where everyone can thrive.



June 16, 2023

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Support for Legal Defense Program

Dear San Diego County Board of Supervisors,

In May of 2021, your board approved the Legal Defense Program to provide immigrants facing deportation access to legal representation. By providing legal representation to anyone in immigration proceedings who cannot afford a lawyer, we protect the widely shared American values of due process and justice for all. In the face of an ever-present broken immigration system, this Board is not waiting on Washington DC to act. You are all taking action and we applaud your efforts to be a leader in this area.

Jewish Family Service of San Diego supports the CAO's recommended budget for an additional \$5 million to continue to support these efforts. This program is changing lives in our community and we are proud of the County's effort to step up. In fact, numbers provided by the Office of Assigned Counsel demonstrate an upward trend in those now having access to a lawyer.

As the backbone organization supporting the San Diego Rapid Response Network and as a pro bono immigration legal service provider, all too often we see the harsh impacts of members of our community being disparately impacted by our country's broken immigration system. Through critical legal representation, including the County of San Diego's Legal Defense Program, together, we are able to ensure *no one in our community stands alone*.

In San Diego County, we are showing the nation how we can lead with our values and ensure that the aspirations laid out in our nation's Constitution are met. This board has continued to step up for working families, for those that are unhoused, and for those pursuing the American dream. We applaud the CAO for including funding to continue this program to ensure everyone in our community has the right to fair representation in court.

Thank you for your leadership and we look forward to the impact this program will continue to have in our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Olsen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" and last name "Olsen" clearly distinguishable.

Chris Olsen
Chief of Staff
Jewish Family Service of San Diego