

## The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building  
1025 Escobar St., 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
Martinez, California 94553

**John Gioia**, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
**Candace Andersen**, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
**Diane Burgis**, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
**Ken Carlson**, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
**Shanelle Scales-Preston**, 5<sup>th</sup> District

June 3, 2025

## Contra Costa County



**Monica Nino**  
Clerk of the Board  
and  
County Administrator  
(925) 655-2075

The Honorable Mike McGuire  
President Pro-Tempore  
California State Senate

The Honorable Scott Wiener, Chair  
Senate Budget Committee  
California State Senate

The Honorable Ben Allen, Chair  
Senate Budget Subcommittee 2  
California State Senate

The Honorable Monique Limon, Chair  
Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
California State Senate

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear, Chair  
Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
California State Senate

The Honorable Robert Rivas  
Speaker of the Assembly  
California State Assembly

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair  
Assembly Budget Committee  
California State Assembly

The Honorable Steve Bennett, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3  
California State Assembly

The Honorable Diane Papan  
Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee  
California State Assembly

The Honorable Isaac Bryan, Chair  
Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
California State Assembly

### **RE: 2025-26 Budget: Oppose Governor's Proposed Delta Conveyance Trailer Bill Language**

Dear Pro-Tem McGuire, Speaker Rivas, and Honorable Committee Chairs:

As Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our County's strong opposition to the Governor's proposed trailer bill language in the May Revision, which is intended to remove essential protections for taxpayers, property owners, and ratepayers and water rights to clear the way for the Delta Conveyance Project (also referred to as the Delta Tunnel or RN 25 16361 - Delta Conveyance Project). We respectfully urge the Legislature to reject these harmful policy proposals, which require robust policy committee review.

The Governor's proposed Delta Conveyance trailer bill language contains many significant changes in law. Several of these concerns have been detailed in the enclosed Delta Counties Coalition letter opposing this proposal, dated May 16, 2025, which Contra Costa County endorses. In addition, we would like to reiterate our concerns regarding the major changes that weaken the protection of private property owners through eminent domain and create a new unlimited financing mechanism for the Department of Water Resources (DWR). The policy proposals in the trailer bill contradict the Administration's assurance that the Delta Tunnel would follow all applicable planning processes and laws. The Legislative Analyst's Office analysis recommends deferring action on these proposals to allow the Legislature time for a reasonable review of these bills' sweeping implications, a few of which are discussed below.

## **Reducing Oversight and Protections for Landowners When Property is Taken for Any State Water Facilities Property through Eminent Domain**

We are troubled by the changes these trailer bills would make to eminent domain procedures applicable to the taking of real property, particularly properties owned by small, often family-owned farming operations in and around the Delta. The statutory changes to Government Code sections 7267 and 7267.2 would allow DWR to commence condemnation actions without first having to provide a property owner a pre-condemnation offer of just compensation to purchase the property, an opportunity to negotiate before an eminent domain action is filed to condemn the property, and basic information about the condemnation process. These are longstanding requirements that protect property owners by ensuring:

- **Transparency:** Section 7267.2 requires DWR to provide a property owner with a copy of DWR’s appraisal summary for the property being acquired. Some residential owners also may receive DWR’s full appraisal report. Exempting DWR from Section 7267.2 would make DWR’s appraisal information secret unless obtained through discovery in eminent domain litigation.
- **Avoidance of Litigation:** Section 7267.2 requires DWR to provide a meaningful opportunity to negotiate a purchase price before filing eminent domain litigation. This benefits property owners by providing them with an opportunity to avoid spending money on attorney’s fees in litigation that they will never get back.
- **Accountability:** Section 7267.2 ensures that a pre-litigation offer to purchase property cannot be lower than DWR’s appraised fair market value of the property.
- **Fairness:** Section 7267.2 requires DWR to give each property basic information about the eminent domain process and the owner’s rights.

Exempting DWR from Government Code Section 7267.2 would affect nearly every project DWR pursues now and in the future connected with the State Water Project. Whether for the Sites Reservoir project, the Delta tunnel project, or another project, this trailer bill language will allow DWR to avoid requirements that apply to nearly every other public agency when condemning privately-owned property. Moreover, DWR acquisitions would no longer be subject to oversight by the Department of General Services under proposed amendment to section 11005.2 of the Government Code.

## **The Blank Check**

As drafted, the trailer bill language hands DWR and the Delta Conveyance Authority a blank check by authorizing unlimited bonding debt guaranteed by California ratepayers and taxpayers. While the project is presumed to be repaid by ratepayers in the service territory of participating contracting agencies, there is no limit on the number and amount of rate increases those taxpaying ratepayers will be required to pay. It goes without saying that the State has a history of enormous cost overruns on major infrastructure projects, such as High Speed Rail and the Bay Bridge. It is not clear how this would be any different. The \$20 billion fiscal estimate of this project from 2023 does not include financing costs, costs overruns, adjustments for bond market conditions, or tariffs, among a host of other factors.

Contra Costa County resoundingly supports increased water affordability and availability for Californians and have advocated for exactly that. We appreciate the Governor saying that he hears how stretched-thin our farmers and communities are right now. However, the Delta Tunnel trailer bills would not help with these problems and would instead make them worse. This project creates no new water storage or new water supply, removes incentives to conserve water that our state and local water districts have already poured significant funds into, fails to protect small farms and businesses in a five-county region of the state with four million residents, dictates winners and losers of water and land resources irrespective of long standing property rights, and would likely saddle Californians with an astronomically high price tag for minimal benefit in the decades to come. As such, we urge all the Legislature to reject the proposed trailer bill language, which would make sweeping changes to existing law in order to advance the highly controversial and expensive Delta Tunnel project, while giving DWR even more authority and unchecked power.

For these reasons, the Contra Costa County urges you to reject the Governor’s Delta trailer bill proposal when it comes before you for consideration.

Sincerely,



CANDACE ANDERSEN  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa Legislative Delegation  
Honorable Members, Board of Supervisors  
Monica Nino, County Administrator  
Ryan Hernandez, Contra Costa County Water Agency  
Audrey Ratajczak, Cruz Strategies  
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer

encl. Delta Counties Coalition letter dated May 16, 2025



## **Delta Counties Coalition**

Contra Costa County | Sacramento County | San Joaquin County | Solano County | Yolo County

*"Working together on water and Delta issues."*

May 16, 2025

The Honorable Mike McGuire President  
Pro-Tempore  
California State Senate

The Honorable Scott Wiener, Chair  
Senate Budget Committee  
California State Senate

The Honorable Ben Allen, Chair  
Senate Budget Subcommittee 2  
California State Senate

The Honorable Monique Limon, Chair  
Senate Natural Resources and Water  
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The Honorable Catherine Blakespear, Chair  
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The Honorable Jess Gabriel, Chair  
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Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3  
California State Assembly

The Honorable Diane Papan  
Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife  
Committee  
California State Assembly

The Honorable Isaac Bryan, Chair  
Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
California State Assembly

**Re: Opposition to Governor's Budget Trailer Bills that Would Change  
Numerous Laws for the Controversial Delta Tunnel (Files 70823 and  
71942)<sup>1</sup>**

Dear President Pro-Tempore McGuire, Speaker Rivas, Senator Wiener, Senator Allen,  
Senator Limon, Assemblymember Gabriel, Assemblymember Bennett,  
Assemblymember Papan and Assemblymember Bryan:

The Delta Counties Coalition (DCC), representing the five counties that comprise the  
California Delta and the millions of Californians who live in our communities, strongly  
object to the Administration's May Revision related to the Delta Conveyance Project  
(Delta Tunnel).

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<sup>1</sup> Available at: <https://trailerbill.dof.ca.gov/public/trailerBill/pdf/1263> and  
<https://trailerbill.dof.ca.gov/public/trailerBill/pdf/1266>.

The proposals, unrelated to state budgeting policy and inappropriately suggested for inclusion in a state spending plan, would change several, separate parts of state law to benefit some parts of California, to the detriment of Californians within and north of the Delta five county area. These large-scale changes in law, if adopted without proper consideration and policy review, would likely also have unanticipated effects on other projects and areas of the state.

First, the trailer bill would change longstanding requirements regarding deadlines to put water to beneficial use that would apply only to the State Water Project. This change to the State Water Board's water rights permitting process is far reaching and conflicts with decades of Board and court decisions that protect legal users of water throughout the state. Second, in response to the fact that DWR lost in court on its financing plan for the tunnel, the proposal would change state law to allow the project to issue an unlimited amount of bonds to pay for the tunnel, to be repaid by participating public water agencies – meaning taxpayers and ratepayers would be forced to foot the bill for this project no matter how expensive it becomes. Third, it would undermine the ability of our five counties to defend our communities, constituents and ecosystems in court by treating this 45-mile-long tunnel project like a four-block NBA basketball arena, changing the process by which the project's environmental challenges are reviewed in court --- while the litigation is ongoing. The difference here is that every city and county affected by this project in the Delta region opposes the tunnel, unlike smaller, local projects that often have support of local agencies and communities. And finally, this proposal would empower the state to more easily and forcibly acquire thousands of acres of land, furthering the harm to our communities' legacy farmers and ranchers. None of these provisions deserve support, and certainly not in a budget bill that runs on a truncated process with no policy review committee process and very little time for public review, scrutiny and feedback.

Dating back to 2009, the Legislature and administration have consistently and deliberately avoided provisions that facilitate highly controversial and extraordinarily expensive isolated conveyance projects in the Delta (currently called the Delta Conveyance Project) in final versions of legislation. This was the case, for example, with proposed resources bonds and streamlining of the California Environmental Quality Act to facilitate new Delta conveyance. When the Governor last attempted this type of surprise legislative move through the state budget in 2023, the Legislature pushed back on the inclusion of such a divisive and expensive project. We are looking once again to your leadership in protecting the Delta as a place and preserving the existing processes that apply to this controversial and divisive project.

The Legislature's sterling track record on this issue has been established through thoughtful and decisive actions. Changing a long list of existing laws for the explicit benefit of this highly controversial project would pick "winners and losers" between those living within and near the Delta and those that primarily seek to export more water from the Delta through massive new diversions near Sacramento that are larger than any other existing diversion except those already operated by the state and federal governments in the south Delta. Disadvantaged and culturally significant communities in the Delta would be gravely and permanently damaged, if not

completely destroyed, should the project – which is so large it spans three counties and would take an estimated 14 years to construct – moves forward. The inclusion of the Delta Tunnel in May Revision is contrary to the policies the administration and Legislature have espoused in recent years, and is a breach of trust and understanding that has existed for nearly a decade and a half.

For those legislators representing areas that may receive water through this proposed tunnel, we urge you to consider the facts. The tunnel would not help create additional water storage, and no new water could be made available through the tunnel. A generous estimate suggests the *potential* of a 10-15% increase in water supplies because of reduced carriage water requirements that currently apply to water deliveries from existing pumps in the south Delta. And there is no limit on how much the project can cost, and those who receive this water must pay for it. As the Delta Counties Coalition has been advocating for over a decade, there are much better ways to meet the state's water supply needs than this risky tunnel being irresponsibly advanced by the Governor, and we continue to stand ready to assist in those efforts. For these reasons, the Delta Counties Coalition urges the Legislature, alongside the Delta Legislative Caucus, to reject the Governor's divisive trailer bill proposals when they come before you for consideration.

Throughout the Delta Tunnel planning process since Governor Newsom took office, local communities have been assured that the project would follow all applicable laws. The provisions of the Governor's Infrastructure package discussed above directly contradict those representations and must be removed. We look forward to working with the Legislature to honestly address our state's long-term water supply needs without hastily making major changes in law to benefit powerful special interest groups at the expense of the California Delta.

Thank you for your consideration. Feel free to contact us directly or through DCC Coordinator Elisia De Bord at 916-874-4627 or [deborde@saccounty.gov](mailto:deborde@saccounty.gov).

Sincerely,



Patrick Hume, Supervisor  
Sacramento County



Oscar Villegas, Supervisor  
Yolo County



Shanelle Scales-Preston, Supervisor  
Contra Costa County



Mitch Mashburn, Supervisor  
Solano County



Steven Ding, Supervisor  
San Joaquin County

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**Shanelle Scales-Preston**, 5<sup>th</sup> District

June 3, 2025

The Honorable Scott Wiener, Chair  
Senate Committee on Budget & Fiscal Review  
1020 N Street, Room 502  
Sacramento, CA 95814

# Contra Costa County



**Monica Nino**  
Clerk of the Board  
and  
County Administrator  
(925) 655-2075

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Budget  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **RE: 2025-26 Budget: May Revision Comments**

Dear Chair Weiner and Chair Gabriel:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the 2025-26 State Budget. As Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, we recognize the fiscal challenges facing California and the need for strategic budget decisions. We respectfully request that the Legislature provide stability in funding county-level efforts to reduce homelessness, enhance public safety, and support vulnerable communities during the upcoming budget cycle. In addition, we also urge the Legislature to reject the Governor's attempts to use the budget trailer bills to make major policy decisions on the Delta tunnel, harming taxpayers, property owners, and ratepayers.

### **Homelessness: Fund the HHAP Program**

State investments through the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program are working. Growth in homelessness in California is slowing, even amid a rising cost of living and housing shortage. However, without ongoing HHAP funding, counties will be forced to cut back successful programs, jeopardizing this progress. Long-term challenges require long-term solutions. Accordingly, we strongly support ongoing appropriations in the 2025-26.

### **Implementing Proposition 36: Fund County Responsibilities**

Proposition 36 has created significant new demands on county systems without funding to match. Counties are seeing increased workloads across behavioral health, probation, public defense, and the courts. We support investments in behavioral health evaluations and treatment, probation services, and indigent defense providers. These investments are essential to deliver on the promise of Prop 36 and maintain core services.

### **Protect the Social Safety Net and Avoid Preemptive Cuts**

With economic uncertainty predicted, more Californians will depend on programs like Medi-Cal, CalWORKs, and SNAP. Yet the May Revision proposes reductions that will disproportionately impact the most vulnerable, including reinstating the Medi-Cal asset limit; eliminating supplemental payments for dental and family planning services; and instituting new premiums for Medi-Cal enrollees who can least afford it. Counties are the frontline administrators of these programs. Further reductions would increase costs to local governments and undermine direct service delivery. We urge the Legislature not to pre-emptively cut programs already at risk due to federal actions. Protecting the safety net is both fiscally



responsible and morally imperative.

### **Invest in Disaster Preparedness and Recovery**

As climate-driven disasters escalate, California must invest in proactive resilience and streamlined recovery. Contra Costa County supports expanded funding for home hardening and wildfire prevention; state investments in fairgrounds for emergency use; dam and levee safety upgrades; and advanced reimbursements for recovery projects under state or federal disaster declarations. These efforts will help counties prepare for and respond to disasters while reducing long-term recovery costs.

### **Reject Attempts to Clear the Way for the Delta Tunnel**

The Governor's proposed budget trailer bill language seeks to weaken long-standing protections for taxpayers, property owners, and ratepayers in order to advance the Delta Conveyance Project (Delta Tunnel). The proposed changes would allow the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to bypass essential eminent domain procedures, stripping landowners—particularly small, family-owned farms in the Delta—of their right to fair compensation and meaningful negotiation. These changes would apply beyond the Delta Tunnel, affecting nearly every project DWR pursues now and in the future. Additionally, the proposed trailer bill language removes oversight by the Department of General Services, reducing accountability and transparency in land acquisition processes.

The proposed trailer bills would give DWR and the Delta Conveyance Authority unchecked bonding authority, placing an unlimited financial burden on California ratepayers without clear fiscal safeguards. With a history of massive cost overruns in state infrastructure projects, the absence of caps or financial clarity raises serious concerns. The DCP offers no new water supply or storage, undercuts conservation efforts, and exposes vulnerable communities to economic and environmental harm. For these reasons, we urge the Legislature to reject the Governor's proposed delta tunnel language in the trailer bills.

### **Conclusion**

Contra Costa appreciates its partnership with the state to deliver essential services and build resilient, equitable communities. We respectfully request that any new local requirements be fully funded in the state budget. Particularly in this challenging fiscal climate, counties cannot continue to absorb additional responsibilities without the resources to deliver them effectively. Contra Costa County remains eager to collaborate and provide additional insights as you navigate the difficult choices of this budget process.

Sincerely,



CANDACE ANDERSEN  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa Legislative Delegation  
Honorable Members, Board of Supervisors  
Monica Nino, County Administrator  
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer



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## Contra Costa County



**Monica Nino**  
Clerk of the Board  
and  
County Administrator  
(925) 655-2075

May 30, 2025

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Budget  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Scott Wiener, Chair  
Senate Committee on Budget & Fiscal Review  
1020 N Street, Room 502  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dr. Corey Jackson, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2  
1021 O Street, Room 6120  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson, Chair  
Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3  
1021 O Street, Suite 7310  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS): Restore \$81 million Cut to IHSS Administrative Funding and Reject New Community First Choice Option Penalties**

Dear Chairs Gabriel, Wiener, Jackson, and Weber Pierson:

As Chair of the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, I respectfully urge you to reject the May Revision proposal to cut In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) county administration funding by \$81 million and to oppose the introduction of new fiscal penalties on counties.

The Governor's proposal would penalize counties that fail to meet a 100% compliance rate for annual reassessments under the Community First Choice Option (CFCO). These penalties come despite the Administration's own acknowledgment that counties are underfunded by at least \$246 million to meet current administrative mandates. Rather than offering solutions, this proposal worsens the problem by reducing resources further and introducing punitive measures.

To address county workload, Contra Costa County requests that the Legislature hold counties harmless for administrative cuts being proposed as a budget solution, immediately reduce counties' quality assurance requirements, and direct the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to work with counties and other stakeholders on other approaches to mitigate this gap.

The proposed reductions and penalties would significantly hinder our ability to administer IHSS effectively. County social workers are already overwhelmed, performing assessments to determine program eligibility, conducting annual reassessments, and handling other vital administrative duties. A funding reduction of this magnitude could result in the loss of roughly 322 social worker positions statewide, making it harder to meet federal compliance and threatening the timeliness of services for consumers.

To avoid penalties, counties may be forced to reallocate staff from processing new applications to focus solely on reassessments. This shift would delay support for new applicants in urgent need. Instead of supporting access and compliance, the proposed funding cuts will further strain already-stretched resources, undermine staffing levels, and ultimately jeopardize services for vulnerable populations.

The federal government requires 100 percent of CFCO reassessments to be completed on time. Non-compliance results in the loss of enhanced federal funding—a 6 percent higher match rate. Penalizing counties for these losses—when underfunding is the root cause—is counterproductive. It places the burden of the state’s budget challenges on counties that are already doing more with less, while taking away resources to help improve the care and health of IHSS recipients.

The Administration’s own budget methodology review confirms that current administrative funding is severely inadequate. Counties are forced to overspend their allocations to meet service obligations and are projected to overspend again in FY 2024–25. These funding gaps lead to unmanageable workloads and delayed access to essential services for older adults and people with disabilities.

Contra Costa County social workers now manage caseloads exceeding 330 clients, with a 33% increase in IHSS consumers over the past five years. However, administrative funding has not kept pace with this growth. Our social workers are committed, but they cannot meet escalating demand without adequate resources. Any further cuts would damage the county’s ability to deliver services efficiently and fairly.

We strongly urge the Legislature to reject the May Revision’s proposal to cut funding for IHSS administration while creating new penalties. Administrative funding is needed to enhance service delivery and compliance. To that end, we also request support for trailer bill language directing CDSS to collaborate with counties and stakeholders alleviate workload pressures in the context of the existing funding gap.

Thank you for your consideration. We appreciate your partnership in ensuring that IHSS continues to serve those who rely on this cost-saving and effective program.

Sincerely,



CANDACE ANDERSEN  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa Legislative Delegation  
Honorable Members, Board of Supervisors  
Monica Nino, County Administrator  
Marla Stuart, EHSD Director  
Tracy Murray, Aging and Adult Services Director  
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer

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# Contra Costa County



**Monica Nino**  
Clerk of the Board  
and  
County Administrator  
(925) 655-2075

May 1, 2025

Honorable Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson, Chair  
Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3  
1021 O Street, Suite 7310  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Dr. Corey A. Jackson  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2  
1021 O Street, Suite 6120  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **RE: Support Continued Funding for Housing & Homelessness Programs**

Dear Chair Dr. Weber Pierson and Chair Dr. Jackson:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, we respectfully request your support for maintaining funding for critical county-administered housing and homelessness programs, including Bringing Families Home (BFH), Home Safe, the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Housing Support Program (HSP), and the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP). These programs have a proven track record of success stabilizing, rehousing, and transitioning vulnerable populations at risk of homelessness into permanent housing while advancing safety, permanency, and economic security for families in the child welfare system, low-income families receiving cash assistance through CalWORKs, older adults experiencing elder abuse, and people with disabilities.

To maintain core statewide access to services across these impactful housing and homelessness programs, Contra Costa County supports a targeted investment of \$309 million General Fund annually, beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025–26 with multi-year availability. To meet the needs of our populations across all four programs and avoid any service reductions, an investment nearing \$472 million General Fund is required. However, with the challenging budget situation expected at the May Revision, and we see opportunities to invest wisely despite fiscal uncertainty, while continuing to support vulnerable populations.

Compared to other local homeless response systems, which exit 35% of overall participants into permanent housing, these programs see much higher success: Home Safe: 62%, CalWORKs HSP: 53%, BFH: 54%, and HDAP: 50%. Despite their demonstrated effectiveness, two of these programs—Home Safe and BFH—will cease to exist, and CalWORKs HSP and HDAP will face a 67% and 86% reduction, respectively, if no additional funding is included in the FY 2025-26 Budget. Funding cuts will jeopardize family reunifications, economic stability, and the overall health and welfare of our vulnerable populations, resulting in longer stays in foster care; increased likelihood of institutionalization or premature death for older adults; and undermine efforts to lift children and their families out of poverty.

Given the uncertainty around continued funding, many counties have been forced to scale back the number of individuals and families served, to keep the programs operational and prevent the

loss of critical infrastructure, such as contracts with community-based organizations specializing in housing and homelessness services. This impact has been acutely felt by our community-based providers, who partner with our agencies to provide direct services and supports, including legal assistance such as eviction protection, home modification and hazard abatement for older adults, and items like beds and furniture needed to make a home.

In Contra Costa County, over the past four fiscal years, our program has steadily increased the number of individuals served out of those referred, demonstrating our growing effectiveness in reaching vulnerable populations. For the current fiscal year, Contra Costa County has served 88% of referrals received, a 10% increase over last fiscal year (2023-24). This steady increase is more than just a number; it reflects success in stabilizing housing for those most at risk.

For example, D.J., a 79-year-old elder, was living in her car for two years after being financially exploited. With guidance from our Housing Navigator, she was able to reclaim her financial information, apply for housing, and move into a furnished one-bedroom apartment. What began as a referral turned into restored dignity and a safe, stable home. Similarly, M.S., a 47-year-old dependent adult, became homeless with her family after relocating to Contra Costa County for cancer treatment. Rising rents and medical expenses left them homeless—until the Home Safe program stepped in to provide immediate housing support while the Housing Specialist secured permanent housing. These stories represent the growing impact of programs that are working.

By continuing investments in these programs, we can continue to create opportunities for stability and healing for vulnerable populations. These programs also ensure compliance with federal and state requirements and are highly cost-effective. For instance, paying an Adult Protective Services client's back taxes through Home Safe (typically under \$10,000) can prevent costly hospitalizations and nursing home care, while securing Social Security benefits for homeless adults through HDAP reduces law enforcement and healthcare costs.

Continued investment will sustain the infrastructure, capacity, and long-established partnerships with community-based providers. It is critical to California's goal of building a comprehensive and coordinated approach that protects our most vulnerable Californians from experiencing homelessness. For these reasons, Contra Costa County urges your support for these programs.

Sincerely,



CANDACE ANDERSEN  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
Monica Nino, Contra Costa County Administrator  
Senator Scott Wiener, Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee  
Senator Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee 3  
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget Committee  
Elizabeth Schmitt, Consultant, Senate Budget Subcommittee 3  
Marla Stuart, Employment and Human Services Director  
Tracy Murray, Aging and Adult Services Director  
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer

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# Contra Costa County



**Monica Nino**  
Clerk of the Board  
and  
County Administrator  
(925) 655-2075

April 23, 2025

Senator Tim Grayson  
1021 O Street, Suite 7250  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **RE: Maintain Funding for Critical Housing Program: Home Safe**

Dear Senator Grayson:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, we respectfully request your support for continued funding for Home Safe, a critical and successful county-administered housing and homelessness program that serves vulnerable elder and dependent adults. Home Safe is a lifeline for vulnerable older adults, who are proportionately the fastest increasing group of unhoused individuals in the state.

Compared to other local homeless response systems, which exit 35% of overall participants into permanent housing, Home Safe exits 62% of vulnerable older and dependent adult participants into permanent housing, based on statewide Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 data. Despite its rate of success, Home Safe will cease to exist statewide as of June 2026 absent new funding in the FY 2025-26 Budget. In Contra Costa, we expect to have to close operations by June 2026. Sadly, many counties will be forced to close operations sooner due to depleted funding. Eight counties across the state have already reported closing Home Safe, while 28 counties are in the process of ramping down the program due to funding uncertainty.

UCSF's Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative found that 48% of all unhoused single adults in California are 50 or older, and this population faces higher mortality rates as a result of being homeless. The Home Safe program provides important and often life-saving interventions for our most vulnerable dependent and elder adults, including those with significant disabilities who are victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation and served through the Adult Protective Services (APS) Program. The services are individually tailored to meet clients' needs and often include intensive housing case management, eviction prevention, security deposits, housing repairs, furniture purchases, moving services, and other housing stabilization services. From its start in 2018 and through June 2024, the Home Safe Program has served 15,615 older adults, in alignment with the California Master Plan for Aging.

In Contra Costa, we have recently served 356 clients, and our program has steadily increased the number of individuals served out of those referred, demonstrating our growing effectiveness in reaching vulnerable populations. For the current fiscal year, Contra Costa County has served 88% of referrals received which is a 10% increase compared to the prior fiscal year (2023-24).

This steady increase is more than just a number; it reflects our deepening impact in stabilizing housing for those most at risk.

For example, D.J., a 79-year-old elder, was living in her car for two years after being financially exploited. With guidance from our Housing Navigator, she was able to reclaim her financial information, apply for housing, and move into a furnished one-bedroom apartment. What began as a referral turned into restored dignity and a safe, stable home. Similarly, M.S., a 47-year-old dependent adult, became homeless with her family after relocating to Contra Costa County for cancer treatment. Rising rents and medical expenses left them homeless—until the Home Safe program stepped in to provide immediate housing support while the Housing Specialist secured permanent housing for them.

These stories represent the growing impact of a program that is working and effective. Continued investment in them means continuing to create opportunities for stability and healing for vulnerable populations. These stories reveal just how life-altering these programs are for some of our most vulnerable Californians, and how devastating the impacts will be without continued investment or augmented funding in these programs.

Home Safe received significant one-time investment in the 2021 and 2022 Budget Acts, which will expire at the end of FY 2025-26. Extending Home Safe will ensure we continue to make progress at reducing homelessness, spend less on hospitalizations, encampment-clearing, and institutional settings like nursing homes, all while promoting aging with safety and dignity for older and dependent adults who are victims of abuse, neglect, and/or financial exploitation. For these reasons, we ask that you support an investment of \$58.1 million to \$88.8 million General Fund beginning in FY 2025-26 and annually thereafter, with multi-year spending availability. The higher end of the range would allow counties to maintain service delivery levels consistent with program demand while the lower end would allow counties to provide targeted services to some of the highest-need clients.

Thank you for your consideration of continued investments in the Home Safe program. It is critical to California's goal of building a comprehensive and coordinated approach that protects our most vulnerable Californians from experiencing homelessness.

Sincerely,



CANDACE ANDERSEN  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
Monica Nino, Contra Costa County Administrator  
Senator Scott Wiener, Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee  
Senator Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson, Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee 3  
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget Committee  
Elizabeth Schmitt, Consultant, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee 3  
Marla Stuart, Employment and Human Services Director  
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer



# The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building  
1025 Escobar St., 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
Martinez, California 94553

**John Gioia**, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
**Candace Andersen**, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
**Diane Burgis**, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
**Ken Carlson**, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
**Shanelle Scales-Preston**, 5<sup>th</sup> District

# Contra Costa County



**Monica Nino**  
Clerk of the Board  
and  
County Administrator  
(925) 655-2075

April 7, 2025

Honorable Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson, Chair  
Senate Budget Subcommittee No.3  
1021 O Street, Suite 7310  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Dr. Corey A. Jackson  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2  
1021 O Street, Suite 6120  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs): Rightsize  
County Administrative Funding**

Dear Chair Weber Pierson and Chair Jackson:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, we respectfully request your support for a one-time investment of \$245 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 and related updates to the CalWORKs Single Allocation budget methodology. This funding and updates to the budget methodology are essential to ensuring that families receive critical support and services through the CalWORKs program. By equipping counties with necessary resources, this investment will help families overcome employment barriers, paving the way for long-term stability, well-being and self-sufficiency.

The CalWORKs program is one of the best tools California can use to stabilize families and prevent generational harm caused by poverty. The CalWORKs program leads the nation as a model by supporting families in deep poverty, and provides lasting benefits by improving families' well-being, self-sufficiency, and outcomes. County human services agencies, like Contra Costa, are at the frontlines of this work on behalf of the state. Unfortunately, the state's Single Allocation, the funding that counties use for eligibility determinations as well as employment services, has not kept up with rising caseloads and is woefully underfunded. Since 2021, Contra Costa's CalWORKs caseload has increased by 21%, and our Welfare to Work caseload has grown by 48%, without a corresponding increase in funding.

As a result, counties, including Contra Costa, have been forced to redirect funds from employment services to cover eligibility work. In FY 2023-24, \$245 million (20% of employment services funding) was shifted to process applications and renewals. If the eligibility allocation were fully funded, these employment services funds could be used instead to enhance our employment services case management capacity, increase availability of supportive services, or provide more frequent contacts with our clients with the most complex needs.



In FY2023-24 the Administration's own assessment demonstrated shortcomings in the existing methodology for eligibility funding and revealed that an additional \$210 million is needed to fully fund county workloads. Inadequate funding hampers counties' ability to help families obtain and maintain employment through services (such as job preparation activities), training programs (such as certificate and credential programs), and supportive services (such as childcare and transportation)—services and supports that counties are aiming to maximize, enhance, and scale to lift families and children out of poverty.

Due to limited funding, only a fraction of eligible families are being served throughout the state. In Contra Costa, we serve an estimated 28% of the families who may be eligible for CalWORKs. Securing additional funding would enable us to deliver expedited services to eligible recipients. This would also allow us to maximize our employment services funding, enhancing employment services capacity. With more administrative funding, CalWORKs could meet the needs of many more eligible families.

The one-time funding patch for counties and the adoption of an updated Single Allocation methodology is critical for allowing counties to better serve families entitled to CalWORKs. We respectfully request your support for these changes, which will preserve counties' ability to provide services that help families overcome barriers of employment and cultivate a family-centered CalWORKs program.

Sincerely,

CANDACE ANDERSEN  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
Monica Nino, Contra Costa County Administrator  
Marla Stuart, Employment and Human Services Director  
Angela Bullock-Hayes, Workforce Services Director  
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer

## The Board of Supervisors

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## Contra Costa County



**Monica Nino**  
Clerk of the Board  
and  
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(925) 655-2075

April 7, 2025

Honorable Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson, Chair  
Senate Budget Subcommittee No.3  
1021 O Street, Suite 7310  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Dr. Corey A. Jackson  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2  
1021 O Street, Suite 6120  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **RE: Support for the Proposal to Update Administrative Rebase Funding for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)**

Dear Chair Weber Pierson and Chair Jackson:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, we write in support of the County Welfare Directors Association's (CWDA) and the California State Association of Counties' (CSAC) recommendations to update the budget methodology for county administration of the IHSS program and urge that funding for these crucial functions is included in the fiscal year (FY) 2025-26 Budget during May Revision.

The IHSS program is a critical program in achieving the goals and vision outlined in California's Master Plan for Aging. California's population of adults aged 65 and older is projected to reach 28 percent of the population, or 11.4 million Californians, by 2040. IHSS enables older adults to age with dignity and independence. The program enhances quality of life by making it easier to live at home, while reducing the time and financial burden on family and friends of program recipients. Around 830,000 older adults and people with disabilities receive in-home care from IHSS caregivers in California. The program continues to grow, thanks to recently enacted expansions in Medi-Cal eligibility and the elimination of the Medi-Cal asset limit test, which will allow more older adults and persons with disabilities to qualify.

The IHSS program relies on county social workers to conduct assessments for individuals applying to the program to determine eligibility and level of need for in-home assistance. County IHSS staff assist eligible consumers with identifying and enrolling their provider of choice to deliver personal care services. County IHSS staff ensure timely payments to those providers and carry out many other administrative duties required under state and federal laws and regulations. However, the budget methodology to support these county functions has not been updated since FY 2017-18.

The existing budget methodology for county administration of the IHSS program significantly underfunds county costs. The current budget methodology excludes the workload associated with processing denied applications, such as processing and tracking all applicant forms and

conducting the in-home assessment. The current methodology has kept worker costs flat since FY 2017-18. As a result, the current funding gap for county IHSS staffing worsens each year, while the caseload continues to increase, hampering counties' ability to ensure IHSS applications and reassessments occur on the frequency required under state and federal law.

Additional resources for counties are needed to meet the mandates for conducting timely annual reassessments. County Social Workers are committed to IHSS consumers and the program. Without adequate resources, the combination of burgeoning caseloads and stagnant staffing levels leaves workers unable to meet regulatory requirements. As a result, Contra Costa County is on a corrective action plan and requires additional resources to achieve these improvements.

CWDA and counties have been working with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to reassess the IHSS administrative budget methodology. The results of the reassessment will be reported during the May Revision, and are expected to reveal a significant need for additional funding of current operations. To meet these unmet needs, CWDA urges the Administration to include appropriate state funding in the 2025-26 State Budget.

Addressing this funding gap is critical to enable the IHSS program to properly serve our state's growing population of older adults and persons with disabilities. For these reasons, Contra Costa County respectfully urges your support of the proposal to update the budget methodology for IHSS administrative funding in the 2025-26 State Budget.

