

April 15, 2026

**Bill Position Letter Sent**

1. AB 1934 (Bennett)--SUPPORT
2. AB 2208 (Stefani)--SUPPORT
3. AB 2215 (Calderon)--OPPOSE
4. AB 2231 (Ahrens)--SUPPORT
5. AB 2278 (Avila Farias)--SUPPORT
6. AB 2353 (Pacheco)--SUPPORT
7. SB 872 (McNerney)--SUPPORT
8. SB 959 (Grayson)--SUPPORT
9. SB 1145 (Grayson)--SUPPORT
10. SB 1157 (Archuleta)--SUPPORT
11. SB 1159 (Cabaldon)--SUPPORT
12. SB 1180 (Allen)--SUPPORT
13. SB 1422 (Durazo) SUPPORT

# 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 3, 2026

The Honorable Isaac Bryan  
Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 164  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1934 (Bennett) – State Fire Marshal: home hardening certification program implementation plan. – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Bryan:

As Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, I write to express our support for AB 1934 (Bennett) regarding a home hardening certification program. AB 1934 would require the State Fire Marshal's Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee to develop a home hardening certification program by January 1, 2028.

The certification program would identify home hardening measures, including defensible space, that can be voluntarily implemented during renovation and/or property improvement projects to substantially reduce the risk of loss during a fire and bring existing building stock into alignment with state building standards for wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas.

California local governments support the establishment of a statewide home hardening certification program because it would provide a clear, science-based standard for reducing wildfire risk to existing homes, strengthening community resilience while helping residents make informed investments in safety. A uniform certification would also improve eligibility for insurance incentives; however, property-level and communitywide wildfire risk mitigation efforts still need to be accounted for in insurance rates and formalized in an update to the Safer from Wildfires regulations.

By lowering structure loss during wildfires, home hardening ultimately protects lives and reduces the long-term public costs of disaster response and recovery.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 1934 and respectfully urge your support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,



DIANE BURGIS

Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
Monica Nino, County Administrator  
John Kopchik, Director of Department of Conservation and Development  
Aaron McAlister, Assistant Chief, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District  
Tracy Dutter, Assistant Chief, Contra Costa Fire Protection District  
Charles Stark, Assistant Chief, Contra Costa Fire Protection District  
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 7, 2026

The Honorable Mia Bonta  
Chair, Assembly Health Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 390  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2208 (Stefani) – Medi-Cal: cost sharing, retroactivity, and accessibility. – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Bonta:

As Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our County's support for AB 2208, which advances equity, financial protection, and improved access to care for Medi-Cal members statewide.

As counties continue to see firsthand the impacts of federal changes enacted under H.R. 1, AB 2208 provides essential safeguards for low-income residents who rely on Medi-Cal as their source of healthcare coverage. By capping cost-sharing at one cent for impacted beneficiaries, this bill ensures that families are not pushed into medical debt or delayed in seeking needed care due to unaffordable out-of-pocket costs. For many Californians living paycheck to paycheck, even modest out-of-pocket costs can lead to delayed treatment, worsening health conditions, or long-term financial strain. By establishing a one-cent cap, the bill ensures that no one must choose between necessary care and economic stability. This reform helps reduce financial barriers to care and promote preventive and timely health care access.

We also appreciate AB 2208's requirements for user-testing and accessibility improvements in system updates, including mobile reporting functionality and text message notifications. Ensuring that eligibility and enrollment systems are understandable, navigable, and user-friendly is critical to reducing churn and supporting efficient administration. AB 2208 helps ensure that families can understand, manage, and retain their coverage. These enhancements are particularly important for residents who rely on mobile devices as their primary means of accessing information or completing required reporting.

Finally, Contra Costa County strongly supports the bill's preservation of three months of state-funded retroactive Medi-Cal coverage. Retroactive coverage has proven to be a vital tool for stabilizing households during medical emergencies, reducing uncompensated care burdens on health providers, and ensuring continuity of care—particularly for residents who face administrative or technological challenges in completing enrollment processes.

For these reasons, Contra Costa County is pleased to support AB 2208 and respectfully urges the Legislature to advance this important measure.

