Meeting Date: June 25, 2026
Agenda Item No. 8
Batch No. 02

From:	henkinp[redacted]
To:	Lawson-Remer, Terra; MontgomerySteppe, Monica; BOS, District1Community; Desmond, Jim; Supervisor Joel Anderson District 2
Cc:	FGG, Public Comment
Subject:	[External] BUDGET BLOWN ALREADY?
Date:	Saturday, June 27, 2026 1:29:41 PM

Hello Supervisors,

Budget's Blown already? Looks like you should have listened to my and our warnings – taken a bit of time to figure out 'hmm – maybe something CAN go wrong.

You need to adjust the Budget NOW. Don't wait until we need to spend money that isn't there.

Regards,

Paul Henkin

CBS 8 News

A government watchdog group is ringing alarm bells over the fiscal health of San Diego County

Author: Steffi Roche, Published: 10:13 PM PDT June 26, 2026

SAN DIEGO — A government watchdog group is ringing alarm bells over the fiscal health of San Diego County after the County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted its nearly $9.16 billion dollar budget for the fiscal year that begins next Wednesday.

This warning comes one day after the County Board of Supervisors adopted its nearly $9.2 billion budget for the fiscal year that begins next Wednesday.

According to a report from the San Diego County Taxpayers Association, the budget is balanced on paper, but is drifting steadily toward a structural deficit, like the one that haunts the City of San Diego.

[Probably crossed the line already.]

The County's approved budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 that begins on July 1 funds library hours, park access, behavioral health, public safety, infrastructure, food assistance and more core county services.

According to Supervisor Terra Lawson Remer's office, it also absorbs $68.4 million in first-year impacts from the Trump Administration's, so-called, "One Big Beautiful Bill," including $7.9 million for CalFresh staffing and workload, $15.8 million for CalFresh administrative cost shifts and $44.7 million set aside for mid-year implementation costs and emerging federal impacts not yet fully quantified.

Vice Chair Monica Montgomery Steppe said the budget protects the "services people rely on while preparing for the challenges ahead."

"While I cannot change the decisions made in Washington, we can act here at home and we have. The budget before us today represents a proactive and essential response to protect our most vulnerable residents," Montgomery Steppe said.

Not everyone agrees that the budget is fundamentally sound, including San Diego County Taxpayers Association President and CEO (and former San Diego City Councilman) Mark Kersey.

The Association's 23-page analysis points to escalating public health and social services costs, declining investments in capital improvements and an outsize reliance on state and federal tax dollars as drivers of the County's diminishing financial health.

"The County has added a lot more staff than the population has grown over the last 15 years. In fact, the rate of increase of the County employee population has grown four-times faster than the County of San Diego's actual resident population. And that's a real problem, because it's coming at the expense of things like paying for the infrastructure maintenance and upgrades that we really feel like are being neglected," Kersey said.

Another concern Kersey voiced to CBS 8 is that the budget relies on County reserves. It's a worry that Supervisor Jim Desmond echoed before ultimately voting to approve the budget. Kersey compared it to pulling from a savings account to pay for everyday bills.

"They really need to have a conversation about what is the right size of the government, and really, prioritization. What are the things that voters care about the most, and aligning the money going in with the money going out. And recognizing that a good chunk of their budget is coming from Sacramento and Washington D.C. Very volatile places to get your money from these days," Kersey said.

The City of San Diego faced its own budget crisis earlier this year, proposing deep cuts to library hours, recreation centers and the arts to close a nearly $120 million deficit. Most of those cuts were later walked back, but only after a long budget fight.

Kersey told CBS 8 he worries San Diego County could find itself in the same position as the City of San Diego if adjustments aren't made.

From:	Donn Rutkoff
To:	FGG, Public Comment
Subject:	[External] $9 billion a year for nothing
Date:	Thursday, June 25, 2026 10:13:08 PM

Here's what you lefty Democrats on SD County Board of Supes don't get.

You spend $9 billion a year on "social programs" for people who don't want to work. Those of us who do work, want nothing from you and your social programs.

You get to feel good about taking $9 billion a year from us but you have NOTHING to show for it.

The druggies are still using.
The crooks are still breaking and entering.
The fraudsters are stealing millions from your programs and only FEDERAL law agencies do anything, Bob Bonta is useless to law abiding tax paying citizens.

Invite a bunch of emotionally stunted lefties to cheer on algae in the Reflecting Pool. Pay for their primal scream therapy. To the tune of $9 BILLION thrown down the Great Society toilet.

The Democrat party is so far off the rails even GPS can't find you.

Donn Rutkoff, Man About Wine
[redacted]

From:	Arthur Rodriguez
To:	FGG, Public Comment
Subject:	[External] Opposition to County-Funded CalFresh Food Distribution Program
Date:	Thursday, June 25, 2026 5:25:16 PM

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the County's decision to spend $1 million in local reserve funds on a new food distribution program intended to offset CalFresh reductions caused by federal work requirements.

I understand that food insecurity is a serious issue, and I support helping people who are elderly, disabled, medically unable to work, or truly in crisis. But I do not support using local taxpayer dollars to backfill benefits for able-bodied adults who are expected to meet reasonable work, volunteer, training, or eligibility requirements.

Federal CalFresh reductions tied to work requirements were put in place for a reason. If someone is able to work, volunteer, attend training, or otherwise meet basic participation requirements, then public assistance should encourage responsibility—not provide a workaround when those requirements are not met.

As a taxpayer, active-duty service member, homeowner, and parent, I am tired of seeing government programs expanded without enough accountability. I have personally seen taxpayer-funded EBT and SUN Bucks benefits used wastefully on junk food by people who are already being provided food at home. In my own household, my 18-year-old daughter has received more than $120 this month in taxpayer-funded food benefits despite living at home with access to healthy food every day. That is not a safety net. That is waste.

This program sends the wrong message. It tells residents that when federal rules tighten eligibility, the County will simply step in with local reserves to soften the consequences. That undermines the purpose of work requirements and creates another layer of taxpayer-funded support without first addressing misuse, eligibility loopholes, and personal responsibility.

I urge the Board to reconsider this program, oppose any future expansion or renewal, and require strict reporting on who is being served, why they lost or had benefits reduced, whether they are able-bodied, and whether they are meeting work or volunteer requirements.

Public assistance should be reserved for those who truly cannot provide for themselves—not used to enable dependency or poor spending habits.

Respectfully,

Arthur Rodriguez

Fallbrook, CA