

The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building
1025 Escobar St., 4th floor
Martinez, California 94553

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

Contra Costa County



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

September 3, 2025

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

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

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

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

RE: CalFresh Budget Investments Needed to Mitigate Impacts from H.R. 1

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

On behalf of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I respectfully urge immediate State action in response to harmful federal changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, or CalFresh in California) enacted under H.R. 1 (119th Congress, 2025). Without timely budget intervention before the end of this legislative session, California risks widespread disruption to food assistance for families, children, and seniors—particularly in communities already facing systemic inequities.

CalFresh is a cornerstone of food security and equity in Contra Costa County. In Fiscal Year 2024, the County’s Employment and Human Services Department (EHSD) served 145,897 residents—12.5% of the county’s population—through CalFresh. Black/African American individuals represent 18.5% of CalFresh recipients, while constituting 8.1% of the county population. Hispanic/Latino residents account for 29.4% of recipients, compared to 27.8% of the population. These disparities underscore the urgent need for sustained investment to ensure equitable access to food assistance for all residents, including low-income working families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

H.R. 1 introduces sweeping changes that will significantly increase administrative workload and jeopardize benefit continuity. Eligibility and enrollment changes under H.R. 1 include:

- Expansion of the 3-month “work for food” time limit to adults aged 55–64 and parents of dependents aged 14–18.
- Elimination of exemptions for veterans, former foster youth, and individuals experiencing homelessness.
- New requirements for utility expense verification, replacing the standardized approach with case-by-case documentation.

These changes are expected to take effect in FY 2025–26, though implementation timelines await federal guidance. Counties must begin preparing now to avoid service disruptions. This includes hiring and training staff to:

- Inform recipients of new work requirements.
- Screen for exemptions.
- Support documentation and referrals to employment and training programs.
- Verify utility expenses to ensure accurate benefit calculations.

Without these State investments, CalFresh recipients may lose access to food assistance due to administrative barriers—not eligibility. Moreover, the complexity of these new rules is likely to increase California’s SNAP Payment Error Rate (PER), which measures both over- and under-issuance of benefits. A higher PER will directly increase the State’s General Fund liability beginning in October 2027, with “lookback” years starting in Federal Fiscal Year 2025. The estimated cost shift to the State is expected to be \$2 billion unless immediate investment and actions are taken to reduce the PER.

To mitigate these risks, counties statewide require \$90.7 million in General Fund support for FY 2025–26. This funding will:

- Help clients navigate new work requirements and time limits.
- Ensure accurate and fair benefit determinations.
- Reduce the risk of costly federal penalties.
- Prevent increased hunger and hardship among vulnerable Californians.

Failure to act will destabilize CalFresh operations across counties and expose the State to significant fiscal and human costs. Contra Costa County urges the Legislature and Administration to adopt this critical budget action before the end of session to protect the health and well-being of our communities.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to equity and food security. For these reasons, Contra Costa County urges you to adopt this critical budget action before the end of session to help protect California’s most vulnerable families and communities.

Sincerely,



CANDACE ANDERSEN
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County State Legislative Delegation
Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Monica Nino, County Administrator
Jami Morritt, Chief Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Marla Stuart, Director of Employment and Human Services
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer

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September 9, 2025

The Honorable Thomas Umberg
1021 O Street, Suite 3240
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1018 (Bauer-Kahan) Automated decision systems. – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

As amended September 5, 2025

Dear Senator Umberg:

On behalf of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I write in respectful opposition to AB 1018, unless amended. AB 1018 would regulate the development and deployment of automated decision systems (ADS) used to make or support consequential decisions in both the public and private sectors. While we support the intent to promote fairness, transparency, and accountability in the use of emerging technologies, AB 1018 imposes significant operational and financial burdens on counties. These burdens could hinder our ability to deliver essential services—particularly at a time when counties are facing severe resource constraints due to the recent passage of H.R. 1.