Thank you for your leadership on behalf of California's most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,



DIANE BURGIS  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
Monica Nino, County Administrator  
Dr. Grant Colfax, Director of Health Services  
Dr. 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  
and  
County Administrator  
(925) 655-2075

April 9, 2026

The Honorable Assemblymember Papan, Chair  
California Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife  
1020 N Street, Suite 160  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2215 (Calderon) – Water rights: permits: State Water Project. – OPPOSE**

Dear Chair Papan and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our County's opposition to AB 2215, which would extend the time for the Department of Water Resources (Department) to complete construction work and apply water to beneficial use the State Water Project (SWP) water right permits to the year 2085.

This bill circumvents existing State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) regulatory authority to grant permit extension requests for good cause, including the extension request needed to operate the controversial Delta Tunnel (or Delta Conveyance Project), as currently proposed. The State Water Board's regulation of timely development of water rights according to permit terms, including grants of extensions where warranted, is necessary to the orderly management of water rights and protection of beneficial uses, especially given changing hydrologic conditions.

AB 2215 is very similar to the Budget Trailer Bill proposed by the Governor last year, which would have made the SWP water rights permanent. The Legislature wisely rejected that effort, but the Department and the State Water Contractors are making another attempt with a version that, instead of making the water rights permanent, extends the time to construct SWP projects and put water to beneficial use to 2085. This change would make SWP water rights subject to a completely different set of rules than any other water rights in the state. While others must show good cause to the State Water Board for their rights to be extended, the Department would be allowed to construct and expand its water rights decades after those time periods elapsed (in 2000 and 2009, respectively). This is unfair to other water users and moreover jeopardizes the health of the Bay Delta estuary.

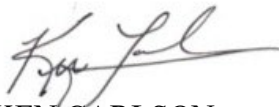
This change in law for the Department's water rights would also be contrary to public processes already underway to extend these same time periods. In January 2025, DWR submitted a petition to the State Water Board for an extension of time to complete construction and beneficial use to 2085. At that time, DWR indicated it would have a draft CEQA document by January 2026, but no document has yet been prepared. The ongoing Change in Point of Diversion Hearing process at the Administrative Hearings Office of the State Water Board that commenced in 2024 also

refers to and relies on the separate process the Department has undertaken to extend the time to construct and make beneficial use of SWP water that would be diverted into the proposed new Delta Tunnel intakes on the Sacramento River. With the hearing already in the Rebuttal phase, the participants have already relied upon the hearing issues as presented; a legislative decision to extend DWR's water rights permits would interfere with this ongoing hearing.

The statement in the bill that “it not be construed as an approval of any proposed modification of physical facilities of the State Water Project, including the Delta Conveyance Project” does nothing to allay our concerns. The Department currently lacks up to date SWP permits that would allow construction and operation of the Delta Tunnel, and under current law, the State Water Board has jurisdiction over this decision. AB 2215 would remove that requirement entirely. With the water rights being one of the final decisions on the Delta Tunnel by state agencies, a legislative decision to extend DWR's water rights permits would leave most of the remaining decisions on the project to the federal government.

For these reasons, Contra Costa County respectfully asks that this bill not be advanced out of your committee. There is every reason for the largest water rights decision in modern history to follow the normal public permit extension process. To provide a special legislative carveout for the SWP and the Delta Tunnel would be unfair not only to those communities most impacted by this megaproject, but also to water rights holders and applicants throughout the state that continue to be obliged to follow normal procedures.

Sincerely,



KEN CARLSON

Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
Monica Nino, County Administrator  
John Kopchik, Director of Conservation & Development Department  
Ryan Hernandez, Assistant Deputy Director of Conservation & Development Department  
Audrey Ratajczak, Cruz Strategies  
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 6, 2026

The Honorable Isaac Bryan  
Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 164  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2231 (Aherns) – California Environmental Quality Act: hospital projects. – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Bryan:

As Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our County's support for AB 2231. This legislation would provide a targeted CEQA exemption for urgently needed hospital construction projects in two cities, Santa Clara and Emeryville. This includes Sutter Health's planned medical campus in Emeryville, which is of particular importance to our county and the broader East Bay region.

AB 2231 would help expedite the development of the new Sutter Hospital off I-80 in Emeryville, which is intended to replace the aging Alta Bates Ashby campus in Berkeley. The Alta Bates Ashby campus is scheduled to close in 2030 due to seismic requirements. It is critical that a new facility is constructed to meet community needs in the East Bay. Alta Bates currently serves as a primary destination for emergency ambulance transport from West Contra Costa communities. These facilities already face regional capacity strain, and time is of the essence to ensure continuity of care.

By streamlining the environmental review process for these the new Sutter Hospital campus in Emeryville, AB 2231 would meaningfully reduce ambulance transport times for West County residents by several minutes, improving emergency response outcomes and preserving access to critical hospital services as Alta Bates winds down operations. The Emeryville location—immediately adjacent to I-80—offers a strategic improvement in proximity, reliability, and regional access.

Local stakeholders, including regional health partners and county leadership, have underscored the urgency of advancing this project to protect continuity of care and mitigate anticipated service gaps in the East Bay hospital network. AB 2231 is critical to our regional resilience and health system stability.

AB 2231 will help provide equitable access to emergency and acute-care services in the East Bay. Given the importance of this bill to providing access to emergency and acute-care services for Contra Costa County residents—particularly those in West County—we are pleased to support AB 2231.

Thank you for your leadership to ensure safe, modern, and accessible health care infrastructure for our communities.

Sincerely,



DIANE BURGIS

Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
Monica Nino, County Administrator  
Dr. Grant Colfax, Director of Health Services  
John Kopchik, Director of Conservation and 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

March 17, 2026

The Honorable Alex Lee  
Assembly Committee on Human Services  
1021 O Street, Suite 6330  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Leticia Castillo  
Assembly Committee on Human Services  
1021 O Street, Suite 4240  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2278 (Ávila Farías): In-home supportive services: County of Contra Costa: innovative technologies. – SUPPORT (County Sponsored Legislation)**

Dear Chair Lee and Vice Chair Castillo:

As Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I write to share our strong support for the County's sponsored legislation, AB 2278, authored by Assemblymember Ávila Farías. This legislation would authorize Contra Costa County to pilot innovative technologies to improve eligibility and enrollment processing times for the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program.

Counties across California are facing significant fiscal and administrative pressures driven by federal policy changes, recession indicators, and increasing unfunded mandates in social services programs. Contra Costa County, like many jurisdictions, carries substantial responsibility for IHSS administration and eligibility work and must also now absorb the costs of new Community First Choice Option (CFCO) Late Penalties.

Given these mounting pressures, AB 2278 provides a responsible, forward-looking solution. The bill would allow the County to test innovative technology tools that document and summarize IHSS in-home assessment interviews, enabling social workers to spend more time engaging with clients and less time completing administrative reporting. Importantly:

- All information used to make eligibility decisions would continue to be reviewed and approved by County workers.
- Tools would only be used with the informed consent of IHSS applicants.
- The pilot would run for five years, with required annual reporting to ensure transparency and accountability.

By streamlining aspects of the assessment and documentation process, this pilot aims to significantly reduce IHSS application processing times, improve the customer experience for some of our most vulnerable residents, and alleviate administrative burden for frontline staff—without compromising program integrity or client protections.

AB 2278 provides an opportunity to strategically redirect funds that would otherwise be lost to federal CFCO penalties, allowing those resources to instead support meaningful improvements in local service delivery. This flexibility is essential for maintaining a strong and responsive IHSS program during a period of unprecedented fiscal strain.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to California's IHSS recipients and the workers who support them.

For these reasons, Contra Costa County is pleased to support AB 2278, and we respectfully request your favorable consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,



DIANE BURGIS  
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. Marla Stuart, Director of Employment & Human Services Department  
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 3, 2026

The Honorable Mia Bonta  
Chair, Assembly Health Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 390  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **RE: AB 2353 (Pacheco) – Health Mandates Review Program. – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Bonta:

As Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for AB 2353, which would establish a Health Mandates Review Program to provide legislators with additional hospital-specific information before they make decisions about adding to an increasingly unsustainable burden on hospitals.

Over the next couple years, Contra Costa County will be forced to endure major Medi-Cal cuts and, at the same time, care for surging numbers of uninsured and underinsured patients because of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA or H.R. 1). This is happening as the cost of providing care is projected to continue to increase due to a variety of demographic and economic factors.

The risk of losing access to critical health care services for Californians has never been greater. In the past three years, two hospitals in California have been forced to close. Another 22 have had to shutter maternity units just to stay afloat, leaving 12 counties wholly without maternity care. Thousands of health care workers lost jobs in 2025 alone. Today, dozens more hospitals are facing similar grim choices, with more than 40 at significant short-term risk of closure. Statewide, 44% of hospitals have operating margins in the red, relying on uncertain investment income just to stay afloat, as operating expenses for California hospitals collectively exceed patient care revenues by \$2.8 billion a year.

The cost of providing health care continues to rise exponentially. Labor costs — the largest share of hospital spending on care — have increased 51% since 2019, more than twice the rate of general inflation. Protection of hospitals' ability to care for patients is needed now, more than ever. One way to do that at the state level is to help ensure that proposed legislation that places new mandates on hospitals strikes the right balance of providing meaningful benefits to patients, health care workers, and communities without reducing access to vital services or, in the worst cases, jeopardizing a hospital's viability entirely. While this type of independent, in-depth analysis is currently provided for any new mandates on health plans, there is no such process for mandates on hospitals.

AB 2353 would provide legislators with additional, hospital-specific information before they make decisions about adding to an increasingly unsustainable burden on hospitals. Without enhanced clarity of the costs and benefits of any new mandate, the cumulative effect of rising costs will undoubtedly leave more Californians in health care “deserts,” unable to access the lifesaving and life-changing care they need and deserve — not to mention the devastating consequences of service reductions, layoffs, and hospital closures. Through this legislation, a new independent agency — the “Health Mandates Review Program” — would analyze the costs, savings, risks, and benefits of pending legislation that would impose new mandates on hospitals. This holds the potential to help all hospitals preserve access and quality in the face of unprecedented challenges, and ultimately to help hold the cost of health care in check for all Californians.

Regulation plays an important role in protecting the safety, quality, and accessibility of hospital care, and the invaluable health care workers who make care delivery possible. However, any new regulations must be considered in the light of current pressures and the objective impact that new mandates would have on our ability to sustain access to affordable care.

AB 2353 would:

- Task an entity independent from the state Legislature to review and analyze introduced legislation that places new and/or additional requirements on hospitals. Such analyses would include the anticipated impacts on health care cost, access, safety, and quality.
- Leverage the expertise of experienced academic researchers to perform these analyses, similar to the current review of health plan and insurer mandate legislation under the California Health Benefits Review Program (CHBRP).
- Help ensure lawmakers have enhanced information on decisions that will affect a fragile health care system that is struggling today to meet Californians’ needs.

As with other sectors of California’s economy, the state’s health care system is at its breaking point. The effects of H.R. 1, which delivered the largest Medicaid cuts in the nation’s history, cannot be overstated. In this uncertain and deeply concerning environment, state lawmakers must take enhanced precautions when handing down new, unfunded mandates.

This bill is critical to preserve access to health care in light of historic federal health care cuts while also improving affordability for Californians. For these reasons, Contra Costa County requests your support for AB 2353.

Sincerely,



DIANE BURGIS

Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
Monica Nino, County Administrator  
Dr. Grant Colfax, Director of Health Services  
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer

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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 2, 2026

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear  
Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 3230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Josh Becker  
Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 3220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 872 (McNerney): Climate change: funding priorities. – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Blakespear and Chair Becker:

On behalf of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I write to share our County's strong support for SB 872, authored by Senator Jerry McNerney.

This legislation represents a collaborative approach to one of California's most complex challenges: water supply security and flood control. Rather than perpetuating historic regional conflicts through controversial proposals, this bill holds the potential to bring together stakeholders from the Delta, agriculture, urban water agencies, and environmental interests around projects with shared statewide benefits. While Contra Costa County, in coordination with the Delta Counties Coalition (DCC), has long-advocated for mutually supportable water supply reliability solutions, such proposals have remained difficult to encapsulate in legislation. SB 872 can accomplish this feat.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and the State Water Project (SWP) together form California's primary water supply system, providing a portion of the water supply for up to 27 million people, and businesses and farms across the Central Valley, the Bay Area, and Southern California, while sustaining a unique and vital ecosystem in the five counties that we represent. Protecting this system is essential for the Delta region, and for the economic and environmental well-being of the entire state.

The Delta's 1,100 miles of levees provide critical flood protection for more than 500,000 residents, as well as farms, infrastructure, and local economies. These levees also safeguard the state's freshwater supply. Ongoing levee maintenance and improvements are critical to protecting communities, food supply and water supply, as well as statewide important infrastructure now and in the future.

At the same time, land subsidence in the Central Valley is severely impacting the State Water Project. Over-pumping of groundwater has caused sections of the California Aqueduct to sink, reducing conveyance capacity and threatening the system's reliability. Beginning to address subsidence now through this measure will help prevent more costly emergency fixes, protect

ratepayers, and maintain reliable water deliveries from existing water infrastructure in the Delta to communities and farms throughout California.

As mandated in the Delta Reform Act in 2009, actions taken in the Delta must meet the co-equal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for the state and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem, while protecting the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta. SB 872 will do this. This measure provides a practical solution that fairly addresses both needs specific to the Delta, and the broader statewide water delivery system. The proposed \$300 million annual allocation from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund over 20 years will strengthen California's core water infrastructure, starting now.

These investments will enhance climate resilience, protect communities from flooding, maintain water supply reliability, and help avoid significant future water rate increases at a time when Californians are already facing rising energy, food, and housing costs.

For the Delta region, strengthening levees is not only a matter of infrastructure—it is a matter of public safety, economic stability, and environmental protection. Contra Costa County and the Delta Counties support this effort.

For these reasons, Contra Costa County is pleased to support SB 872, and looks forward to working together with you and other stakeholders as this bill advances through the legislative process.

Sincerely,



DIANE BURGIS

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  
Ryan Hernandez, Director of the Contra Costa Water Agency  
Audrey Ratajczak, Partner at Cruz Strategies  
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

March 3, 2026

The Honorable Sasha Renée Pérez  
Senate Committee on Education  
1021 O Street, Suite 6740  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 959 (Grayson): Average daily attendance: emergencies: major safety hazard. – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Pérez:

As Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, I write to share our support for SB 959, authored by Senator Tim Grayson. This legislation would authorize local fire agencies to determine when a school faces an imminent danger, warranting the cancellation of classes. The bill would also clarify that schools would not lose average daily attendance (ADA) funding when classes are canceled due to the imminence of a major safety hazard, as determined by the local fire agency.

California has experienced an unprecedented rise in the frequency and severity of wildfires as the state faces the new reality of a year-round fire season. In response to recent devastating wildfires, the Legislature has acted to both rebuild affected communities and bolster mitigation efforts, however, more must be done to ensure that communities have every tool to respond to fire danger appropriately.

One area where there remains a gap in current law is in the Education Code, which currently lists fire as one of the emergency instances where a school may cancel classes and not lose out on ADA funding. The statute, however, is not clear on whether schools would lose out on this crucial funding if proactive action is taken to protect students and faculty through a school closure out of prudent caution, due to eminent fire danger.

Current law provides that a school may cancel classes and receive ADA funds if there is imminence of a major safety hazard as determined by the local law enforcement agency. However, conversations with local law enforcement, fire officials, and school administrators note that local fire agencies—who may be best suited to make these determinations—do not have the authority to do so. SB 959 will address that gap in current law.

Additionally, many schools are in residential neighborhoods and closing them when there is an imminent fire would allow for residents to evacuate more quickly and firefighters to safely enter areas where there is limited ingress and egress—leading to broader community safety.

This update to the law will ensure that school districts will not lose ADA funding if they err on the side of student and community safety in the face of an imminent wildfire. Including fire agencies in this vital decision-making process has the potential to save the lives of students, teachers, and school personnel by keeping them out of harm's way when their campuses are threatened by potential wildfires.

For these reasons, Contra Costa County and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District are pleased to support SB 959, and we respectfully request your favorable consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,



DIANE BURGIS

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  
Lewis Broschard, Chief of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District  
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 3, 2026

The Honorable Tim Grayson  
1021 O Street, Suite 7250  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1145 (Grayson) – California Environmental Quality Act: surplus land disposal requirements: exemption. – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Grayson:

As Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for SB 1145, which provides important procedural streamlining under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the federal base closure and realignment process to facilitate redevelopment within the Concord Reuse Project Area Plan.

The Concord Naval Weapons Station represents one of the most significant community redevelopment and economic development opportunities in the East Bay. For nearly two decades, the City of Concord—acting as the Local Reuse Authority—has undertaken extensive public engagement, rigorous land-use planning, and comprehensive environmental review under both CEQA and NEPA. This work produced a transformative vision: more than 10,000 new homes, with 25% dedicated as affordable housing, approximately 6.1 million square feet of job-creating commercial space, new schools, parks, sports facilities, and extensive open space areas.

Despite this substantial groundwork, the implementation phase remains vulnerable to procedural delays, serial CEQA litigation, and administrative record challenges—risks that could slow or jeopardize urgently needed housing, economic development, and infrastructure improvements for our region. SB 1145 directly addresses this problem by providing targeted streamlining for qualifying projects that remain consistent with the environmental analyses already completed. Importantly, the bill does not exempt projects from CEQA, but rather allows the community to benefit from the comprehensive review previously performed.

SB 1145 is a responsible and essential measure that will help ensure timely delivery of housing, including deeply needed affordable housing, along with sustainable development, workforce opportunities, and long-planned community amenities. These outcomes are vital not only for Concord but for the broader Contra Costa County and East Bay region.

For these reasons, Contra Costa County is pleased to support SB 1145. Thank you for your leadership on this important legislation.

Sincerely,



DIANE BURGIS

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 Conservation and Development  
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer

# The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building  
1025 Escobar St., 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
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**John Gioia**, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
**Candace Andersen**, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
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# Contra Costa County



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

April 6, 2026

The Honorable Bob Archuleta  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Room 6620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **RE: SB 1157 (Archuleta) – Juveniles: secure youth treatment facilities. – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Archuleta:

As Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, we are pleased to support Senate Bill 1157, which would close critical gaps created by the closure of state youth facilities. Specifically, SB 1157 authorizes county probation departments to refer youth in a county Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) to the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) for specialized care and establishes a safety framework for specified Less Restrictive Programs (LRPs).

SB 823 (2020) realigned the entirety of California's juvenile justice system to counties. Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTFs) and Less Restrictive Programs (LRPs) were established as part of Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) closure and associated transfer of supervisory and detention authority of DJJ youth and DJJ qualifying youth to counties.

SB 1157 provides similar tools to counties that DJJ previously had for addressing high level mental health referrals to the Department of State Hospitals. While this population is relatively small, the impact to the youth and our facilities is enormous when a youth is in crisis.

This statutory authority is necessary as, while infrequent, there are instances where a youth's behavioral health needs are so significant as to require treatment beyond the scope of what is available in juvenile detention facilities, and which may only be adequately and appropriately provided in a locked behavioral health facility.

Additionally, less restrictive programs (LRPs) are a new statutory creation as part of the DJJ closure and shift of responsibility to counties. While a youth may be stepped down into an LRP, the jurisdiction remains with probation as this is part of the court ordered detention baseline term within the WIC 875 continuum. As youth progress through their programming and they meet substantial progress, the court may order a less restrictive program that may be in a community setting.

Despite the establishment of LRPs as an option for courts to consider upon progress of a youth, statute does not establish a framework when the program is for a residential setting when that setting is not otherwise governed or regulated by a government or public entity. Because these programs are part of the term of secure detention, and not a part of post jurisdiction or release, it's critical that there is a framework in place to set programming expectations, safety considerations, and liability concerns for programs serving the highest risk and highest need youth and young adults in the state.

Without these most basic criteria, counties, courts, and other stakeholders may not have the confidence necessary to utilize this tool. SB 1157 simply requires the court to determine that specified LRP operators adhere to the young person's case plan and accountability measures, provide training to their staff and perform staff background checks, obtain appropriate insurance, have provided notice to the city and county in which it operates, and meet state and local zoning and land use requirements.

These criteria are necessary as LRPs are serving individuals who are the highest need and who have committed the most serious offenses within the juvenile justice system and, in the instances outlined in SB 1157, have been permitted by the court to serve the remainder of their baseline term in the community.

For these reasons, Contra Costa County is pleased to support Senate Bill 1157. This legislation will help resolve unaddressed issues resulting from the enactment of the closure of the Division of Juvenile Justice and ensure that mental health services and programmatic frameworks are in place to best serve these youth and young adults and the safety of the community.

Sincerely,



DIANE BURGIS

Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
Monica Nino, County Administrator  
Esa Ehmen-Krause, Chief of Probation  
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer

# The Board of Supervisors

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# Contra Costa County



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

April 3, 2026

The Honorable Christopher Cabaldon  
Chair, Senate Committee on Privacy, Digital Technologies, and Consumer Protection  
1020 N Street, Room 568  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1159 (Cabaldon) – Artificial intelligence: transparency and governance. – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Cabaldon:

As Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for SB 1159 (Cabaldon), which would put important safeguards in place to protect the ability of the public to comment on matters before local agencies in an age of quickly-evolving Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology.

California's open meeting and open governance laws are intended to not only allow the public to observe deliberations about issues that will affect their communities, but to participate as well. Local agencies accept public comment on matters both on the agenda and off. Technology has been a powerful tool to make public participation more accessible than ever, as agendas and the time and location of public meetings are posted online. Those unable to comment or observe in person are able to follow along online or submit written comments via email or web portal.

However, emerging AI and Large Language Model (LLM) tools have now made it easier than ever for bad actors to misrepresent public opinion in governance decisions. For example, multiple media outlets reported in June 2025 that a political consultant used AI tools to generate twenty thousand emails to the South Coast Air Quality Management District regarding a regulatory proposal before the board. The AI-generated emails purported to be from members of the public in South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction. However, many of the people who allegedly signed these emails stated that they were not aware of authorizing these messages.

Automated engagement tools have the capacity to create fictitious messages that crowd out the voices of actual members of the public. In doing so, AI can undermine the intent of California's transparent governance laws. Clarifying how these laws apply in the context of emerging technologies, particularly distinguishing between authentic public input and activity generated at scale by artificial intelligence systems, represents an important step toward protecting meaningful public participation, open governance, and critical staff resources for local agencies.

With thoughtful refinement, SB 1159 will help address these challenges in a way that is both effective and implementable as technology continues to evolve quickly.

We greatly appreciate your attention to this emerging challenge and that you are prioritizing the importance of safeguarding meaningful public participation in local governance. We are also grateful for your willingness to collaborate with partners, including counties, to ensure the bill's intent is clear and effective, while remaining workable and practical for local agencies to implement.

For these reasons, Contra Costa County is pleased to support SB 1159. We thank you for your leadership on these emerging issues.

Sincerely,



DIANE BURGIS

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  
Marc Shorr, Director, Department of Information Technology  
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer

# The Board of Supervisors

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# Contra Costa County



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

April 3, 2026

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear  
Chair, Senate Committee on Environmental Quality  
1021 O Street, Suite 3230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1180 (Allen) – Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility  
Act: California Plastic Pollution Mitigation Fund. – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Blakespear:

As Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for SB 1180 (Allen) regarding California's Plastic Pollution Mitigation Fund.

Senate Bill 54 (Allen, 2022) is a landmark Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law that fundamentally reshapes how California addresses plastic pollution by requiring producers to reduce single-use packaging, ensure materials are recyclable or compostable, and finance the full lifecycle management of their products rather than shifting costs to local governments and taxpayers. The measure also created the Plastic Pollution Mitigation Fund to provide \$500 million annually for ten years, paid for by plastic resin manufacturers, to address the environmental, public health, and ecological harms caused by plastic pollution.

SB 1180 would expand the definition of eligible fund recipients beyond those listed in SB 54 to include public agencies, nonprofit organizations, special districts, joint powers authorities, public utilities, local publicly owned utilities, and mutual water companies.

The bill would further improve the effective deployment of these funds by mandating implementing agencies to provide technical assistance, use standardized simplified grant applications, initiate projects in a timely manner, provide advance payment, and reimburse grantees' indirect costs.

SB 1180 would also require each expenditure from the fund to achieve specific purposes, including improving public or environmental health and engaging relevant communities in project planning, development, and implementation, and would establish reporting and transparency measures.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support SB 1180.

Sincerely,



DIANE BURGIS

Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
Monica Nino, County Administrator  
John Kopchik, Director of Department of Conservation and Development  
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer

# The Board of Supervisors

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# Contra Costa County



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

March 31, 2026

The Honorable Akilah Weber Pierson  
Chair, Senate Health Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 3310  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **RE: SB 1422 (Durazo): Medi-Cal: eligibility: immigration status. – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Weber Pierson:

As Chair of the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, I write to share our support for SB 1422 (Durazo) to restore enrollment access to full-scope Medi-Cal for undocumented adults ages 19 and older starting January 1, 2027.

In recent years, California expanded health coverage regardless of immigration status, recognizing that broader access to preventive care strengthens public health and economic stability. As a result, the state now celebrates our lowest uninsured rate in its history — approximately 6 percent. This effort has helped around 1.5 million undocumented Californians improve their health by providing access to Full-Scope Medi-Cal. Immigrant children who reported being in excellent health increased by 10% after the expansion. Through these expansions, undocumented Californians can access preventative care and no longer have to postpone treatment or delay care for chronic medical conditions.

Undocumented Californians contribute approximately \$8.5 billion annually in state and local taxes. They have higher labor force participation rates than native-born residents and work in the industries Californians rely on every day — building housing and infrastructure, harvesting crops that fill grocery stores, staffing hotels and restaurants, manufacturing and moving goods, caring for children and elders, and maintaining homes and businesses throughout the state.

The 2025–26 State Budget froze Medi-Cal enrollment for undocumented adults 19 years and older. Individuals who would normally be eligible for care, or have lost care for any number of paperwork reasons, are being told they no longer qualify. Otherwise, eligible adults in this population are now receiving denial notices. The freeze does not eliminate health needs. Instead, it shifts costs to counties, hospitals, and emergency departments while increasing instability for working families. Counties and hospitals are simultaneously preparing for increased uncompensated care resulting from federal Medi-Cal eligibility changes under H.R. 1. Annual county costs are projected to range from \$2 to \$5.5 billion. Over ten years, hospitals are projected to accrue up to \$83 billion in uncompensated care.

Overall, Medi-Cal coverage to immigrant Californians has helped the state create a more effective public health system and achieve a record low uninsured rate. As Medi-Cal expanded, counties were able to scale down indigent care programs, reducing local fiscal burden and stabilizing hospitals and safety-net systems

statewide. Expanded coverage improved workforce participation and strengthened continuity of care. Undocumented participants who had access to preventative care had lower rates of avoidable emergency department visits for most conditions and lower rates of hospitalization following emergency department visits among older adults. These findings demonstrate that stable primary care reduces costly and preventable hospital utilization.

For these reasons, Contra Costa County is proud to support SB 1422 (Durazo) and we urge your support of efforts to restore and expand health care coverage to more Californians.

Sincerely,



DIANE BURGIS  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
Monica Nino, County Administrator  
Dr. Grant Colfax, Director of Contra Costa Health Services  
Dr. Marla Stuart, Director of Employment and Human Services  
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer