ACLU
San Diego and
Imperial Counties

Meeting Date: September 30, 2025
Agenda Item No. 14
Distribution Date: September 30, 2025
Batch No. 07

September 29, 2025

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

RE: Support for Sustainable Fiscal Planning Subcommittee Proposal

Dear Chair Lawson-Remer and Members of the Board,

On behalf of the ACLU of San Diego and Imperial Counties and as a member of the Invest in San Diego Families coalition, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposal to establish an Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Sustainable Fiscal Planning, 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.

County services are vital to the well-being of residents, especially low-income communities, families, older adults, and people with disabilities. These services cannot be left vulnerable to external political decisions made in Washington or Sacramento.

The proposed Strategic Fiscal Planning Subcommittee offers a proactive, community-centered approach and we are particularly encouraged by the proposal's focus on key priority areas, including healthcare access, behavioral health, in-home supportive services, child care, food assistance, public safety, wildfire prevention, and environmental sustainability.

The ACLU of San Diego and Imperial Counties urges the Board of Supervisors to approve this proposal and begin the process of developing a robust fiscal strategy that reflects community priorities.

Sincerely,

Branden C. Sigua
Senior Policy Advocate
ACLU of San Diego and Imperial Counties

September 29, 2025

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

RE: **Support for Sustainable Fiscal Planning Subcommittee Proposal**

Dear Chair Lawson-Remer and Members of the Board,

As a small business owner + resident of District 4, I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal to establish an **Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Sustainable Fiscal Planning**, 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 a small business owner who partners with nonprofits, small businesses, and community members across the state, I believe it is essential for my local leaders to find solutions that address the cost of living for *all* San Diegans. County services play a critical role in supporting residents—especially low-income families, older adults, and people with disabilities—and we see firsthand how vital they are to the well-being of our community. **It is important to note that *the federal funding cuts to essential programs & services won't just harm vulnerable residents; they will also create ripple effects for local small business owners & workers who depend on a strong local economy and stable community support systems.*** These services must be protected from the shifting political decisions made in Washington or Sacramento, ensuring stability and equity for those who rely on them most.

The proposed Strategic Fiscal Planning Subcommittee offers a proactive, community-centered approach to:

- Safeguard essential services,
- Explore equitable local financing solutions,
- Protect vulnerable residents, and
- Maintain the County's strong financial standing.

I am particularly encouraged by the proposal's focus on key priority areas, including healthcare access, behavioral health, in-home supportive services, child care, food assistance, public safety, wildfire prevention, and environmental sustainability.

I urge the Board of Supervisors to approve this proposal and begin the process of developing a robust fiscal strategy that reflects community priorities and protects San Diego's future. Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to responsible, equitable governance.

Sincerely,

Erica Castillo
Owner of Unita Solutions LLC + resident of District 4

211 San Diego
PO Box 420039
San Diego, CA 92142
info@211sandiego.org
(858) 300-1300 Phone
(858) 300-1301 Fax
211sandiego.org

September 26, 2025

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

RE: **Support for Sustainable Fiscal Planning Subcommittee Proposal**

Dear Chair Lawson-Remer and Members of the Board,

On behalf of 211 San Diego, I am writing to express our support for the proposal to establish an **Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Sustainable Fiscal Planning**.

San Diego County is facing serious fiscal uncertainty due to unprecedented state and federal disinvestment in essential programs. Cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, housing, 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 that operates 24 hours a day, every day of the year, to respond to calls for help finding and accessing resources, we know firsthand how vital County services are to the well-being of residents, especially low-income communities, families, older adults, and people with disabilities.

We are particularly encouraged by the proposal's focus on key priority areas, including healthcare access, housing, behavioral health, in-home supportive services, childcare, food assistance, public safety, wildfire prevention, and environmental sustainability.

Thank you for your leadership on these critical issues during challenging times.

Sincerely,

William York

William York
President & CEO

9/29/2025

Chair Lawson-Remer
Members of San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: PREPARING FOR FISCAL DISRUPTION THROUGH AN AD HOC SUSTAINABLE FISCAL PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE

Dear Chair Lawson-Remer and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of a unified business coalition, we would like to express concerns about the item before you today. Our organizations represent thousands of employers and tens of thousands of jobs throughout San Diego County. We recognize the County's commitment to maintaining essential services while making strategic investments in public safety, behavioral health, and infrastructure. At the same time, we have significant concerns regarding the current approach to fiscal planning.

We believe the County must thoroughly examine government efficiencies and how services are delivered before seeking any new funding. Opportunities for innovation, consolidation, and performance improvement should be identified and implemented as prerequisites to additional revenue measures. We strongly believe fiscal reform and clear demonstrations of fiscal responsibility—showing that the budget is being managed effectively relative to existing revenue—must be in place before pursuing new revenue proposals. Only after a critical and well-substantiated need is established should the County consider seeking new or additional revenue.

We look forward to reviewing the committee's forthcoming recommendations. Our coalition is united in the belief that any new revenue sources must be carefully designed to avoid disproportionate impacts on the economy, job creation, or any single economic sector. Any proposal being considered should reflect these principles and align with the needs of both San Diego's residents and its business community.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering the business community's perspective as you move forward.

Sincerely,

Lori Holt Pfeiler, **Building Industry Association of San Diego County**
Melanie Woods, **California Apartment Association**
Chris Duggan, **California Restaurant Association - San Diego Chapter**
Chris Cate, **San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce**
Craig Benedetto, **NAIOP San Diego, the Commercial Real Estate Association**
Molly Kirkland, **Southern California Rental Housing Association**

OUR TIME TO ACT

9/30/25

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

RE: **Support for Sustainable Fiscal Planning Subcommittee Proposal**

Dear Chair Lawson-Remer and Members of the Board,

On behalf of Our Time To Act, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposal to establish an **Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Sustainable Fiscal Planning**, 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 organizing powerful youth in San Diego for an inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future, we know firsthand how vital County services are to the well-being of residents, especially low-income communities, youth, families, older adults, and people with disabilities. These services cannot be left vulnerable to external political decisions made in Washington or Sacramento. And this is happening at a time of growing local needs, including urgent action needed to tackle the Tijuana River pollution crisis.

The proposed Strategic Fiscal Planning Subcommittee offers a proactive, community-centered approach to:

- Safeguard essential services,
- Explore equitable local financing solutions,
- Protect vulnerable residents, and
- Maintain the County's strong financial standing.

We are particularly encouraged by the proposal's focus on key priority areas, including healthcare access, behavioral health, in-home supportive services, child care, food assistance, public safety, wildfire prevention, and environmental sustainability.

Our Time To Act urges the Board of Supervisors to approve this proposal and begin the process of developing a robust fiscal strategy that reflects community priorities and protects San Diego's future.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to responsible, equitable governance.

Sincerely,

Nicole Lillie

Nicole Lillie
Executive Director
Our Time To Act