Contra Costa County supports responsible regulation of artificial intelligence (AI) and ADS. We are committed to ensuring these tools are used ethically, equitably, and with appropriate human oversight. To that end, we have developed internal AI policies that establish guiding principles and a framework for thoughtful, values-aligned implementation. We are selectively piloting new technologies, carefully choosing tools that can enhance service delivery without compromising fairness or accountability.

However, AB 1018's definitions are overly broad and risk sweeping in many long-standing technologies that are not typically considered AI. As currently written, the bill could apply to routine administrative tools used in county operations, such as systems for hiring and pre-employment testing, employee scheduling, training, property appraisals, planning and permitting, and case management.

These tools are essential to improving efficiency and maintaining service levels, especially as counties are increasingly expected to do more with less. For example, scheduling applications used in clinical or custodial settings help match staff to shifts in real time. These systems require human input and oversight—human workers must accept shifts, and human supervisors must approve them. Yet under AB 1018's definitions, such tools could be classified as ADS, and their outputs deemed "consequential decisions." This is one example of many tools that would be impacted under the current definitions.

This broad application could force counties to abandon effective systems or avoid adopting new tools altogether, stifling innovation in the public sector while the private sector continues to advance—potentially without regard to the law. With the added administrative responsibilities imposed by H.R. 1, counties like Contra Costa will be required to do more, such as processing benefit recertifications, with fewer resources. In this context, AB 1018's requirements are not only burdensome but counterproductive.

The bill also imposes costly new compliance obligations without providing funding or implementation support. It requires counties to inventory all existing systems, assess their compliance, and potentially replace or modify them—all within an unrealistic timeframe. These mandates would divert limited resources away from core services and will place counties in an untenable position.

Contra Costa County is committed to ensuring that uses of ADS and AI are secure, ethical, and effective. We share the goal of ensuring algorithmic tools align with our values of equity, transparency, and human-centered decision-making. We are actively working to reduce racial and socioeconomic disparities and to ensure that technology supports—not replaces—human judgment.

While we understand and appreciate the concerns AB 1018 seeks to address, we are concerned that its current form could discourage counties from using tools that improve access, efficiency, and service delivery. The bill's broad scope, significant implementation requirements, and unfunded mandates would place an unsustainable strain on already limited county budgets.

In summary, AB 1018 creates a substantial and unfunded financial burden for counties. The costs—while difficult to quantify—are likely to be significant, depending on the number of systems affected, the extent of required updates or replacements, and the administrative workload involved. These burdens could ultimately undermine the very goals the bill seeks to achieve.

For these reasons, Contra Costa County respectfully opposes AB 1018 unless amended. We remain committed to working collaboratively with the author and the state to develop a framework for the ethical, responsible, and effective use of ADS and AI in government.

Sincerely,



CANDACE ANDERSEN
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Monica Nino, County Administrator
Tim Ewell, Chief Assistant County Administrator
Jami Morritt, Chief Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Marc Shorr, Director of Department of Information Technology
Rebecca Hooley, Assistant County Counsel
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer

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(925) 655-2075

June 13, 2025

The Honorable Senator Thomas Umberg
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3240
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1337 (Ward): Information Practices Act of 1977 – OPPOSE
As amended May 23, 2025

Dear Chair Umberg:

On behalf of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, we respectfully oppose AB 1337 (Ward), which would apply the Information Practices Act of 1977 (IPA) to all local government agencies, including 58 counties, 483 cities, over 1,000 school districts, 2,200 special districts, and numerous joint powers authorities and regional bodies. Recent amendments also change the IPA itself, raising serious operational and legal concerns. This proposal would impose costly mandates, disrupt essential programs, and create legal uncertainty without clear public benefit.

Increased Legal Liability for Local Agencies

AB 1337 would significantly expand legal exposure for local and state agencies. It changes Civil Code to prohibit disclosure of personal information that could (rather than would) identify an individual—an ambiguous and stricter standard. It also expands disciplinary exposure by allowing public employees to be penalized for negligent, rather than intentional, violations of the Act and permits criminal penalties without a showing of harm. These provisions would create significant liability risks for public servants, undermining workforce morale and recruitment at a time when public agencies are already struggling to retain staff.

Obstructs Routine and Critical Data Sharing

The bill would limit data sharing between government agencies unless it directly “furthers the purpose” for which the data were collected. This vague standard could jeopardize standard practices, such as using voter registration and DMV data for jury selection. To comply, agencies may be forced to overhaul forms, retrain staff, and adopt new systems—imposing major financial and operational burdens. Programs like CalAIM, Medi-Cal for justice-involved individuals, and other initiatives that depend on cross-agency data coordination could be hindered or halted altogether.

Undermines Criminal Investigations

The bill also eliminates key exceptions that allow data sharing to support criminal investigations or respond to search warrants. Under AB 1337, a public agency may need permission from an accused individual before disclosing information relevant to a lawful investigation—an

unreasonable barrier to law enforcement and public safety efforts.

Costly Compliance Without Resources or Realistic Timeline

The IPA was never designed for local government operations. Applying it to thousands of local agencies would require sweeping changes to software, policies, and staffing. These are expensive and time-intensive upgrades, yet AB 1337 provides no funding to help implement them. This constitutes a clear state mandate, which the bill currently denies. We urge that the language be amended to reflect that the bill establishes a reimbursable state mandate under California law.

Additionally, the effective date of January 1, 2026 would provide only a few months to prepare for these major changes, given the Governor's October 2025 deadline to sign or veto the bill. This is simply not enough time for responsible implementation.

Inefficient, Overlapping, and Conflicting Requirements

The Information Practices Act was not designed with local agencies in mind and includes requirements that do not make sense in that context. Local governments are already subject to a range of data privacy protections, including Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (CMIA), Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and a variety of confidentiality statutes in the Penal Code and labor laws. These laws are tailored to specific types of data and services. Local agencies have policies and systems in place to comply with these requirements. AB 1337 would impose overlapping and sometimes conflicting requirements that risk inefficiency without improving data protections.

For these reasons, we must respectfully oppose AB 1337 and urge your “no” vote to protect the ability of local governments to serve Californians efficiently, affordably, and securely.

Sincerely,



CANDACE ANDERSEN

Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Monica Nino, County Administrator
Jami Morritt, Chief Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer

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Contra Costa County



Monica Nino
Clerk of the Board
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June 16, 2025

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo
Senate Local Government Committee
State Capitol, Room 407
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1430 (Bennett): County recorders: fees. – SUPPORT
As amended March 17, 2025

Dear Chair Durazo:

On behalf of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, we write to share our support for Assembly Bill 1430, a measure that updates and modernizes the statutory fees for county recorders' services. Across the state, county recorders provide important public services and serve as the custodian of vital records, recorded land documents, and other legal documents that support the integrity of property ownership and other legal transactions.

County recorders' offices operate on a fee-for-service basis; however, their fees are outlined in statute, with maximum amounts that were set in 2009. The current fee structure disregards cost increases and changes in real estate transactions, resulting in some county recorders requiring additional county general fund resources to maintain operations. In Contra Costa, the current statutorily set fees do not cover the cost of delivering services, requiring general funds to be used to subsidize these services.

AB 1430 updates the maximum fee a county recorder may charge for recording the first page of a document from \$10 to \$15 and additional pages from \$3 to \$4. These adjustments that are proposed are consistent with relative increases in the Consumer Price Index and still must reflect cost recovery. Further, AB 1430 requires that the fees collected are dedicated to, and solely utilized for, the county recorder's office, and prohibits the fees from exceeding the reasonable costs of the document recording function. While we would generally prefer flexibility in directing such fees, this is outweighed by the urgent need to update these fees.

We urge your support for this important measure to allow a reasonable update to statutory maximum recording fees, which will help ensure that services provided by county recorders' offices are not subsidized by the general public.

Sincerely,



CANDACE ANDERSEN

Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Monica Nino, County Administrator
Kristin Connelly, Clerk-Recorder
Jami Morritt, Chief Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer

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September 10, 2025

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

The Honorable Scott Wiener
Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB/SB 144: Health. – SUPPORT Vaccine & Preventative Services Guidelines

Dear Chairs Wiener and Gabriel:

On behalf of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I write to share our support for the immunization-related provisions in the Health trailer bill, AB/SB 144. This bill contains several imperative provisions, including an update California law to allow our state to establish its own vaccine and preventive services guidelines, independent of federal advisory bodies.

California law currently relies on Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) guidance in several critical areas, including vaccine administration and insurance coverage. For over sixty years, the ACIP was a trusted source of public health guidance under leadership. However, the recent unprecedented dismissal of all ACIP members by the current U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary has raised serious concerns about the continuity and integrity of federal vaccine recommendations. In this evolving landscape, SB/AB 144 is essential to ensuring that Californians continue to have access to safe, evidence-based preventative care, including immunizations.

Importantly, the Health trailer bill maintains a rigorous, science-based approach by directing the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to issue vaccine guidance in consultation with longstanding professional organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), and American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). These organizations have provided trusted clinical recommendations for decades—AAP's guidance even predates that of the ACIP.

The bill also includes critical liability protections for California's health care providers. While vaccines recommended by CDPH are proven to be safe and effective, the absence of liability protections could deter providers from administering them due to perceived legal risks. These protections are temporary and will sunset in 2030 unless renewed by the Legislature.

It is important to emphasize that AB/SB 144 does not create any new mandates. It does not alter the list of required vaccinations for school or childcare entry. Rather, it ensures that

California retains the flexibility to respond to emerging public health needs with expert-driven, state-specific guidance.

For these reasons, Contra Costa County strongly supports AB/SB 144 and urges its swift passage.

Sincerely,



CANDACE ANDERSEN
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Monica Nino, County Administrator
Jami Morritt, Chief Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Dr. Grant Colfax, CEO of Contra Costa Health
Dr. Ori Tzvieli, Contra Costa County Health Officer
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer

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September 12, 2025

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

The Honorable Scott Wiener
Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **AB/SB 146: Human Services. – SUPPORT**

Dear Chairs Wiener and Gabriel:

On behalf of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I write to share our support for several provisions in the Human Services trailer bill, AB/SB 146, which advances critical reforms and investments in California's human services infrastructure as part of the 2025 Budget Act.

AB/SB 146 reflects a thoughtful and comprehensive approach to strengthening the delivery of housing, nutrition, and welfare-to-work services for our most vulnerable residents. The bill's provisions will directly benefit people in Contra Costa County by:

- **Enhancing transparency and accountability** by establishing a new county-level complaint resolution process and state fair hearing appeal right for recipients of county-administered housing and homelessness programs, including CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP), Home Safe, and Bringing Families Home (BFH), and the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP). The proposed Trailer Bill brings clarity and consistency to housing program participants when seeking due process. We appreciate the language priorities resolving disputes at the local level, where the housing programs are designed and delivered to reflect unique community needs. By building upon existing county-level processes, the proposal also maximizes resources for scarce housing supports and services.
- **Modernizing CalWORKs** by streamlining welfare-to-work assessments, removing unnecessary administrative barriers, and improving the client experience through automation and flexibility.
- **Improving CalFresh program integrity** while protecting access for eligible households, by authorizing the Department of Social Services to implement timely reforms aimed at reducing payment error rates.
- **Investing in automation and implementation capacity**, including a \$3.2 million appropriation to support CalFresh system improvements aligned with federal mandates and CDSS state administration to support various Payment Error Rate (PER) reducing strategies.

These changes will not only improve service delivery and outcomes for families in Contra Costa County but also reduce administrative burdens to promote equity across counties. We particularly appreciate the bill's emphasis on stakeholder engagement, due process protections, and the preservation of benefits during appeals—principles that align with our county's values and operational priorities.

Thank you for your leadership in advancing policies that strengthen California's safety net, and we urge AB/SB 146's swift passage.

Sincerely,



CANDACE ANDERSEN
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Monica Nino, County Administrator
Jami Morritt, Chief Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Marla Stuart, Director of Employment and Human Services
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer

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Contra Costa County



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

August 27, 2025

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 79 (Wiener) Transit-oriented Development. – OPPOSE
As amended July 8, 2025

Dear Chair Wicks:

On behalf of both the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and the Board of Directors for the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, I write to share our opposition to SB 79, authored by Senator Wiener. This bill would override state-certified housing elements, eliminate local land use authority, and grant broad development powers to transit agencies—without adequate consideration for fire safety, infrastructure capacity, or community planning.

Contra Costa County has a long-standing commitment to transit-oriented development. Since the 1980s, we have pursued a vision for high-quality, walkable communities centered around transit, exemplified by the successful development of Contra Costa Centre near the Pleasant Hill BART Station. This progress was made possible through thoughtful local planning and control, which allowed us to balance housing growth with infrastructure, safety, and community needs.

SB 79 would dismantle this balance. It mandates local approval of dense, multi-story housing—up to seven stories and 120 units per acre—near designated transit stops, regardless of local zoning, environmental review, or public input. This top-down approach disregards the state's own housing element process and undermines years of community engagement and planning.

Of particular concern is the bill's potential impact on public safety. In areas like Lafayette and Orinda, where roadways are narrow and evacuation routes are limited, increasing housing density without addressing fire evacuation logistics poses serious risks. Adding thousands of residents to areas with constrained access could hinder emergency response and evacuation during wildfires, placing lives at risk.

Contra Costa County recently completed a comprehensive update to our General Plan, identifying sufficient land to accommodate more than 20,000 new housing units—three times our Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). This plan reflects extensive community input and a commitment to sustainable, equitable growth. SB 79 would override this plan, allowing transit agencies to develop land they own or control—regardless of proximity to transit stops—and

without regard for local zoning, density limits, or design standards.

Moreover, the bill permits 100% commercial development under the guise of transit-oriented housing policy. This loophole could result in zero new housing units while still preempting local authority. In some cases, SB 79 could even force approval of projects less dense than what our General Plan allows, creating confusion and inconsistency.

We support the state's goal of increasing housing supply, but SB 79 undermines the very tools that enable responsible, community-supported development. Ministerial or by-right approval processes that bypass local review ignore the value of public engagement and the expertise of local planners. This bill creates unintended consequences that could compromise safety, infrastructure, and public trust.

For these reasons, Contra Costa County respectfully opposes SB 79. We remain committed to working collaboratively with the state to address California's housing crisis—through solutions that respect local control, prioritize public safety, and reflect the unique needs of our communities.

Sincerely,



CANDACE ANDERSEN

Chair, Board of Supervisors &

Chair, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Board of Directors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors & Board of Directors for the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District
Monica Nino, County Administrator
Jami Morritt, Chief Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Lewis Broschard, Chief of the Contra County Fire Protection District
John Kopchik, Director of Conservation & Development
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

September 8, 2025

The Honorable Matt Haney
Chair, Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development
1020 N Street, Room 156
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 79 (Wiener) Transit-oriented Development. – REMOVE OPPOSITION – As Amended September 5, 2025

Dear Assemblymember Haney:

On behalf of both the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and the Board of Directors for the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, I write to formally withdraw our opposition to Senate Bill 79.

We appreciate the author's responsiveness in amending the bill to address fire safety concerns, particularly where evacuation routes are limited. These changes reflect a thoughtful balance between public safety and the crucial need to increase housing supply.

We recognize the importance of building new housing to improve affordability, reduce homelessness, and support sustained economic development in our region. The recent amendments help ensure that development is prioritized in transit-oriented communities where infrastructure and transportation options already exist. While we continue to have reservations about the provisions allowing by-right development on land owned by transit agencies—particularly when such land is not adjacent to transit—we are satisfied that our primary concerns regarding fire safety have been addressed.

Thank you for your leadership and willingness to engage on this issue. Contra Costa County is grateful for the opportunity to partner with the state in finding solutions to enhance access to housing throughout our county and state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Candace Andersen".

CANDACE ANDERSEN

Chair, Board of Supervisors & Chair, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Board of Directors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Monica Nino, County Administrator
Lewis Broschard, Chief of the Contra County Fire Protection District
John Kopchik, Director of Conservation & Development
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer

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July 29, 2025

The Honorable Juan Carrillo
Assembly Local Government Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 5610
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 346 (Durazo): Local agencies: transient occupancy taxes: short-term rental facilitator. – SUPPORT
As amended July 7, 2025

Dear Chair Carrillo:

On behalf of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I write to share our support for SB 346, authored by Senator Durazo, which would better equip cities and counties to enforce local ordinances related short-term rentals, including the collection and remittance of transient occupancy taxes (TOT).

Short-term rentals are regulated exclusively at the local level via the adoption of an ordinance that often includes regulations on permitting, tax compliance, noise, parking, occupancy, as well as other responsibilities for hosts and short-term rental facilitators. In some instances, ordinances limit the number of short-term rentals allowed to operate lawfully, other ordinances ban short-term rentals entirely.

Short-term rentals can present numerous challenges to neighborhoods and adjacent property owners. They may create additional noise, traffic, parking, and public safety issues, decrease available housing stock, and in some cases turn residential neighborhoods into de-facto hotel rows, collectively creating additional demands on local public service providers.

Unfortunately, the enforcement of TOT ordinances and the collection and remittance of these taxes from short-term rentals can be inconsistent, even when voluntary collection agreements are in place with a short-term rental facilitator. Cities and counties lack access to property addresses or other property-related information, even under these agreements, resulting in a difficult choice to either accept tax payments without any way to verify their accuracy and legality or attempt to collect taxes directly from property owners—a costly and time-consuming process. Meanwhile, short-term rental facilitators have full knowledge of these properties' locations and resist disclosing this information. Municipalities, including counties, can only currently compel short-term rental facilitators to disclose this critical information through certain legal action, such as subpoenas.

SB 346 would address the above issues by providing municipalities with the physical address of each short-term rental listed on the facilitator's website and full audit authority of TOT dollars. These changes would ensure the correct amount of TOT is being collected and remitted and would allow for more efficient enforcement against unlicensed units.

For these reasons, Contra Costa County supports SB 346. We respectfully request your support for this legislation to help municipalities enforce local ordinances related short-term rentals, including the collection and remittance of transient occupancy taxes (TOT).

Sincerely,



CANDACE ANDERSEN
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Monica Nino, County Administrator
Jami Morritt, Chief Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Dan Mierzwa, County Treasurer-Tax Collector
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer

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Monica Nino
Clerk of the Board
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June 18, 2025

The Honorable Juan Carrillo
Assembly Local Government Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 5610
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 392 (Grayson): Regional park districts: East Bay Regional Park District: East Bay Hills Conservation Program. – SUPPORT
As amended June 13, 2025

Dear Chair Carrillo:

On behalf of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, we write to share our support for SB 392, the East Bay Regional Park District's East Bay Hills Conservation Program, authored by Senator Tim Grayson.

The East Bay Hills, spanning approximately 30,000 acres across Alameda and Contra Costa counties, provide essential wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities and ecological benefits to the region. These hills are a historically significant area, having been protected from resource extraction since the early 1900s. They also serve as an important wildlife corridor, connecting the coastal ranges with the inland foothills. With extreme weather and increasing urbanization, the East Bay Hills face mounting pressures that threaten their ecological and recreational value.

The East Bay Regional Park District, created by the state to manage this area, provides wildfire mitigation and preserves public access to the landscape. However, this bill proposes to formalize and expand conservation efforts through the creation of the East Bay Hills Conservation Program. The program would prioritize the protection of the area's natural resources, enhance public access to parks and trails, and promote resilience in the face of extreme weather events. Within this legislation, the "East Bay Hills" is defined as the area defined as the ridgeline extending from the northern edge of Wildcat Canyon Regional Park in Richmond to the southern edge of Lake Chabot Regional Park in Castro valley. This includes all twelve adjacent natural lands solely within the control of the East Bay Regional Park District.

The East Bay Hills face several challenges in their current management, which threaten both their ecological integrity and long-term sustainability. One key issue is the protection of resources and habitats, as the region's rich biodiversity and vital wildlife corridors are increasingly vulnerable to fragmentation due to development. Specifically, the legislation recognizes how the East Bay Hills are home to California's official state grass, *Nassella pulchra*, or purple needlegrass, as well as the federal- and state-listed endangered species *Presidio clarkia* and *Tiburon buckwheat*.

Furthermore, it highlights how in 1855, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, rainbow trout, were first discovered by scientists within the Redwood Creek in the East Bay Hills and continue to thrive today.

This recognition underscores the need for a coordinated conservation strategy to preserve the area's ecological health. Additionally, the risk of wildfires is growing, fueled by climate change, which necessitates a comprehensive approach to wildfire mitigation and climate resilience. Tackling this challenge requires collaboration among various stakeholders to create long-term solutions. Lastly, while the East Bay Hills provide essential recreational opportunities including the East Bay Skyline National Recreation Trail, the growing demand for access, coupled with urbanization, risks overburdening these spaces and jeopardizing the preservation of natural areas for future generations. Through cohesive management across the East Bay Hills, sustainable practices can help mitigate these impacts and ensure expanded, equitable access to nature for all.

Thank you for your attention to this request, and we respectfully urge your support for this important legislation to help advance a coordinated conservation strategy in the East Bay Hills.

Sincerely,



CANDACE ANDERSEN
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Monica Nino, County Administrator
Jami Morritt, Chief Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
John Kopchik, Director of Department of Conservation & Development
Abigail Fateman, Executive Director of the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy
Sabrina Landreth, General Manager of East Bay Regional Park District
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer

The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building
1025 Escobar St., 4th floor
Martinez, California 94553

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

Contra Costa County



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

August 20, 2025

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 694 (Archuleta): Deceptive practices: service members and veterans. – SUPPORT
As amended June 23, 2025

Dear Chair Wicks:

On behalf of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I write to share our support for SB 694, authored by Senator Archuleta, which would strengthen consumer protections for California’s veterans by ensuring that only accredited individuals may charge for services related to filing claims for U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits.

SB 694 builds on the framework of SB 1124 (Menjivar, 2024) and addresses the alarming rise in unaccredited and often predatory actors—commonly known as “claim sharks”—that charge excessive or illegal fees for assisting veterans with benefit claims. In contract, bad actors that lack VA accreditation and oversight, pose serious risks to vulnerable veterans by promising guaranteed outcomes, pressuring veterans into dubious contracts, and compromising access to sensitive personal data.

To address these issues, SB 694 will:

1. Prohibit unaccredited individuals from charging for the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of VA benefit claims;
2. Enhance penalties for unauthorized access to veterans’ data on secure VA systems; and
3. Codify reasonable fee standards by clarifying under the Consumer Legal Remedies Act that fees exceeding those allowed for VA-accredited representatives are unlawful.

California’s veterans deserve transparent, qualified, and accountable representation when navigating the VA benefits process. This bill ensures that only individuals who meet federal standards and adhere to strict ethical requirements can charge for these services—protecting veterans from exploitation and reinforcing existing legal frameworks.

County Veterans Services Offices are available to assist with filing benefit claims and accessing other available services at no cost to the veteran. We remain committed partners in the author's efforts to assist veterans and help protect veterans from financial exploitation.

For these reasons, Contra Costa County supports SB 694. We commend your leadership on this important issue and respectfully urge support for this legislation to help protect veterans.

Sincerely,



CANDACE ANDERSEN

Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Monica Nino, County Administrator
Jami Morritt, Chief Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Josh Zebley, Contra Costa County Veterans Services Officer
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer