

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

June 9, 2026

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

RE: AB 922 (Irwin and Wilson) Disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation device: prohibition. – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Blakespear:

As Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our County's support for AB 762 (Irwin and Wilson), which seeks to ban the sale of single-use disposable vaporizer products in California. This critical legislation addresses the alarming environmental, safety, and public health risks posed by these hazardous products, protecting our communities, waste infrastructure, and natural ecosystems from their destructive impact.

Single-use vapes contain embedded lithium-ion batteries, making them not only an unsustainable source of electronic waste but also a significant fire hazard. When improperly discarded—as is often the case—these devices ignite fires in garbage cans, collection trucks, and material recovery facilities (MRFs). These lithium-ion battery fires can reach temperatures of up to 1200°C—equivalent to a welding torch—causing rapid and uncontrollable blazes. The U.K. has already linked disposable vape waste to a staggering 77% increase in waste facility fires over the last year alone. California waste and recycling operators are facing a similar crisis, with escalating fire risks and increased costs in managing this hazardous waste.

Beyond safety concerns, single-use vapes contribute to an egregious waste of valuable resources. The lithium discarded in these devices annually could otherwise power over 2,600 electric vehicles, underscoring the reckless depletion of critical materials. Additionally, the mining and manufacturing of lithium and cobalt—key components of vape batteries—exacerbate environmental degradation and perpetuate environmental justice issues in vulnerable communities.

Disposable vapes are rapidly becoming a dominant form of electronic litter, contaminating highways, parks, and beaches. The Marine Conservation Society reports that these products are now routinely found along coastlines, where they pose an immediate threat to marine life. Unlike cigarette butts, which take up to ten years to degrade, single-use vapes introduce long-lasting toxic pollutants into ecosystems, including residual nicotine, lead, and mercury, which can leach into soil and waterways.

The vast majority of consumers—72%—are unaware that these devices cannot be disposed of in standard recycling or garbage streams. The absence of a standardized, effective collection and recycling process means that single-use vapes are resulting in toxic waste. The current status quo places the burden on local governments and waste management operators, forcing them to treat these hazardous materials at exorbitant costs.

Disposable vapes have driven a troubling surge in youth nicotine addiction. According to recent CDC data, 14.1% of high school students and 3.3% of middle school students report using e-cigarettes, with a staggering 57.2% of high school users and 45.8% of middle school users favoring disposable vape products. Over 84.8% of teen users report using flavored vapes, including fruit, candy, and menthol varieties, further entrenching nicotine dependence.

Emerging research reveals that disposable vapes expose users to heightened levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and toxic metals such as nickel, cadmium, mercury, and chromium—compounds linked to increased risks of cancer, cardiopulmonary disease, and neurological disorders. This growing body of evidence underscores the urgent need for intervention to protect public health, particularly among vulnerable youth populations.

California has long been a leader in environmental protection and consumer safety, and this bill aligns with global momentum to eliminate single-use disposable vapes. Countries including the U.K., France, Belgium, New Zealand, and Vietnam have already taken decisive action against these products, recognizing the irreversible harm they cause. California must act now to prevent further environmental degradation, public health crises, and economic burdens associated with their unregulated disposal.

For the sake of our environment, public health, and waste infrastructure, we urge you to support AB 762 and move it forward in the legislative process. We appreciate your leadership in tackling this urgent issue and stand ready to support these efforts.

Sincerely,



DIANE BURGIS

Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Assemblymember Lori Wilson, Assembly District 11
Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Monica Nino, County Administrator
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer

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May 27, 2026

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
1021 O Street, Suite 8210
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2216 (Aguiar-Curry) Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy. – Amendments Requested

Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry:

As Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request amendments to AB 2216. We support the intent of the bill to expand and update the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Delta Conservancy) to cover the remaining portions of the Delta counties by creating a Valley Program and better serve its current jurisdiction in the legal Delta and Suisun Marsh.

As a Delta County, we respectfully request that the bill is amended to include the non-Delta portions of Contra Costa County to ensure that the bill effectively carries out this goal. Additionally, we recommend adding declaratory language to affirm that the intent of this effort is not to divert critical funding away from Delta Conservancy activities.

Since its creation in 2010, the Delta Conservancy has consistently worked with local communities to identify shared objectives and develop locally supported priority projects that provide a statewide benefit. AB 2216 will expand the areas receiving those benefits, supporting greater watershed scale projects and new sources of funding. The Delta Conservancy has provided over \$130 million in state and federal funding for more than 140 projects that improve recreation opportunities, drive tourism, fund locally backed restoration and climate resilient programs and support Delta agriculture.

AB 2216 would benefit the areas the Delta Conservancy already serves by clarifying its ability to fund on-farm activities that contribute to wildlife habitat, provide grants for workforce development and to tribal organizations and support funding of underserved groups.

Contra Costa County is uniquely positioned at the intersection of the Valley, the Delta, and the Coast. Accordingly, the following amendments are requested to reflect this:

1. Section 32310 (j): “Valley” means the lands within the Counties of Yolo, Sacramento, Solano, San Joaquin and Contra Costa that are outside of the Delta.”

2. We also respectfully suggest adding a new finding under Section 3 to ensure that these actions do not detract from or otherwise dilute funding directed towards the Delta Conservancy, and to ensure the same standards of accountability apply towards the new Valley Conservancy Program.

We appreciate the intent of this legislation and respectfully offer these amendments to ensure that this legislation effectively carries out its stated goals.

Thank you for considering these amendments, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



DIANE BURGIS

Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Monica Nino, County Administrator
John Kopchik, Director of Conservation and Development
Ryan Hernandez, Manager of the Contra Costa Water Agency
Abigail Fateman, Executive Director of the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy
Audrey Ratajczak, Cruz Strategies

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June 9, 2026

The Honorable Josh Becker
Senate Human Services Committee
1020 N Street, Room 521
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2278 (Ávila Farías): In-home supportive services: Community First Choice Option program: noncompliance penalties. – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Becker:

As Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for AB 2278, authored by Assemblymember Ávila Farías. This bill would require the Department of Social Services to prepare and submit a report to the Legislature on late penalty payments associated with the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Community First Choice Option (CFCO) program. These penalties take away resources needed for service provision and process improvement.

Under federal law, the CFCO program authorizes states to provide home- and community-based attendant services to eligible Medicaid enrollees, with federal financial participation available to states that provide these services. State law establishes the IHSS program, administered by the Department of Social Services and counties, to allow qualified aged, blind, or disabled residents to remain safely in their homes.

State law also requires the state and counties to share annual IHSS costs according to a defined formula. All counties must maintain a rebased IHSS Maintenance of Effort (MOE), which is adjusted for the annualized cost of increases in provider wages, health benefits, or other prescribed benefits. Beginning July 1, 2026, new law enacted in the FY 2025–26 State Budget requires counties to pay—separate from the rebased MOE—the full amount of any enhanced federal funding lost due to noncompliance with timely CFCO reassessments. In Contra Costa County, these penalties were projected to approach nearly \$5 million annually.

Over the past year, Contra Costa County has implemented significant changes to improve CFCO recertification processing times, including opening an additional unit and hiring more staff. However, these improvements require sustained investment, and the penalties themselves divert resources that would otherwise support these essential functions.

Resources are limited. When counties must absorb late-processing penalties, funds are redirected away from service enhancements and operational improvements. While we are seeing progress in CFCO redetermination timelines, these gains often come at the expense of processing efficiency for other critical programs.

During a period of unprecedented fiscal strain resulting from H.R. 1 and other factors, the new penalties are creating another undue fiscal pressure that takes away from direct service delivery. Given these mounting pressures, AB 2278 provides a responsible solution. Through the reporting established by AB 2278, this problem can be better understood and addressed in a way that meets the needs of California's most vulnerable residents.

For these reasons, Contra Costa County is pleased to support AB 2278, and we respectfully request your favorable consideration of this legislation. Thank you for your continued commitment to California's IHSS recipients and the workers who support them.

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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June 8, 2026

The Honorable Juan Carrillo
Chair, Assembly Committee on Local Government
1020 N Street, Room 157
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 922 (Laird) Vehicles: local agency charges: use of streets or highways. – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Carrillo:

As Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our County's support for SB 922 (Laird), which would clarify and reaffirm long-standing practices related to recovering the cost of street maintenance and repair associated with providing essential public services.

Local streets and roads are critical infrastructure that support daily community needs across California. Essential public services, including garbage, recycling, and green waste collection, rely on the regular and frequent use of local streets by heavy service vehicles. These vehicles are vital to protecting public health and environmental quality, and their routine operation necessarily contributes to pavement wear and roadway deterioration over time.

For decades, local governments and service providers, including waste haulers, have worked collaboratively under established rates, fees, and franchise agreements to account for these impacts as part of delivering essential services.

These arrangements are familiar, transparent, and predictable, and they allow service providers to operate efficiently while ensuring that local streets remain safe and functional for the communities we mutually serve.

Recently, a court decision created uncertainty around these long-standing practices. As a result, existing service-related cost recovery mechanisms are being challenged, placing street maintenance funding at risk and creating uncertainty for both local governments and the service providers that rely on well-maintained roads to deliver essential services.

SB 922 would address this uncertainty by clarifying that restrictions on local road charges apply only to weight-based charges imposed for the privilege of using streets or highways. The bill further makes clear that fees associated with providing public services may continue to include recovery of street maintenance and repair costs related to those services. By reaffirming existing practices, SB 922 would restore clarity, reduce unnecessary litigation, and provide greater certainty for local agencies and service providers alike.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support SB 922 and respectfully request your “aye” vote on this legislation.

Sincerely,



DIANE BURGIS

Chair, Board of Supervisors

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