Sincerely,



CANDACE ANDERSEN  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
Monica Nino, Contra Costa County Administrator  
Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Human Services  
Marla Stuart, Employment and Human Services Director  
Tracy Murray, Aging and Adult Services Director  
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer

# The Board of Supervisors

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**Shanelle Scales-Preston**, 5<sup>th</sup> District

# Contra Costa County



**Monica Nino**  
Clerk of the Board  
and  
County Administrator  
(925) 655-2075

March 24, 2025

The Honorable Scott Weiner  
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for Governor's Proposal to Reform Community Corrections Performance Incentive Program (SB 678, 2009)**

Dear Senator Weiner and Assemblymember Gabriel:

On behalf of Contra Costa County, I write to urge your support for the proposed changes to the SB 678 program currently before the Legislature for consideration as part of the 2025-26 State Budget.

SB 678 is a landmark policy that established, for the first time, a state funding source for adult probation to invest in evidence-based supervision and treatment interventions to reduce probation admissions to state prison. It has successfully decreased reliance on incarceration in California and saved taxpayers over a billion dollars in state prison costs. Further, it has improved rehabilitation efforts without increasing crime rates. Probation success under SB 678 was the foundation for smart criminal justice reforms centered on reducing state prison admissions while ensuring accountability through community supervision and alternatives to incarceration. Statewide, Felony Probation admissions to prison have decreased from nearly 8% at the outset of the program to 2.5% in 2024.

Last year's state budget included legislative intent language to review the allocation methodology for the SB 678 grant program in line with the goal of providing sustainable funding for improved, evidence-based probation supervision practices and capacities that will improve public safety outcomes.

The Governor's January budget proposes to update the methodology for calculating incentive payments to counties with the intent to increase the performance-based incentive nature of the funding and reduce variability in the prior methodology. Contra Costa County supports the Administration's proposed changes to the formula. While the changes will reduce the 2025-26

allocation by more than \$10 million compared to the current statutory framework, the proposed changes to the formula strike a delicate balance between enhancing stability through performance maintenance payments and encouraging further reductions in prison admissions where appropriate through refreshed performance incentive payments.

County Probation departments need the additional stability proposed for this critical program in order to continue the success that not only improves public safety but results in significant savings for the state in prison and parole costs.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this proposal to reform the Community Corrections Performance Incentive Program.

Sincerely,



CANDACE ANDERSEN  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
Monica Nino, Contra Costa County Administrator  
Esa Ehmen-Krause, Contra Costa County Chief Probation Officer  
Michelle Rubalcava and Geoff Niell, Nielsen Merksamer  
Honorable Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 5  
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 6  
Jith Meganathan, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom  
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, Department of Finance

# The Board of Supervisors

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**Shanelle Scales-Preston**, 5<sup>th</sup> District

# Contra Costa County



**Monica Nino**  
Clerk of the Board  
and  
County Administrator  
(925) 655-2075

March 12, 2025

The Honorable Akilah Weber Pierson, M.D.  
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3  
1021 O Street, Suite 7310  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dawn Addis  
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1  
1021 O Street, Suite 4120  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Budget Items: Future of Public Health & CDPH IT Systems**

Dear Senator Weber Pierson and Assembly Member Addis:

Contra Costa County writes to provide input on key budget items under the purview of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

## **Future of Public Health**

Contra Costa County respectfully requests the Legislature sustain the critical Future of Public Health investment for local health department workforce and infrastructure.

Future of Public Health funding supports twenty-two (22) positions within Contra Costa Public Health and allowed Contra Costa Health to fill essential gaps in programs including HIV outreach and surveillance, communicable disease surveillance, and case management for disease conditions such as tuberculosis, COVID-19, hepatitis C, and syphilis.

The Future of Public Health funding has allowed Contra Costa Health to:

- Support communicable disease response and intake teams that are tasked with supporting all provider and laboratory reporting reconciliations and outbreak technical assistance to local skilled nursing facilities and other long-term care facilities. Without these teams, local facilities would have no dedicated support for infection prevention and outbreak control, placing residents and patients at greater risk.
- Hire staff to ensure sustainability of an expanded emergency response and preparedness infrastructure.

- Hire staff to support important community health assessment (CHA) and community health improvement plan (CHIP) activities in partnership with local stakeholders and residents.
- Support a robust administrative, quality, and performance improvement team focused on program modernization and centralization of administrative functions to increase efficiency, cost effectiveness, and improve coordination of services.

### **CDPH Information Technology Systems**

Contra Costa County respectfully requests support for investments for the following CDPH public health information technology systems.

- **myCAvax** – We request that the Legislature provide \$44 million ongoing General Fund for the California Vaccine Management System, also known as myCAvax. The use of the myCAvax system has improved vaccine management since it was initiated, allowing for streamlined and faster ordering, tracking and inventory management for multiple vaccine formulations. The myCAvax consolidated several separate vaccine management systems, eliminated manual tracking of some vaccines, reduced staff time required for vaccine management, and allows for real-time data tracking of vaccines.
- **CalCONNECT** – We express support for the Governor’s proposal for \$18 million General Fund for maintenance and operations of the California Confidential Network for Contact Tracing (CalCONNECT). CalCONNECT enhances our disease control and prevention efficiency. Contra Costa Health was one of the first 5 pilot LHDs in California to implement and help develop CalCONNECT during the early COVID-19 emergency response. During COVID-19 response, Contra Costa Health used the case, contact and outbreak module functionalities including additional automation features:
  - (1) Case reporting via SPOT (the School Portal for Outbreak Tracking and Shared Portal for Outbreak Tracking), Many of our facilities have very long line lists when an outbreak occurs and having the capacity to access SPOT records has been very valuable and saves a lot of time. Also, our facilities don't always call the Health Department to report an outbreak but with the department’s Communicable Disease teams monitoring the SPOT records, we can respond to outbreaks right away and help prevent spread in high-risk populations.
  - (2) Immunization history lookup via statewide immunization registry (CAIR2) within case/contact records,
  - (3) SMS-linked surveys to improve timeliness to contact tracing. Other disease/conditions: Avian Influenza Contact Monitoring (used) and Measles. In addition, the Generic Monitoring Contact records allow us to monitor Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and measles contacts in an organized way with status updates. With the current measles outbreaks we are seeing throughout the country it is very important that we have the capacity to continue using this system to keep track of all contacts, including travel and household contacts.
- **SaPHIRE** – We express support for the Governor’s proposal for \$27 million General Fund for the Surveillance and Public Health Information Reporting and Exchange (SaPHIRE) system. Public Health Laboratory Reporting (Title 17, 2505) via electronic lab reports (ELR) to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) from CCH (Contra Costa Public Health Laboratory, Contra Costa Regional Medical Center and Public Health Point



of Care Testing) was transitioned to SAPHIRE from CalREDIE during COVID-19 response. The SaPHIRE/CalREDIE ELR team have been very helpful in quickly working with CCH to address any ELR transmission and data completeness concerns that have come up helping to improve overall data completeness and quality in our statewide disease surveillance systems (CalREDIE & CalCONNECT).

- **CAIR3 Planning** – We express support for the Governor’s proposal for \$5.1 million General Fund for planning for the California Immunization Registry 3 (CAIR3) system. Contra Costa Health was an early LHD adopter of an original California Immunization Registry (CAIR) Bay Area region immunization information system and continued supporter of all the ongoing modernization to the now statewide version (CAIR2) along with further integration (bi-directional dataflow) with electronic health records via California Data Exchange Framework (DxF) roadmap. We currently experience multiple challenges with CAIR2, including login delays, frequent downtimes, issues with the EPIC/CAIR interface, and other issues that impact vaccine administration and documentation.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these important public health budget items.

Sincerely,



CANDACE ANDERSEN

Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
Monica Nino, County Administrator  
Dr. Ori Tzvieli, Public Health Director and Interim Director of Contra Costa Health  
Honorable Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3  
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1  
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer

# The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building  
1025 Escobar St., 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
Martinez, California 94553

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**Shanelle Scales-Preston**, 5<sup>th</sup> District

# Contra Costa County



**Monica Nino**  
Clerk of the Board  
and  
County Administrator  
(925) 655-2075

February 27, 2025

Senator Tim Grayson  
1021 O Street, Suite 7250  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **RE: Contra Costa County FY25-26 State Budget Priorities**

Dear Senator Grayson:

Thank you for your ongoing support of programs and efforts to help Contra Costa County's most vulnerable families and residents. On behalf of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I write to share the County's Fiscal Year (FY) 25-26 State Budget priorities.

As our representative, you are likely aware that Contra Costa is the ninth most populous county in the state and home to 1.15 million residents. The County provides municipal services for approximately 175,000 residents in unincorporated communities, in addition to providing public health, healthcare, social services, housing, and other critical services throughout the entire County. As a provider of a multitude of services for our communities, we are concerned first and foremost about State Budgetary issues that would result in reductions to services that harm the individuals we serve. In addition, we oppose reductions in funding for government administration and potential changes that would take away from our ability to best serve the public.

### **Oppose proposed cuts that harm the people we serve**

We ask that funding levels in the Governor's proposed budget are maintained, and that any reductions are opposed. In addition, we ask that you consider the impact of potential reductions in federal funding for many critical programs that affect the people we serve, such as Medi-Cal (Medicaid), CalWORKS (TANF), CalFresh (SNAP), foster youth, behavioral health, and housing.

Notable priorities in FY25-26 include:

- Oppose any reductions in CalWORKs childcare funding or county administrative funding.
- Oppose any reductions in CalWORKs and CalFresh benefit amounts to recipients.
- Oppose any reductions in reimbursements rates for foster care.
- Oppose the Governor's proposed reductions to the Overdose Prevention and Harm Reduction Initiative.
- Oppose the Governor's proposed reductions to Prop 56 State Dental Program Account.
- Oppose reductions to the Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP).
- Address regulatory and funding needs related to the lack of approval for the CalAIM waiver.
- Oppose proposed reductions to the Bringing Families Home program, Home Safe Program, and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit.

- Restore funding reduced during FY24-25 to the Veteran's Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program.
- Restore funding reduced during FY24-25 for Infill Infrastructure Program.
- Support increased funding for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) services and restore funding reduced during FY24-25 for housing programs for survivors of domestic violence.

In addition to our priorities within health and human services, we also urge your continued support for Climate Bond projects and Cap and Trade priorities that would benefit Contra Costa when these discussions progress during the upcoming session.

### **Oppose cuts that detract from county government and administration**

Reductions to administrative funding for local governments limit our ability to plan, design, and deliver programs in the best, most-effective ways for those we serve. Reductions to administrative funding erode reporting, oversight, and transparency of government programs. Additionally, without adequate administrative funding, we are limited in our ability to expand outreach and further improve access to services. For these reasons, we urge you to oppose reductions to administrative funding for local governments.

### **Oppose cuts and policy changes that increase county costs**

While the County opposes reductions in essential services for our residents due to the harm it causes in our communities, it is also worth noting that many proposed reductions substantially increase administration costs. Often, when cuts are considered, proposed methods increase the County's cost to provide services. One example would be adding work requirements to programs like CalFresh, or other modifications to limit program eligibility. These changes require amendments to local administrative policies and oversight, necessitate staff training on new policies, while also increasing the time and involvement of the eligibility and enrollment work the County performs—all resulting in increased costs to deliver services. We urge you to oppose cost-cutting measures that increase the administrative burden on counties as a means to limit safety net services for our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our FY25-26 State Budget priorities, and for your ongoing support of our communities' needs. Should you have any questions regarding the County's legislative or budgetary priorities, please do not hesitate to contact the County's Legislative Coordinator Emlyn Struthers at (925) 655-2045 or [Emlyn.Struthers@cao.cccounty.us](mailto:Emlyn.Struthers@cao.cccounty.us).

Sincerely,



CANDACE ANDERSEN  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Contra Costa County Legislative Delegation  
Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
Monica Nino, County Administrator  
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer