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Agenda Item No. 24
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From: [Rev. Cheri Metier](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] Public Letter re: Unlock the Reserves
Date: Monday, August 25, 2025 1:45:32 PM
Attachments: [Letter to SD Sups 8.25.25 .docx](#)

Dear Board of County Supervisors:

Please find my attached letter in support of unlocking County reserves to fund essential community services on behalf of IWJSD.

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In solidarity,
Cheri

Rev. Cheri Metier
Executive Director
Interfaith Worker Justice of San Diego County
W: 619-693-4884




Interfaith Worker Justice of San Diego County

9245 Twin Trails Dr. #0584

San Diego, CA 92172

619-693-4884

August 25, 2025

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

RE: **Support for Sustainable Fiscal Planning Subcommittee Proposal and Unlocking the County Reserves**

Dear Chair Lawson-Remer and Members of the Board,

On behalf of **Interfaith Worker Justice of San Diego County, a member of the Invest in San Diego Families coalition/the Community Budget Alliance**, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposal to establish an **Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Sustainable Fiscal Planning** and the **Board Letter to Unlock County Reserves**, both brought forward by Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer and Supervisor Monica Montgomery-Steppe.

San Diego County is facing serious fiscal uncertainty due to unprecedented state and federal disinvestment in essential programs. Cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, housing, Medi-Cal, and other core services, alongside unfunded mandates and increased local burdens, risk destabilizing the safety net and undermining the County's ability to meet urgent community needs.

As an organization committed to Workers and their families who often struggle with housing and food insecurity, we know firsthand how vital County services are to the well-being of residents, especially low-income communities, working families, older adults, veterans, and people with disabilities. These services cannot be left vulnerable to unpredictable decisions made in Washington or Sacramento.

We believe the **Sustainable Fiscal Planning Subcommittee** offers a proactive, community-centered approach to

- Safeguard essential services;
- Explore equitable, sustainable local financing solutions;
- Protect vulnerable residents from preventable harm; and
- Maintain the County's strong financial standing and long-term investments.



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Additionally, we strongly support the **proposal to unlock a portion of the County's reserves** to stabilize critical services at risk of cuts in the near term. These reserves represent a vital tool to cushion the community from harm and bridge urgent funding gaps. The public dollars potentially available will be invested in sensible, thoughtful ways that ensure that our most vulnerable, including children, seniors, and the disabled, continue to receive critical support and services.

By updating how County reserves are calculated, this policy will free up around \$300 million, without having to create additional public debt to the community or businesses. This policy also places stronger safeguards and accountability around the resulting reserve funds, ensuring that they can only be used in true emergencies. It allows for a fiscally responsible, values-driven approach that allows the County to create a safety net for its communities through smarter planning for its constituents, and ensures that public dollars serve the public good.

We urge the Board to move forward on both proposals and thank you for your leadership during this challenging moment. The decisions made today will shape the well-being of San Diego's communities for years to come.

Sincerely,

Rev. Cheri Metier, Executive Director

Interfaith Worker Justice of San Diego County



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