

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2024, 9:00 AM
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, ROOM 310
1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Order Of Business

- A. Roll Call
- B. Statement (just cause) and/or Consideration of a Request to Participate Remotely (emergency circumstances) by a Supervisor, if applicable.
- C. Invocation
- D. Pledge of Allegiance
- E. Presentation or Announcement of Proclamations and Awards
- F. Non-Agenda Public Communication: Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Board on any subject matter within the Board's jurisdiction but not an item on today's agenda.
- G. Approval of the Statement of Proceedings/Minutes for the meeting of June 25, 2024.
- H. Consent Calendar
- I. Discussion Items
- J. Board Member Committee Updates. This is an opportunity for Members of the Board to provide informational updates on their committee assignments. No action may be taken.

NOTICE: THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE ANY ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THE ITEMS INCLUDED ON THIS AGENDA. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY COUNTY STAFF DO NOT LIMIT ACTIONS THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD NOT RELY UPON THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE BOARD LETTER AS DETERMINATIVE OF THE ACTION THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE ON A PARTICULAR MATTER.

Supporting documentation and attachments for items listed on this agenda can be viewed online at www.sandiegocob.com or in the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at the County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 402, San Diego, CA 92101. To access the meeting virtually and offer public comment via a call-in option, please go to: www.sandiegocounty.gov/telecomments for instructions.

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LANGUAGE TRANSLATION ASSISTANCE:

Language translation services for public speakers are available upon request to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at least 72 hours prior to the meeting (refer to Board Policy A-139 for additional information). Please contact the Clerk of the Board's office at (619) 531-5434 or via e-mail at publiccomment@sdcounty.ca.gov.

LEVINE ACT NOTICE: DISCLOSURES REQUIRED ON SPECIFIED ITEMS (GOVERNMENT CODE § 84308)

The Levine Act states that parties to any proceeding involving a license, permit or other entitlement for use pending before the Board must disclose on the record of the proceeding any campaign contributions of more than \$250 (aggregated) made by the parties or their agents to Board Members within the preceding 12 months. Participants with financial interests, and agents of either parties or participants, are requested to disclose such contributions also. The disclosure must include the name of the party or participant and any other person making the contribution; the name of the recipient; the amount of the contribution; and the date the contribution was made. This disclosure can be made orally during the proceeding or in writing on a request to speak.

Board of Supervisors' Agenda Items

| Category | # | Subject |
|-----------------|----------|--|
| Public Safety | 1. | INCORPORATING THE CURRENT SAN DIEGO COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN INTO THE SAFETY ELEMENT OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO'S GENERAL PLAN AND CEQA EXEMPTION |
| | 2. | ADDRESSING INEQUITIES IN FIRE PROTECTION IN COMMUNITIES SERVED BY UNDERFUNDED FIRE DISTRICTS |
| | 3. | SHERIFF - RATIFICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS FROM THE SAN DIEGO HONORARY DEPUTY SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION AND EL CAJON ANIMAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION AND SERVICES |
| | 4. | SINGLE SOURCE AUTHORITY TO RENEW CONTRACT WITH AXIALLON SOFTWARE, INC. FOR PROBATION CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES [FUNDING SOURCE: EXISTING GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE] |

5. ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDING; ADOPT RESOLUTION; AND REQUEST TO ISSUE COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION FOR THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES CORPS PROGRAM [FUNDING SOURCE: GRANT FROM THE CALIFORNIA EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT]
6. ACCEPTANCE OF A DONATION FROM THE BURN INSTITUTE [FUNDING SOURCE: DONATION FROM THE BURN INSTITUTE]
- Health and Human Services 7. AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT FUNDING FOR TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL AND TREATMENT, AND REFUGEE HEALTH ASSESSMENT SERVICES, AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS MEDICATION, AND AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES [FUNDING SOURCES: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, EXISTING REALIGNMENT AND THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH]
- Land Use and Environment 8. AMEND PO#566069 AT&T WIFI SERVICES [FUNDING SOURCE: THE LIBRARY FUND]
- Financial and General Government 9. GENERAL SERVICES - APPROVAL OF FIRST AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY, 8765 FLETCHER PARKWAY, LA MESA, AND NOTICE OF EXEMPTION [FUNDING SOURCE: SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATIVE REVENUE AND REALIGNMENT]
10. GENERAL SERVICES - APPROVAL OF LEASE AMENDMENTS FOR THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE AND NOTICES OF EXEMPTION [FUNDING SOURCE: EXISTING GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE]
11. RECEIVE STATE FUNDING FOR SUPPORT OF THE PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY GARDEN AND GATHERING SPACE [FUNDING SOURCE: UNANTICIPATED REVENUE FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY, DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION OFFICE OF GRANTS AND LOCAL SERVICES (OGALS)] (4 VOTES)
- Appointments 12. APPOINTMENTS: VARIOUS
- Communications Received 13. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED
- Financial and General Government 14. A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TO SUPPORT THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS’ 2024 REPARATIONS LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

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|----------------------------------|-----|--|
| Health and Human Services | 15. | RECEIVE AND ACCEPT THE PRELIMINARY REPORT INCREASING MEDI-CAL REIMBURSEMENT RATES TO IMPROVE HEALTHCARE FOR NEARLY 1 MILLION SAN DIEGANS [FUNDING SOURCE: ONE-TIME GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED IN THE MARCH 12, 2024 (13) BOARD ACTIONS WHICH INCLUDED APPROXIMATELY \$1.5 MILLION IN TOTAL FUNDING FOR THIS INITIATIVE] |
| Financial and General Government | 16. | AFFIRMATIVE LITIGATION AGAINST SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES FOR THEIR ROLE IN THE YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS |
| | 17. | FIGHTING BACK AGAINST CORPORATE HOMEBUYERS AND WALL STREET LANDLORDS |
| Public Safety | 18. | AUTHORIZE COMPETITIVE SOLICITATIONS FOR INTERIM HOUSING AND REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIANS SERVICES |
| Financial and General Government | 19. | INCLUDING THE IMPACT OF COST-OF-LIVING DIFFERENTIALS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY AS A PART OF COMPENSATION ANALYSIS FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES |
| Public Safety | 20. | RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE EXPLORATION OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCING PROBATION STAFF WELLNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH |
| Health and Human Services | 21. | AUTHORIZE AND APPROVE ACTIONS RELATED TO COMPASSIONATE EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS AND PATHWAYS TO HOUSING PROJECTS WHICH MAY INCLUDE ESTABLISHING APPROPRIATIONS, EXECUTING LEASE, CONTRACT AMENDMENTS FOR EMERGENCY HOUSING SITES, ADMINISTERING THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK CONTRACT AND RELATED CEQA EXEMPTIONS [FUNDING SOURCE: OPERATING TRANSFER IN FROM HHSA BASED ON ARPA FUNDS OFFSET BY ANY ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDING MADE AVAILABLE] (4 VOTES) |
| | 22. | RECEIVE UPDATE ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CAPITAL FACILITY PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR PROPOSITION 1 INFRASTRUCTURE BOND FUNDING AND AUTHORIZE GRANT SUBMISSIONS, AND AUTHORIZE A FORMAL PROCESS TO ISSUE LETTERS OF SUPPORT |
| Closed Session | 23. | CLOSED SESSION |

CONSENT CALENDAR

All agenda items listed under this section are considered to be routine and will be acted upon with

one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the Board of Supervisors or the Chief Administrative Officer so requests, in which event, the item will be considered separately in its normal sequence.

1. SUBJECT: INCORPORATING THE CURRENT SAN DIEGO COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN INTO THE SAFETY ELEMENT OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO'S GENERAL PLAN AND CEQA EXEMPTION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

Passed in 2006, Assembly Bill No. 2140 (AB 2140) allows California counties to be considered for additional State cost-share reimbursement on eligible Public Assistance projects by adopting or incorporating their current, FEMA-approved local hazard mitigation plans by reference into the safety element of their general plan. Adopting a local hazard mitigation plan, along with other requirements, makes the County of San Diego (County) eligible to be reimbursed by the state for part or all local-share costs on eligible Public Assistance projects through the California Disaster Assistance Act. For eligible Public Assistance projects, the typical local (non-federal) cost share is 25% of the total project cost.

On February 7, 2023 (17), the County Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the San Diego County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP). One of the purposes of the MJHMP is to incorporate the policies, plans, programs, and resources referenced into the County's General Plan Safety Element. The County's MJHMP includes the County, special districts, and all 18 cities within San Diego County. It identifies risks and ways to minimize damage from natural and human-caused disasters. The Safety Element and the MJHMP work together to achieve the goal of hazard risk reduction.

Today's recommended actions are to approve a resolution recognizing that the Safety Element of the County's General Plan adequately and fully meets the intent of AB 2140 and includes the necessary reference to the current (2023) FEMA-approved San Diego County MJHMP.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Adopt the Resolution entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO INCORPORATING THE CURRENT SAN DIEGO COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN (MJHMP) INTO THE SAFETY ELEMENT OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO'S GENERAL PLAN.
2. Find that the proposed project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The Safety Element of the County of San Diego's General Plan contains goals and policies that seek to minimize risks to known natural and human-caused hazards in overburdened and underserved communities. Implementing programs and actions based on the goals and policies within the Safety Element will continue to create positive impacts on persons experiencing homelessness, low-income communities, communities of color, communities in high hazard risk areas, persons with disabilities, and communities disproportionately affected by natural and human-caused hazards.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Both the Safety Element of the County of San Diego’s General Plan and the San Diego County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) address sustainability impacts from natural and human-caused hazards by identifying policies and mitigation actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk. Incorporating the 2023 FEMA-approved MJHMP into the Safety Element of the County of San Diego’s General Plan will contribute to achieving the County of San Diego’s Sustainability Goal to invest in building resilience in vulnerable populations in partnership with communities. This will be accomplished by making the County eligible to be reimbursed by the state for part or all local-share costs on eligible Public Assistance projects for recovery activities after hazard events. Public Assistance projects play a crucial role in helping communities recover from disasters by providing financial assistance for the repair, replacement, and mitigation of damaged infrastructure and facilities.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with today’s recommendations. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

2. SUBJECT:

OVERVIEW

The County of San Diego has made significant strides in promoting equitable fire service to ensure that all communities, regardless of socioeconomic status or geographic location, receive exceptional fire protection and emergency response services. One of the key initiatives has been the allocation of resources and funding to underserved-rural communities that have historically faced disparities in fire protection and emergency medical services.

The County of San Diego has prioritized collaboration among the various fire districts to ensure a high level of fire preparedness. By fostering a more inclusive and responsive fire service, the County of San Diego is working towards a future where all its residents can feel secure and protected from fire-related hazards and receive emergency medical services.

Fire districts currently receive a portion of property tax collected by the County of San Diego. Fire districts that serve the unincorporated communities rely on this tax allocation for their annual budget. Districts formed after Proposition 13 was passed in 1978 receive a lower percentage of their district’s property tax revenue.

The impact of Proposition 13 on fire districts in San Diego County varies significantly depending on whether the districts were formed before or after its passage in 1978. Fire districts formed after Prop 13 face substantial financial challenges due to the constraints on property tax revenue growth. These newer districts are limited in their ability to generate sufficient funding through property taxes, as they have a significantly lower share of tax base and growth allocation negotiated at the time of formation. Consequently, they often struggle to secure adequate resources to meet their operational needs. To address these challenges, newer districts must rely

more heavily on alternative funding sources, such as grants, special assessments, and community fundraising efforts, to bridge the gap and provide effective fire protection services.

The Valley Center Fire Protection District (VCFPD) and the Deer Springs Fire Protection District (DSFPD), both formed after 1978, only receive approximately 2% of allocated tax revenue within their boundaries. The average fire district receives 12.2%. Other comparable districts receive 5-7%. This inequity in tax allocation has created a situation where VCFPD and DSFPD are scrapping by. While the firefighters in these districts do a lot with less, these fire districts are relatively understaffed, under equipped, and have longer response times. By studying the impact of changing VCFPD and DSFPD's base tax allocations from their current, and approximate, 2% to 6%, to align with the 6% rate for the San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD), we can consider addressing the funding inequities in our unincorporated areas.

There are other communities and populations within SDCFPD that also should be included in a review to determine if there are any remaining service gaps. In particular, the Pauma Valley area has historically been served by state resources instead of SDCFPD resources, and the level of service in East Otay Mesa and Jamul should also be considered.

Additional steps must be taken to enhance fire protection and emergency medical services in underserved communities. Today's action directs the Chief Administrative Officer to perform a feasibility study to increase funding for fire protection and emergency medical services, with a focus on addressing tax allocation inequities in the unincorporated area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SUPERVISOR JIM DESMOND

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to review the level of resources, funding and sustainability of fire protection in the communities of Valley Center, Deer Springs, Pauma Valley and other parts of the San Diego County Fire Protection District and return to the Board of Supervisors with recommendations within 90 days, including a negotiated change to the property tax allocation to VCFPD and DSFPD.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

San Diego County's efforts to promote equitable fire service have significantly enhanced protection and emergency response across all communities, irrespective of socioeconomic status or location. By directing resources and funding to historically underserved areas, the County has worked to bridge gaps in fire service access. Investments in modern equipment, comprehensive training, and increased fire station presence aim to improve safety and reduce response times, particularly benefiting vulnerable populations. Community outreach and inclusive planning further ensure that the diverse needs of all residents are met, fostering a more secure and resilient county.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

This proposed action contributes to the County of San Diego’s Sustainability Goal of protecting the health and well-being of all San Diegan residents. Enhancing public safety is of paramount priority for the County’s more vulnerable residents.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with today’s recommendation. There may be fiscal impacts associated with future related recommendations which staff would return to the Board with identified funding source for consideration and approval.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

- 3. **SUBJECT: SHERIFF - RATIFICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS FROM THE SAN DIEGO HONORARY DEPUTY SHERIFF’S ASSOCIATION AND EL CAJON ANIMAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION AND SERVICES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

County of San Diego Administrative Code Article III, Section 66 Acceptance of Gifts and Board of Supervisors Policy A-112, Acceptance and Use of Gifts and Donations, provide a process for accepting gifts by the administrative heads of each department in the County, subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors. This is a request to ratify the acceptance of donations received between September 2023 and June 2024 from the San Diego Honorary Deputy Sheriff’s Association for food, books and rental equipment valued at \$16,459 for the Sheriff’s Wellness Unit to host Wellness Days held throughout the fiscal year and the Emergency Services Division to host a Family Wellness Event held in April 2024, and to approve the acceptance of donations of \$10,000 for food and books provided at upcoming Wellness Days. In addition, this is a request to accept a donation for the Sheriff’s Canine Unit of \$32,900 from the El Cajon Animal Center for Education and Services for the purchase of two canines and to provide additional training for the canines and their handlers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SHERIFF

- 1. In accordance with County of San Diego Administrative Code Article III, Section 66 Acceptance of Gifts and Board of Supervisors Policy A-112, Acceptance and Use of Gifts and Donations, ratify the acceptance of donations from the San Diego Honorary Deputy Sheriff’s Association for food, books and rental equipment valued at \$16,459, accept a \$10,000 donation from the San Diego Honorary Deputy Sheriff’s Association, and accept a donation of \$32,900 from the El Cajon Animal Center for Education and Services to purchase two canines and provide additional training for the canines and their handlers.
- 2. Authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to sign the letters of appreciation on behalf of the Board of Supervisors and the County of San Diego to the San Diego Honorary Deputy Sheriff’s Association and the El Cajon Animal Center for Education and Services.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Public safety success results from well trained, well equipped, and healthy personnel creating positive partnerships with our community. The donations from the San Diego Honorary Deputy Sheriff's Association and El Cajon Animal Center for Education and Services both support Sheriff's Department personnel and canines through training and wellness programs. The donation towards Wellness Days and events supports the department's Wellness Unit, employee wellness programs, and overall mental and emotional health of employees. The addition of two canines enhances the department's public safety service delivery in the seizure of dangerous drugs, finding explosives, detaining criminals, locating missing persons at-risk, and uncovering forensic evidence at crime scenes.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed action to receive the donation in support of employee wellness contributes to the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goal of providing just and equitable access. Building better mental and emotional health, physical well-being, and personal resilience in Sheriff's employees decreases the negative impacts of trauma and stress that is caused by carrying out difficult duties or responding to a dispatcher call. Having healthy employees assists with building trust and partnerships with our diverse communities. By enhancing the delivery of law enforcement services through the use of canines, the department is furthering the County's Sustainability Goal of protecting the health and wellbeing of everyone in the San Diego region. Adding two canines to the Sheriff's Department's first responder team not only benefits the County of San Diego, but also other regional jurisdictions as part of mutual aid agreements.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with today's request to ratify the acceptance of various donations valued at \$16,459 from the San Diego Honorary Deputy Sheriff's Association. Funds from the donations are not included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan for the Sheriff's Department. If approved, this request will also authorize the Sheriff's Department to accept donations, and result in current year costs and revenue of \$10,000 from the San Diego Honorary Deputy Sheriff's Association and \$32,900 from the El Cajon Animal Center for Education and Services to support employee Wellness Days as well as the purchase of two canines and additional training for the canines and their handlers. Future ongoing costs associated with the purchase of the two canines including, but not limited to, food and veterinary care, will be included in future years' Operational Plans for the Sheriff's Department. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

4. SUBJECT:

OVERVIEW

The County of San Diego Probation Department (Probation) manages electronic criminal justice case files using the Probation Case Management System (PCMS). Probation officers use PCMS to monitor client case plan progress, initiate and review referrals to services, and to make

operational decisions regarding the supervision of adults and youth supervised by Probation. On June 20, 2000 (16), the Board of Supervisors approved a negotiated procurement of the Probation Case Management System (PCMS), and in June 2003, Probation contracted with Clear Wave Software (CWS) (now Axiallon Software, Inc) for the development and implementation of, and system support for, PCMS. On May 6, 2014 (3), the Board extended the term of Probation's contract with CWS to June 30, 2019. On May 21, 2019 (4), the Board approved the extension of Probation's contract with Axiallon Software, Inc. (Axiallon) through June 30, 2022. Probation is seeking approval to continue the contract with Axiallon for an additional term of one (1) year and four (4) option years to facilitate continued system availability without disruption, allowing Probation to maintain its juvenile justice approach and adult supervision model to foster positive outcomes for Probation clients.

This request is to authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to approve and authorize a renewal contract with Axiallon Software Inc. for one (1) additional year and four (4) option years, through June 30, 2030. Probation is requesting Board approval for a Single Source Exception to Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, and allow for continued enhancements and support of the PCMS with Axiallon Software, Inc.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

In accordance with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, approve and authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to renew the existing contract and enter into negotiations with Axiallon Software Inc. and subject to successful negotiations and a determination of a fair and reasonable price, award a contract for one (1) additional year with four (4) option years and up to an additional six (6) months if needed, and to amend the contract as needed to reflect changes to requirements and funding, subject to the approval of the Chief Probation Officer.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Probation Case Management System (PCMS) is a software program used by authorized Probation staff and stakeholders to access youth and adult client data. The software is instrumental in tracking client needs and services, with the goal of reducing recidivism and rehabilitating clients. PCMS is used to analyze client data on an individual and aggregate basis. PCMS provides data to allow for more thorough case management choices and referral services for clients. Participation and outcome data is collected and analyzed by sub-populations to ensure equitable case management and outcomes for all individuals regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, or geography.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's proposed actions contribute to the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals of providing equitable access to economic opportunity and reducing outcomes of poverty like homelessness. These services will strengthen individual resiliency, promote client self-sufficiency, and improve client health and well-being. These actions will serve to strengthen the County's efforts to maximize environmental and sustainability practices and have a long-term, positive impact in the lives of justice-involved clients and the community.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan for the Probation Department. If approved, this request will result in estimated costs and revenue ranging from \$0.9 to \$1.27 million in Fiscal Year 2024-25. The funding source is existing General Purpose Revenue. After evaluating the proposals submitted, Probation will return to the Board, if needed, with any recommendations for additional appropriations prior to contract award. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

- 5. SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDING; ADOPT RESOLUTION; AND REQUEST TO ISSUE COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION FOR THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES CORPS PROGRAM (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

On July 18, 2023 (1), the Board of Supervisors authorized San Diego County Fire (County Fire) to apply for grant funds to promote fire protection and emergency medical services to residents in our region. County Fire, which includes the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Office, has the responsibility for promoting a local EMS system that meets the needs of all residents. The EMS Office is responsible for the certification of all local Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and the accreditation of paramedics. This includes certifying local EMT and paramedic training academies that ensure local fire agencies and private ambulance transportation providers have the workforce available to serve residents.

Today’s actions include approval to accept grant funds of up to \$1,500,000 for the period of August 30, 2024 through January 31, 2027, from the state Employment Development Department (EDD) to plan and implement an EMS Corps program in San Diego County; adopt a resolution; authorize the Director of Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to issue competitive solicitations for the development and implementation of an EMS Corps program in San Diego County; direct the Chief Administrative Officer to work with the San Diego Workforce Partnership, the Children’s Initiative, and other entities to ensure there is sustainable funding after the grant period ends.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Adopt a resolution entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RELATING TO THE CALIFORNIA EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES CORPS PROGRAM GRANT.
2. Authorize County Fire to accept up to \$1,500,000 in grant funds from the California Employment Development Department for the period of August 30, 2024 through January 31, 2027, to plan and implement an EMS Corps program in San Diego County and authorize the Director of San Diego County Fire, or designee, to execute all grant documents and agreements, including any annual extensions, amendments and/or revisions thereto that do not materially impact or alter services or funding levels.
3. In accordance with Section 401, Article XXIII of the County Administrative Code,

authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to issue competitive solicitations for the development and implementation of an EMS Corps program in San Diego County, and upon successful negotiation and determination of fair and reasonable price, award contracts for an initial term of one (1) year with up to four (4) one-year options and an additional (6) six months if needed, subject to the availability of funds and a need for the services, and to amend the contracts as needed to reflect the changes to services and funding, subject to approval of the Director of San Diego County Fire.

4. Authorize the amendment of existing contracts, if needed, for the purpose of the EMS Corps program.
5. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to work with the San Diego Workforce Partnership, the Children’s Initiative, and other appropriate entities to identify funding sources to sustain the EMS Corps program once the California Employment Development Department grant period ends.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The EMS Corps program is focused on providing training opportunities for transitional age youth from historically underserved communities. This includes focusing outreach to young people who are or have been impacted by the child welfare and/or juvenile justice systems. Included in the EMS Corps grant funding is a planning phase, which will include community leaders, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training programs, the County’s Child and Family Well-Being Department, the County Probation Department, and the District Attorney’s Office. The group will focus on geographic communities that are most underrepresented in the EMS workforce, to ensure the final program reduces barriers to entry and increases success for transitional age youth interested in full-time employment within Emergency Medical Services and healthcare systems.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed action to establish an EMS Corps program in San Diego County supports just and equitable access to County services, and resource allocation in underserved communities. EMS Corps is focused on transitional age youth who are, or have been, involved in the child welfare and/or juvenile justice systems. In addition, the program seeks to promote an Emergency Medical Services workforce that reflects the population being served.

FISCAL IMPACT

If approved, one-time costs and revenue of \$181,820 for today’s proposed actions are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan for San Diego County Fire (County Fire). Additional costs and revenue, estimated at \$1,318,180, will be included in future years Operational Plans for County Fire. The funding source is a grant from the California Employment Development Department. There are no match requirements for this grant. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

6. **SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF A DONATION FROM THE BURN INSTITUTE
(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

San Diego County Fire (County Fire), through a cooperative agreement with CAL FIRE, is the fire protection and emergency medical services agency for 92,203 residents across 1.8 million acres in the unincorporated area. In 2019, the Board of Supervisors authorized the establishment of a Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Division within County Fire that is fully integrated with CAL FIRE's State-mandated duties to maximize engagement opportunities with residents that reduce risk in our service area.

Using a holistic approach to increasing resilience, CRR focuses on engaging communities, building evacuation readiness, promoting defensible space and structural hardening, and managing vegetation. A key strategy to engaging individual communities is working closely with their Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). The CERT program is made up of community volunteer teams, sponsored by area fire agencies, that provide training to residents to develop the skills necessary to safely assist in disaster response and recovery.

County Fire is fortunate to receive support from partner agencies and community members, like those engaged in CERT, who help bolster services and resources. The Burn Institute has been a key partner in helping the County ensure the San Diego County Fire CERT program has the tools needed to effectively serve communities. Most recently, the Burn Institute donated \$7,500 to County Fire to fund specialized Automated External Defibrillator (AED) trainers with pictures and text in addition to voice prompts. These units are designed to assist individuals in learning cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) who are deaf, deafblind, people with hearing loss, hard of hearing, late-deafened and limited English proficient, or the term deaf, meaning in all inclusive manner of those just described. The funds will also support hiring American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters to be used in coordination with the AED trainers, allowing County Fire CERT to expand its CPR course offerings to the deaf, hard of hearing and limited English proficient community throughout San Diego County.

County of San Diego Administrative Code Section 66 and Board of Supervisors Policy A-112, Acceptance of Gifts and Donations, permit the acceptance of gifts and donations upon approval by the Board of Supervisors. Today's action seeks approval to accept a cash donation of \$7,500 from the Burn Institute to fund the services and supplies that support these CPR/AED course trainings.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. In accordance with Administrative Code Section 66 and Board Policy A-112, ratify the acceptance of a donation from the Burn Institute in the amount of \$7,500 for American Sign Language Interpreters (ASL), Automated External Defibrillator (AED) trainers, and supplies needed to host CPR/AED training for priority populations.
2. Authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to sign a letter of appreciation on behalf of the County of San Diego to the Burn Institute.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The San Diego County Fire Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) aims to positively impact equity by making emergency preparedness and response resources accessible to all, empowering diverse community members, ensuring equitable resource distribution, fostering

community bonds, and raising awareness. This is achieved by providing education and outreach to priority populations in the County such as seniors and older adults, people with disabilities or access and functional needs, tribal community members and youth, in addition to providing this information in multiple languages. Acceptance of this donation will assist the County Fire CERT program by providing the training equipment, American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters and supplies needed to host free CPR/AED training for deaf, deafblind, deaf disabled, hard of hearing and late-deafened county residents. Discovering that CPR/AED courses for county residents who are disabled, have access and functional needs and/or are limited English proficient are very limited in availability, the County Fire CERT aims to fill the equitably gap by offering courses to these priority populations. This would otherwise not be possible without involvement from community members and investment from partners like the Burn Institute.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Acceptance of this donation will also help the region better respond to, and recover from, the immediate needs of individuals and families during times of disaster. The San Diego County Fire Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) enhances sustainability by embracing the whole community with emergency preparedness activities, events and training while also promoting preparedness, reducing vulnerabilities, supporting environmental stewardship, strengthening social cohesion, bolstering economic stability, and aiding in long-term recovery and adaptation. Through these efforts, CERTs help create resilient communities capable of withstanding and thriving despite emergencies and disasters while also supporting the County's Revive & Survive Initiative.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan for San Diego County Fire. The funding source is a donation from the Burn Institute. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

7. **SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT FUNDING FOR TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL AND TREATMENT, AND REFUGEE HEALTH ASSESSMENT SERVICES, AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS MEDICATION, AND AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

The County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Tuberculosis Control and Refugee Health Branch (TBCRHB) operates programs including the Tuberculosis Control Program (TB Control Program) and Refugee Health Assessment Program (RHAP). The TB Control Program detects, mitigates, and prevents the spread of Tuberculosis (TB) in our community through treatment, case management, contact investigation and education, and is supported through a combination of federal, State, and local funding.

In addition to providing grant funding, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Tuberculosis Control Branch (CDPH TBCB) operates both a Medication Support Program and Drug Stockpile that distributes anti-TB medications to local TB programs at no cost. When CDPH TBCB purchases anti-TB medication that is due to expire in the same year, local TB programs are notified of the availability and requested to apply as soon as possible. Due to limited supply, the anti-TB medication donations are often reserved within days.

Additionally, grant funds from CDPH support the Refugee Health Assessment Program (RHAP) to provide newly arrived refugees, asylees, victims of trafficking, and other eligible entrants with culturally and linguistically appropriate health assessments, including follow-up and referrals for health conditions identified in the assessment process. The County contracts with community providers to complete comprehensive health assessments that focus on screening for and prevention of communicable and chronic diseases, assessments of immunization status for children and adults, mental health screenings, and referrals to health providers for further medical evaluation. Treatment for both communicable and chronic conditions occurs within the first three months of arrival. These efforts allow the County to monitor and evaluate the health statuses for refugee populations, and to promote the health of newcomers to our community. The County uses the data to develop prevention and intervention strategies, and to allocate resources to reduce disparities and prioritize health equity.

Today's action seeks Board authority to authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, upon receipt, to execute documents related to:

- The acceptance of TB Control Cooperative Grant funds from the CDC for the term January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, for approximately \$1,780,240.
- The acceptance of TB treatment and control grant funds from the CDPH for the term July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, for approximately \$890,885.
- The application for and acceptance of anti-TB medications from CDPH TBCB.
- The acceptance of the Refugee Health Assessment Program and Refugee Health Promotion Project grant funds from the CDPH for the term October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025, for approximately \$692,000.
- The application for additional TB control and treatment and refugee health assessment services funding opportunities.

This item supports the County vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in San Diego County that have been historically left behind. These efforts support our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished by building a better service delivery system to reduce the spread of disease and improve health outcomes in San Diego County.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Waive Board Policy B-29, Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts - Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery, which requires prior approval of grant applications and full-cost recovery of grants.
2. Authorize the acceptance of approximately \$1,780,240 in grant funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, for tuberculosis control and treatment services, and authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, upon receipt, to execute all required grant documents, including any annual extensions, amendments and/or

- revisions that do not materially impact the services or funding level.
3. Authorize the acceptance of approximately \$890,885 in grant funds from the California Department of Public Health for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, for tuberculosis control and treatment services, and authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, upon receipt, to execute all required grant documents, including any annual extensions, amendments, and/or revisions that do not materially impact the services or funding level.
 4. Authorize the application for and acceptance of anti-tuberculosis medication from the California Department of Public Health to support tuberculosis treatment, and authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, or their designee, to execute any related documents.
 5. Authorize the acceptance of approximately \$692,000 in grant funds from the California Department of Public Health for the period of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, for the Refugee Health Assessment Program and Refugee Health Promotion Project to provide refugee health assessment services, and authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, upon receipt, to execute all required grant documents, including any annual extensions, amendments, and/or revisions that do not materially impact the services or funding level.
 6. Authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, to pursue future funding opportunities to support tuberculosis control and treatment and refugee health assessment services.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Tuberculosis Control and Refugee Health Branch programs, as well as the San Diego County Tuberculosis Elimination Initiative, focus on providing and expanding equitable access to healthcare. Examples include offering transportation services to medical appointments, housing for individuals experiencing homelessness while receiving Tuberculosis treatment, and free screening and treatment for uninsured and underserved populations.

Tuberculosis (TB) disproportionately impacts underserved communities, with high burden areas coinciding with southern and central geographic regions of San Diego County that receive low health equity scores. The majority of persons diagnosed with TB in San Diego County in 2023 were born outside the U.S. (66% of total cases). The highest proportion of new cases, regardless of birth country, occurred in Hispanics (51% of total cases), followed by Asian/Pacific Islanders (30% of total cases). Of the new TB cases born in the U.S., (34% of total cases), 66% of U.S.-born cases were Hispanic. Additional risk factors include drug use (19%), homelessness (13%), and incarceration (6%).

Data from the U.S. Refugee Admission Program indicates that 4,319 refugees arrived in California from October 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024. According to the California Department of Social Services Refugee Programs Bureau, San Diego is a designated refugee-impacted county. The Refugee Health Assessment Program (RHAP) provides culturally and linguistically-appropriate comprehensive health assessments not only to these newly arrived refugees but also Special Immigrant Visa holders, asylees, federally-certified victims of trafficking, and other eligible entrants. RHAP focuses on screening for and prevention of communicable diseases; early identification and diagnosis of chronic diseases and other

important conditions; assessment of immunization status for children and adults; mental health screening; and referral to health providers for further medical evaluation, treatment, and follow-up. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022, a total of 1,759 eligible persons in San Diego County received a health assessment through RHAP, with 82% of those individuals completing the health assessment with 90 days of their arrival in the United States.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed actions support the County of San Diego (County) Sustainability Goal #2, to provide just and equitable access to County services, particularly in the investment in the chronically underserved communities that are disproportionately impacted by tuberculosis (TB). These actions support Sustainability Goal #3 by transitioning to a green, carbon-free economy, by continuing to transition delivery of services to telehealth platforms whenever possible without sacrificing quality, and thereby decreasing vehicle mileage for clients and employees. Additionally, today's actions support Sustainability Goal #4, by protecting the health and well-being of everyone in the region, ensuring access to medical care for those with TB who need care, and providing newly arrived refugees, asylees, victims of trafficking, and other eligible entrants, with culturally and linguistically appropriate comprehensive health assessments.

FISCAL IMPACT

Recommendation #2: Authorize Acceptance of Approximately \$1,780,240 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2026 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in estimated costs of \$1,391,160 and estimated revenue of \$890,120 for FY 2024-25 and estimated costs of \$1,391,160 and estimated revenue of \$890,120 for FY 2025-26. The funding source is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A waiver of Board Policy B-29 is requested because the funding does not offset all costs. These unrecovered costs are estimated to be \$501,040 annually in FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26. The funding source for these costs will be existing Realignment. The public benefit for providing these services far outweighs the B-29 unrecoverable costs. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

Recommendation #3: Authorize Acceptance of Approximately \$890,885 from the California Department of Public Health

Funds for this request are included in the FY 2024-2026 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in estimated costs of \$1,298,069 and estimated revenue of \$890,885 for FY 2024-25. The funding source is the California Department of Public Health. A waiver of Board Policy B-29 is requested because the funding does not offset all costs. These unrecovered costs are estimated to be \$407,184. The funding source for these costs will be existing Realignment. The public benefit for providing these services far outweighs the B-29 unrecoverable costs. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

Recommendation #4: Authorize Application for and Acceptance of Anti-Tuberculosis Medication

There is no fiscal impact related to this recommendation. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

Recommendation #5: Authorize Acceptance of Approximately \$692,000 from the California Department of Public Health

Funds for this request are included in the FY 2024-2026 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in estimated costs of \$544,735 and estimated revenue of \$519,000 for FY 2024-25 and estimated costs of \$181,578 and estimated revenue of \$173,000 for FY 2025-26. The funding source is the California Department of Public Health. A waiver of Board Policy B-29 is requested because the funding does not offset all costs. These unrecovered costs are estimated to be \$25,735 for FY 2024-25 and \$8,578 for FY 2025-26. The funding source for these costs will be existing Realignment. The public benefit for providing these services far outweighs the B-29 unrecoverable costs. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

Recommendation #6: Authorize Pursuit of Future Funding Opportunities

There is no fiscal impact related to this recommendation. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

8. SUBJECT: AMEND PO#566069 AT&T WIFI SERVICES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

On October 25, 2021, the San Diego County Library (SDCL or County Library) was awarded \$4.3 million from the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) program to provide equipment and wireless internet service to patrons who have limited access to the internet and internet-enabled devices. Under Board Authority 09-14-21 (4), \$1.4 million of the \$4.3 million was designated and used to purchase 7,000 AT&T Wi-Fi hotspot devices with corresponding data services. The remaining amount was used to purchase 7,000 Google Chromebooks. The County Library bundled the 7,000 Google Chromebooks and 7,000 AT&T Wi-Fi hotspots into what the Library called, “Tech Connect” kits for distribution. Devices were made available to members of the public with a library card to check out free of charge for up to one year. In May of 2023, SDCL added an additional 2,000 AT&T Wi-Fi hotspot devices with data services under BOS 05-23-23 (28), bringing the total amount of devices to 9,000. The ECF program is one of many ways the County works toward closing the digital divide.

Distribution of the Tech Connect kits began on June 15, 2022, throughout the 33 County branch library locations. To ensure that the Tech Connect kits are distributed equitably amongst communities with no access or limited access to internet-enabled devices and broadband services, SDCL and its respective branches have collaborated with more than 100 community-based organizations, tribal reservations, and county-wide partners such as Aging & Independence Services, Department of Child Support Services, and Library High School, where adults can earn their high school diploma online. County residents can also check-out Tech Connect kits at their local County branch library. The County Library closely monitors the check-out data of the Tech Connect kits and adjusts distribution accordingly. As of March 31,

2024, 92% of Tech Connect kits have been checked out month over month, and 40% of those were in rural, unincorporated, and economically challenged communities. The Wi-Fi hotspot services are currently provided by AT&T through a National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) cooperative purchasing contract between AT&T and the State of Utah. NASPO facilitates public procurement solicitations and agreements using a lead-state model. AT&T and Utah have recently extended the contract for an additional five years, ending on August 11, 2029.

Today's request is (1) to amend the contract to extend its term for one year, beginning August 12, 2024, and four one-year option years through August 11, 2029, and (2) allow an estimated increase of \$50,000 per year for a new estimated total contract price of \$5,850,000.

RECOMMENDATION(S)
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. In accordance with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, approve an increase in the AT&T contract award funding and authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to amend the contract with AT&T for Wi-Fi hotspot data services by an estimated increase of \$50,000 dollars in cost per option year for the remainder of the contract terms ending on August 11, 2029.
2. In accordance with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to amend the contract during the extended term as needed to exercise each additional option and to increase the total contracted price if additional funds become available.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The County Library provides equitable access to educational classes, opportunities to develop literacy, study materials, and recreational reading at no cost to the communities and customers we serve. The County Library also provides access to broadband internet and computers so that customers can access the digital services they need to meet their goals of learning, connecting, job seeking, and acquiring safety-net services. This amendment to the contract will enable the County Library to extend free digital infrastructure from library branches into the households of residents in need of this digital access. This program is an opportunity to provide resources for households impacted by the digital divide in the County Library service area.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's request to amend the contract with AT&T for Wi-Fi data services supports San Diego County's Sustainability Strategic Initiative by providing fair and equal access to broadband services for all residents. It also contributes to building resilient communities by bolstering internet services available to the public, particularly those impacted by the digital divide in the County Library service area.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan for the San Diego County Library (SDCL). If approved, this request will result in an increase of the total contract price by an estimated \$50,000 per year for data services for up to five years ending on

August 11, 2029. The funding source is the Library Fund. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years. Any future costs for this contract will be included in future Operational Plans.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

9. **SUBJECT: GENERAL SERVICES - APPROVAL OF FIRST AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY, 8765 FLETCHER PARKWAY, LA MESA, AND NOTICE OF EXEMPTION (DISTRICT: 4)**

OVERVIEW

On January 8, 2013 (7), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) approved a new lease agreement to allow Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) to operate the Access Customer Service Center at 8765 Fletcher Parkway, La Mesa. The Access Customer Service Center is an extension of the County of San Diego Family Resource Centers (FRC), and assists residents, providers, and other government agencies with questions or needs related to FRC programs and services.

The lease for the Access Customer Service Center expired on April 30, 2024, and there are no options to extend the term and HHS has a need to continue operating from this site. The lease has been on holdover, which has allowed for continued occupancy on a month-to-month basis while a lease amendment was negotiated. Staff from the Department of General Services have negotiated a lease amendment that will extend the term by five years. Today's request is for Board approval of the amendment.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Find that the proposed lease amendment is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15301.
2. Approve and authorize the Director, Department of General Services, to execute the proposed lease amendment for the premises located at 8765 Fletcher Parkway, La Mesa.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

It is anticipated that the proposed lease amendment for the Health and Human Services Agency will have a positive impact on the community by ensuring access for all through a fully optimized health and social service delivery system.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Implementing effective sustainability objectives is crucial to ensuring safe and healthy communities and contributing to the overall success of the region. The approval of the lease amendment is appropriate as it supports the County's Strategic Initiative of Sustainability to ensure the capability to respond to immediate needs for individuals, families, and the region.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-26 Operational Plan for the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS). If approved, this request will result in estimated costs and revenue of \$979,038 in FY 2024-2025 with a 3% annual rent adjustment to go into effect May 2025, and estimated costs and revenue of \$1,015,016 in FY 2025-2026. Funds for the remaining contract term will be included in future years' operational plans for HHS. The funding source is Social Services Administrative Revenue and Realignment. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

10. SUBJECT: GENERAL SERVICES - APPROVAL OF LEASE AMENDMENTS FOR THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND NOTICES OF EXEMPTION (DISTRICTS: 1 & 2)

OVERVIEW

The San Diego County District Attorney's Office (DAO) is responsible for prosecuting felony crimes committed in San Diego County and misdemeanor offenses that occur outside the City of San Diego. In addition, the District Attorney's Office provides comprehensive victim services and participates in many crime prevention programs throughout San Diego County, as well as collaborative courts that hold offenders accountable but divert them to programs and treatment that stop the cycle of recidivism.

In support of their efforts, the DAO has two leased facilities that require amendments to continue operations. The first is a lease for their South Bay Office located at 333 H Street in Chula Vista. This lease expired on June 30, 2024, and there are no options to extend the term. The second is a lease for a warehouse located at 1288-1294 Fayette Street in El Cajon. This lease expired on March 31, 2024, and there are no options to extend the term. Both leases are on holdover, which has allowed the County to continue occupancy on a month-to-month basis while amendments were negotiated.

Staff from the Department of General Services have negotiated a third amendment to the lease agreement for the District Attorney's South Bay Office and a first amendment to the lease agreement for their warehouse at 1288-1294 Fayette Street. Today's request is for Board of Supervisors approval of the lease amendments and find them exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Find the proposed lease amendment for 333 H Street, Chula Vista, is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15301.
2. Approve and authorize the Director, Department of General Services, to execute the proposed lease amendment for the premises located at 333 H Street, Chula Vista.

3. Find the proposed lease amendment for 1288-1294 Fayette Street, El Cajon, is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15301.
4. Approve and authorize the Director, Department of General Services, to execute the proposed lease amendment for the premises located 1288-1294 Fayette Street, El Cajon.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The mission of the District Attorney's Office (DAO) is to pursue equal and fair justice for all and to build safe neighborhoods, in partnership with the communities it serves. The DAO fulfills its mission by ethically prosecuting those who commit crimes, protecting victims, and preventing future harm. Today's action will allow the DAO to continue to provide prosecution, prevention, and protection services within the South County region.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Implementing effective sustainability objectives is crucial to ensuring safe and healthy communities and contributing to the overall success of the region. The approval of the lease is appropriate as it supports the County's Strategic Initiative of Sustainability to ensure the capability to respond to immediate needs for individuals, families, and the region.

FISCAL IMPACT

333 H Street, Chula Vista (District 1)

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Operational Plan for the District Attorney's Office (DAO). If approved, this request will result in estimated costs and revenue of \$984,179 in FY 2024-25 based on an amendment commencement date of July 1, 2024, with a 3% annual rent adjustment to go into effect July 1, 2025. Funds for the remaining contract term will be included in future years' operational plans for the DAO. The funding source is existing General Purpose Revenue. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

1288-1294 Fayette Street, El Cajon (District 2)

Funds for this request are included in the FY 2024-25 Operational Plan for the District Attorney's Office. If approved, this request will result in estimated costs and revenue of \$90,148 in FY 2024-25, with a 3% annual rent adjustment to go into effect April 1, 2025. Funds for the remaining contract term will be included in future years' operational plans for the District Attorney's Office. The funding source is existing General Purpose Revenue. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

11. **SUBJECT: RECEIVE STATE FUNDING FOR SUPPORT OF THE PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY GARDEN AND GATHERING SPACE (DISTRICT: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

The 2024 Legislative Program was approved and adopted by the Board of Supervisors on

December 5, 2023 (13). The 2024 Legislative Program included key legislative initiatives, priorities, and policy guidelines. Included in the Priorities section was language and direction to “actively pursue all available funding to lift up and invest in our communities to ensure the San Diego region receives its fair share.”

In response to this direction, the Fiscal Year 2023-24 State Budget included community projects at the request of Senate President pro Tempore Emeritus Toni Atkins that provide a direct benefit to our region. These funds are designed for local municipalities with community-based organizations designated as sub-recipients. One of these grants is for the Pillars of the Community to support their development of a community garden and gathering space located at 6821 Imperial Ave., San Diego, CA 92114.

Today’s requested action is to approve receipt of State funds, adopt the related Resolution, establish necessary appropriations, and enter into a grant agreement with the State of California and Pillars of the Community to support the garden and gathering space.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Authorize the acceptance of a grant of up to \$100,000 in funds from the State of California, Natural Resources Agency, Department of Parks and Recreation Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS) for the purpose of providing services in support of the development of the garden and gathering space.
2. Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, or designee, to execute all required funding documents and agreements with the State of California, including any extensions, amendments, and/or revisions thereto that do not materially impact or alter the services or funding level.
3. Establish appropriations of \$100,000 in the Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs, Salaries & Benefits (\$10,000) and Services & Supplies (\$90,000), for administration and implementation of the State-directed grant, based on unanticipated revenue from the State of California. **(4 VOTES)**
4. Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, or designee, upon successful negotiations, to execute grant agreements or any document or amendment with Pillars of the Community for the implementation of the State-directed grant and to support the development of a garden and gathering space.
5. Adopt a Resolution entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RELATING TO RECEIVING STATE FUNDING FOR SUPPORT OF THE PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY GARDEN AND GATHERING SPACE as required by the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, for the purposes of administering this grant.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

In an effort to address unmet needs in underserved communities, the California State Legislature allocated project-specific funding that focuses investments on programs that serve communities with unmet needs. This grant provides needed funding for the further development of a community garden and gathering space that will serve as a cherished community resource for not

only Southeast San Diego but the entire San Diego region.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The County of San Diego partners with local community-based organizations to innovate and implement programs that serve the public good. The acceptance and transfer of funding from the State of California to Pillars of the Community provides the County of San Diego an opportunity to participate and help support Pillars of the Community in their efforts to highlight the history of the organization.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are not included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan. If approved, this request will result in costs and revenue of up to \$100,000 in Fiscal Year 2024-25. The funding source is unanticipated revenue from the State of California, Natural Resources Agency, Department of Parks and Recreation Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS). Grant funds of \$10,000 will be retained by the County to support staff expenses for grant administration, monitoring and reporting throughout the grant period, as permitted by the grant agreement. Grant funds available to the County for administration of this grant are estimated in an amount sufficient to recover full cost as required by Board Policy B-29: Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts-Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery. Accordingly, there is no projected unrecovered cost and a waiver of Board Policy B-29 is not requested. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

12. SUBJECT: APPOINTMENTS: VARIOUS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

These appointments are in accordance with applicable Board Policy A-74, “Citizen Participation in County Boards, Commissions and Committees.”

RECOMMENDATION(S)

SUPERVISOR MONICA MONTGOMERY-STEPPE

Appoint Sheri Jones to the ASSESSMENT APPEALS BOARD 3, Seat No. 4, for a term to begin September 03, 2024 and expire September 03, 2027.

Appoint Jason Sharpe to the CHILD AND FAMILY STRENGTHENING ADVISORY BOARD OF SAN DIEGO, Seat No. 2, for a term to expire January 04, 2027.

Appoint Samantha Jenkins to the COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP ADMINISTERING BOARD, Seat No. 4, for a term to expire January 4, 2027.

Appoint Quinnton Austin to the ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, Seat No. 4, for a term to expire July 16, 2027.

Appoint Michael Donovan to the HIV PLANNING GROUP, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, Seat No. 36, for a term to begin September 14, 2024 and expire September 14, 2028

Appoint Mary McKenzie to the PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, COMMITTEE FOR, Seat No. 8, for a term to expire January 04, 2027.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Appoint Annaleece Wakefield to the ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, Seat No. 11, for a term to expire May 2, 2025.

Appoint Lori Jones to the HIV PLANNING GROUP, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, Seat No. 26, for a term to expire June 2, 2027.

Re-appoint David John Grelotti to the HIV PLANNING GROUP, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, Seat No. 30, for a term to expire July 16, 2028.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

County government includes standing and special citizen boards, commissions, committees, and task forces formed to advise the Board of Supervisors and County staff on issues and policy and to serve as links to the community. Boards, commissions, and committees provide an inter-relationship between the residents and the government of the County. The nominations in this Board Letter enable the County of San Diego to provide individual residents the opportunity to impart valuable insight and input into the operation of the government.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The County of San Diego has over one hundred boards, commissions, committees, and task forces that serve as voice in the County government. Advisory bodies are an essential role in resident engagement that allow citizens to participate on issues relating to the welfare and quality of life in the County. They are fundamental to the County of San Diego’s ability to navigate complex and dynamic policy challenges, are a conduit to the County Bureaucracy, and a broker to community voice. This board letter supports the County of San Diego Sustainability Goal No.1 by “encourage[ing] people and diverse stakeholders to partner and participate in decisions that impact their lives and communities.”

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

13. SUBJECT: COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

Board Policy A-72, Board of Supervisors Agenda and Related Process, authorizes the Clerk of the Board to prepare a Communications Received for Board of Supervisors' Official Records. Routine informational reports, which need to be brought to the attention of the Board of Supervisors yet not requiring action, are listed on this document. Communications Received documents are on file in the Office of the Clerk of the Board.

RECOMMENDATION(S)
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Note and file.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

This board letter is a list of documents received by the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and/or Board of Supervisors from other entities, other county departments, the public, and internal documents presented to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors or the Board of Supervisors. This contributes to the overall sustainability of the county by engaging the community in meaningful ways and promote an environment that provides equitable access opportunities for public engagement.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

DISCUSSION ITEMS

14. **SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TO SUPPORT THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS' 2024 REPARATIONS LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

California's involvement in slavery is an often-overlooked aspect of its history. Although California did not enter the Union as a slave state, slavery did exist within its borders. The Gold Rush era brought an influx of settlers, including slaveholders from the Southern states, leading to the presence of enslaved African Americans in California. Even though the California Constitution of 1849 banned slavery, the state's economy and legal system were intertwined with the broader institution of slavery in the United States through trade, economic ties, and legal precedent.

Even after slavery was legally abolished in 1865, government institutions at all levels continued to enforce segregation and discriminatory practices that marginalized African Americans. This systemic oppression denied them of opportunities for economic advancement, equal education, and access to adequate healthcare. As a result, many African Americans faced enduring hardships that disproportionately affected their socio-economic status and overall well-being.

Assembly Bill 3121 established California's Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans (Reparations Task Force). The Reparations Task Force researched the historical injustices inflicted upon African Americans in California and provided 150 recommendations on how the state should address the enduring impacts of slavery, systemic

racism, and discriminatory policies.

After reviewing the Reparations Task Force’s recommendations, the California Legislative Black Caucus introduced the 2024 Reparations Legislative Package consisting of 14 bills in the areas of Education (AB 1929, AB 3131), Civil Rights (ACA 7, ACR 135, AB 1815, SB 1050, AB 3089), Criminal Justice Reform (ACA 8, AB 1986, AB 2064, AB 280), Health (AB 1975, SB 1089), and Business (AB 2862).

This Board Letter requests the San Diego County Board of Supervisors to approve a resolution to support the 2024 Reparations Legislative Package introduced by the California Legislative Black Caucus.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

SUPERVISOR MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE

1. ~~Adopt the resolution entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TO SUPPORT THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS’ 2024 REPARATIONS LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE~~
2. ~~Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to express the County’s support for the 2024 Reparations Legislative Package consisting of AB 280, AB 1815, AB 1929, AB 1975, AB 1986, AB 2064, AB 2862, AB 3089, ACA 7, ACA 8, ACR 135, SB 1050, and SB 1089, consistent with Board Policy M-2.~~

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The 2024 Reparations Legislative Package represents a pivotal step towards equity, justice, and inclusivity. The County of San Diego’s support of the 2024 Reparations Legislative Package demonstrates a commitment to rectifying historical injustices and addressing systemic disparities that continue to affect African American communities.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Supporting the 2024 Reparations Legislative Package will further the County of San Diego’s Sustainability Goals by advocating for equity and justice for all San Diegans. Promoting justice and equity for all residents supports long-term social and economic sustainability.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

This item has been withdrawn at the request of supervisor monica montgomery steppe

15. **SUBJECT: RECEIVE AND ACCEPT THE PRELIMINARY REPORT INCREASING MEDI-CAL REIMBURSEMENT RATES TO IMPROVE HEALTHCARE FOR NEARLY 1 MILLION SAN DIEGANS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

Medicaid, known as Medi-Cal in California, is a vital government program that provides healthcare coverage to low-income individuals and families throughout the state. It is jointly funded by the federal and state governments and plays a crucial role in ensuring access to healthcare services for nearly a million people in San Diego County. Medi-Cal offers a wide range of health and social services, including doctor visits, hospital care, prescription drugs, and preventive care, making it a cornerstone of the state's healthcare system.

Medicaid programs reimburse healthcare providers at rates lower than those of private insurance or Medicare. These lower reimbursement rates might discourage healthcare providers from accepting Medi-Cal insurance, exacerbating the healthcare workforce shortage, and limiting access to care for low-income individuals.

San Diego County has the second highest population of Medi-Cal eligible residents, compared to other counties in the state. Due to its size, San Diego County plays an important part of the interconnected California healthcare system, but its safety net of health and social care providers is underfunded compared to other California counties with large Medi-Cal populations. Unlike many other counties in California, San Diego County historically has relied on community health care providers to create a safety net, such as Federally Qualified Health Centers, since there are no large county-owned public healthcare systems or health plans. However, much of the funding for safety-net health care services comes from State and federal programs, like Medi-Cal and Medicare. Given significant growth in San Diego County's Medi-Cal population combined with new State Medi-Cal priorities, an opportunity exists to create unique funding solutions for the County, paved by other large Medi-Cal counties in California.

On March 12, 2024 (13), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Interim Chief Administrative Officer to conduct a Medicaid Landscape Analysis to assess Medi-Cal reimbursable services and explore opportunities to increase Medicaid reimbursement to providers in the San Diego region.

In addition, the Board established an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to receive, review, and provide input on the report and other activities associated with this Board action.

Today's action requests that the Board receive the 120-day update from the Ad Hoc Subcommittee and receive a staff presentation with progress to date on the Medicaid Landscape Analysis.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

VICE-CHAIR TERRA LAWSON-REMER AND SUPERVISOR MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE

1. Receive the 120-day update from the Ad Hoc Subcommittee and accept staff presentation on progress to date on the Medicaid Landscape Analysis.
2. In accordance with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, and Administrative Code Section 401, Article XXIII, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to amend contracts and/or issue competitive solicitations to support the Medicaid Landscape Analysis, and upon successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award contract(s) for an initial term of up to 12 months and up to an additional six months if needed; and to amend the contract(s) to reflect changes in program, funding or service requirements, subject to the availability of funds and the approval of the

Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency.

3. Authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, or designee, to apply for and accept funding opportunities, if available, to support the Medicaid Landscape Analysis.
4. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to return to the Board no later than April 30, 2025, in lieu of the prior approved December 2024 return, with a progress report, findings, and recommendations addressing low Medi-Cal reimbursement rates, after having first met with and received input from the ad hoc subcommittee. Upon presentation of the final report, findings, and recommendations to the Board by the Chief Administrative Officer, the ad hoc subcommittee will be concluded no later than April 30, 2025.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Individuals receiving Medicaid face significant equity challenges that impact their access, quality of care, and health outcomes. The current disparities in Medicaid reimbursement rates contribute to differential access to quality healthcare services, disproportionately affecting BIPOC communities. The impact of low reimbursement rates extends beyond the immediate challenges in accessing quality healthcare. It perpetuates systemic disparities in health outcomes, exacerbating existing inequalities among different demographic groups. Moreover, the racial bias in reimbursement rates has implications for the healthcare workforce. BIPOC healthcare professionals are often concentrated in facilities serving Medicaid beneficiaries, facing challenges of working in under-resourced environments. This not only hampers their ability to provide optimal care but also contributes to workforce disparities, further entrenching racial inequities within the healthcare system. Recognizing the intersectionality of race, socioeconomic status, and health outcomes is essential to fostering a healthcare system that is truly inclusive and just.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed item contributes to the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals by prioritizing the long-term health, safety, and well-being for San Diego residents through the support for actions that will get quality healthcare services to those that need it most.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact for Recommendations 1, 3, and 4. Funds for Recommendation 2 are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Operational Plan for the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in one-time costs and revenue of \$500,000 in FY 2024-25 to amend the contracts or issue competitive solicitations to support the Medicaid Landscape Analysis. The funding source is one-time General Purpose Revenue previously approved in the March 12, 2024 (13) Board action which included approximately \$1.5 million in total funding for this initiative. These funds will be carried forward through the year-end process and will be available for use in FY 2024-25 for HHSA. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

16. **SUBJECT: AFFIRMATIVE LITIGATION AGAINST SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES FOR THEIR ROLE IN THE YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

In May 2023, the U.S. Surgeon General issued an [advisory](https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/05/23/surgeon-general-issues-new-advisory-about-effects-social-media-use-has-youth-mental-health.html) [warning](https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/05/23/surgeon-general-issues-new-advisory-about-effects-social-media-use-has-youth-mental-health.html) that social media is contributing to our nation's youth mental health crisis. The American Psychological Association (APA) has since also issued a [health advisory](https://www.apa.org/topics/social-media-internet/health-advisory-adolescent-social-media-use) [examining](https://www.apa.org/topics/social-media-internet/health-advisory-adolescent-social-media-use) the connections between social media use and reduced well-being and rising mood disorders, chiefly depression, and anxiety among youth ages 10 to 25 years old.

According to the [Pew Research Center](https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2023/12/11/teens-social-media-and-technology-2023/), [in 2010](https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2023/12/11/teens-social-media-and-technology-2023/), when smartphones were becoming mainstream, only about half of teens reported using social media. Today, social media usage is ubiquitous with 95% of teens reporting they use some social media and about a third reporting they use it constantly. The [APA reports](https://www.apa.org/monitor/2024/04/teen-social-use-mental-health) [that U.S. teens spend an average of five hours every day using the seven most popular social media apps, with Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube accounting for 87% of their social media time.](https://www.apa.org/monitor/2024/04/teen-social-use-mental-health)

Since 2010, nearly every [indicator](https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/04/25/1171773181/social-media-teens-mental-health) [of mental health and psychological well-being among teens and young adults has deteriorated.](https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/04/25/1171773181/social-media-teens-mental-health) [San Diego County's Health and Human Services Health Equity Report \(2022\)](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/CHS/Health%20Equity%20Report%20Series_Age_2022.pdf) [confirms](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/CHS/Health%20Equity%20Report%20Series_Age_2022.pdf) this alarming trend with youth ages 15 to 24 years of age having the highest burden of depression compared with all other age groups in the County. These youth are also utilizing inpatient treatment services and visiting emergency rooms at a rate two times higher than any other age group for depression and anxiety.

It is in response to these developments that mental health experts are warning habitual social media use is nearing addiction levels and contributing to the youth mental health crisis.

To date, there have been few meaningful changes by the industry and no adoption of federal or state policies curbing the industry's harm to developing minds. As of June 2024, 475 social media lawsuits are pending in multidistrict litigation in the Northern District of California. And, as many as 41 U.S. states, including California's Attorney General Office, have taken direct legal action against one specific company, Meta Platforms, Inc., to hold them accountable for their negligence in ensuring its platforms are safe for minors. With today's item, the County of San Diego would add its voice to underscore the urgent need to enact new, responsible safety standards on all social media platforms in order to mitigate harm to youth and their mental

health.

Today's item directs County legal counsel to explore legal actions that would hold social media companies, including but not limited to, Facebook, Instagram, X, TikTok, and YouTube, accountable for their failure to protect youth mental health and for their purposeful creation of an unreasonably dangerous product that incentivizes addictive behaviors among vulnerable youth.

Just as San Diego County has joined other cities and counties in California to successfully hold opioid painkiller manufacturers and distributors accountable for deceptive marketing and for creating an epidemic of opioid abuse and addiction that killed thousands in San Diego alone, the County should hold social media platforms accountable for their failure to protect vulnerable youth.

RECOMMENDATION(S)
SUPERVISOR TERRA LAWSON-REMER

1. Direct the County Counsel, in consultation with the Chief Administrative Officer, to explore options for initiating, pursuing, and/or joining litigation against social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, X, TikTok, Snapchat, and YouTube for their failure to protect youth mental health and regularly report back to the Board in an appropriate manner until litigation is filed and, thereafter as necessary.
2. Adopt a resolution entitled: **A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RELATING TO THE SURGEON GENERAL'S CALL FOR WARNING LABELS ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS.**

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Studies show that certain subpopulations of youth, including females, LGBTQ+, Black and Latinx young people, are more likely to use social media platforms to combat loneliness and/or as a tool to locate mental health or well-being resources. Some of these same groups are experiencing disproportionate rates of poor mental health and suicidal thoughts and behaviors. Today's actions will ensure that the operators of social media platforms are further directed to take action to minimize the harmful aspects of their platforms and to preserve the well-being of young, vulnerable users.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's actions to hold social media platforms accountable helps to further the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals through its leadership and advocacy to remediate the current online environment in support of youth mental health. It is imperative that the County of San Diego be a pro-active partner in pushing for social media platforms to take seriously the deleterious impacts the current design of their products are having on the mental health of County residents ages 10 to 25 years of age.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for the actions requested in Recommendation 1 are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan based on existing staff time in County Counsel funded by General Purpose Revenue. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years. There may be fiscal impacts associated with future related recommendations which staff would return to the Board for consideration and approval.

There is no fiscal impact associated with Recommendation 2. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

17. SUBJECT: FIGHTING BACK AGAINST CORPORATE HOMEBUYERS AND WALL STREET LANDLORDS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

In recent years, an alarming trend has emerged where large corporations and Wall Street investors are increasingly buying up residential homes, driving up prices and exacerbating the housing affordability crisis. This practice not only puts homeownership out of reach for many aspiring buyers but also undermines the stability and diversity of communities. As corporations outbid individuals and small mom-and-pop landlords, the dream of owning a home becomes increasingly elusive, leading to higher rents and displacement of long-time residents.

The housing in our neighborhoods should be homes for people, not profit centers for Wall Street hedge funds. Yet, San Diego is ground zero for a growing trend of giant financial corporations buying up housing and driving up rent and home prices.

This trend has sharply accelerated since the pandemic when low-interest rates fueled a [Wall Street frenzy](https://www.propublica.org/article/when-private-equity-becomes-your-landlord) <<https://www.propublica.org/article/when-private-equity-becomes-your-landlord>>, with private equity giants buying up homes and apartment buildings to squeeze for profit, leaving tenants and local communities left to pay the price. According to the Federal Trade Commission, rental prices are up nearly 20% since 2020, with the largest increases among low-to-middle tier apartments rented by lower-income residents. Rising shelter costs are responsible for two-thirds of the [inflation](https://www.ftc.gov/business-guidance/blog/2024/03/price-fixing-algorithm-still-price-fixing) <<https://www.ftc.gov/business-guidance/blog/2024/03/price-fixing-algorithm-still-price-fixing>> pressure that is driving up the cost of living. This is due, in part, to the increasing use of algorithms by corporate landlords to unfairly set rental prices.

Corporations Limiting Homeownership Opportunities

Investor home sales hit an all-time high in the fourth quarter of 2023, with <<https://www.axios.com/local/san-diego/2024/05/06/california-share-investor-owned-homes>> [s>35.2%](https://www.axios.com/local/san-diego/2024/05/06/california-share-investor-owned-homes) <<https://www.axios.com/local/san-diego/2024/05/06/california-share-investor-owned-homes>> of California homes being sold directly to institutional investors, more than any other State in the Country. This alarming trend is projected to increase with institutional investors forecasting a <<https://www.yardi.com/news/press-releases/institutional-investment-in-single-family-rentals-is-on-the-rise-reports-yardi-matrix/>> [10-fold increase](https://www.yardi.com/news/press-releases/institutional-investment-in-single-family-rentals-is-on-the-rise-reports-yardi-matrix/) <<https://www.yardi.com/news/press-releases/institutional-investment-in-single-family-rentals-is-on-the-rise-reports-yardi-matrix/>>

[on-the-rise-reports-yardi-matrix/](#) in corporate home buying by the end of the decade (from 700,000 single-family homes in 2022 to 7.6 million homes by 2030). These institutional investors use their huge capital reserves to make all cash offers and scoop up available properties. This reduces the already-slim inventory in the marketplace and creates a more acute affordability crunch for first-time homebuyers.

Corporation Fueling Rental Housing Price Increases

The impacts of this corporate home buying spree are also being felt in the rental market. As institutional investors gobble up more and more homes, they are serving as landlords to an increasing share of our residents. Blackstone is the largest residential landlord in the U.S., with an estimated 300,000 rental units in their portfolio. A [recent report](#) https://pestakeholder.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/PESP_Report_Blackstone_March_2023_v4.pdf by the Private Equity Stakeholder Project, explains that institutional investors like Blackstone aim to maximize shareholder profits, which translates to maximum allowable rent increases, evictions, the rise of hidden fees, reduced investment in maintenance, and even efforts to influence state and local housing policy with the objective of increasing opportunities for profit at the expense of residents and communities. One Blackstone executive even noted that increasing evictions could serve as a [“cash flow growth possibility](#) <https://therealdeal.com/national/2023/01/30/blackstone-ramps-up-tenant-evictions/>”. These impacts are hitting communities across San Diego County, especially in [lower-income neighborhoods and communities of color](#) https://pestakeholder.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/PESP_Report_Blackstone_March2023_v4.pdf.

In 2021, Blackstone acquired a portfolio of 66 buildings in San Diego, totaling approximately 5,600 units. These units were mostly naturally occurring affordable housing (NOAH), making them highly vulnerable to market pressures and potential displacement of residents. This acquisition put San Diego at the center of scrutiny regarding Blackstone's real estate activities, as concerns grew about increased rents and tenant displacement. In response, tenants organized the Blackstone Tenants Union to advocate for fair treatment and the preservation of affordable housing. This situation highlighted the challenges of protecting vulnerable communities in an era of increasing corporate real estate takeover.

Allegations of Price Fixing, Collusion, Tenant Harassment, and Illegal Price Increases

The Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice (DOJ) have filed a [joint legal brief](#) https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/ftc_gov/pdf/YardiSOI-filed%28withattachments%29_0.pdf explaining that price fixing through algorithms is still price fixing, and that landlords and property managers cannot collude to set rental prices, including through the use of algorithms. The DOJ has opened up a criminal probe into one such company, RealPage, and the FBI recently [raided the headquarters](#) <https://www.sfgate.com/realestate/article/fbi-raids-landlord-connection-realpage-price-19507654.php> of a large corporate landlord in connection to the investigation. Numerous [lawsuits](#) <https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation/realpage-must-face-renters-price-fixing-lawsuit-over-multifamily-housing-2023-12-29/> across 10 states allege that owners, operators and managers of large residential multifamily complexes have abandoned their independent pricing based on supply and demand, and instead used algorithm based software, such as RealPage, to keep rental prices above market rates and share non-public, commercially sensitive information as part of the conspiracy. The landlords agreed to follow RealPage's pricing recommendations, on the

expectation that competing landlords would do the same. Price-fixing artificially inflates rental prices that burden tenants and distorts local housing markets.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta has also led on this issue, settling [a lawsuit <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-announces-settlement-invitation-homes-over-unlawful-rent>](https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-announces-settlement-invitation-homes-over-unlawful-rent) against corporate giant Invitation Homes, a spinoff corporation of Blackstone that owns over 80,000 homes, for price-gouging and unlawful rent increases. Local governments have been slow to address these anti-competitive practices to protect residents and maintain fair housing markets. We need to act to hold corporate bad actors accountable, protect our communities from illegal business practices, and safeguard housing options for first-time homebuyers and working families.

Today's item recommends the County take action to fight back against the corporate takeover of our homes and neighborhoods and make housing more affordable and attainable for all San Diegans. It includes the following actions:

1. Analysis of Commercial Ownership of Single-Family Residential Properties in San Diego County. [A recent analysis <https://fortworthgov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6710190&GUID=7DFAAEB2-7759-459B-9EF8-1E161414E9D3>](https://fortworthgov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6710190&GUID=7DFAAEB2-7759-459B-9EF8-1E161414E9D3) completed by the City of Fort Worth, Texas, found that 26% of all single-family detached homes were owned by commercial entities, including large corporations and institutional investors. The County should utilize data from property tax rolls to estimate the share of single-family detached homes owned by owner-occupants versus commercial entities like LLCs, banks, partnerships and look at single family detached property sales over the past 5 years to see trends in ownership.
2. Exploring affirmative litigation options against corporate bad actors and institutional investment firms to address allegations of price gouging, tenant harassment, and price-fixing across the San Diego County real estate market.
3. Explore opportunities for local ordinances and legislation that would address the increasing threats to renters, single-family homeowners, and mom and pop landlords posed by unfair and anti-competitive practices.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

VICE-CHAIR TERRA LAWSON-REMER

1. Direct the CAO to conduct an analysis of estimated commercial ownership of single-family detached residential properties across San Diego County, utilizing data from property tax rolls to estimate the share of single-family detached homes owned by owner-occupants versus commercial entities. The CAO should report back with this analysis within 90 days and include:
 - a. An analysis of single-family detached residential properties sold in San Diego County over each of the past 5 years, estimating the percentage purchased by owner-occupants versus commercial interest. Especially looking at single-family residences sold under \$1,000,000 to focus on the first-time homebuyer market segment.
 - b. A geographic analysis (utilizing zip codes or other similar method) to show neighborhoods with concentrations of owner-occupants vs commercial interests.

2. Direct County Counsel, in consultation with the CAO, to explore options for initiating, pursuing, and/or joining litigation against corporate landlords and property firms to address allegations of anti-competitive, unfair, anti-tenant and anti-small home buyer allegations and activities, including but not limited to: tenant harassment, evictions, price gouging, price-fixing, collusion, etc. across the San Diego County real estate market, and regularly report back to the Board in an appropriate manner with recommendations regarding litigation options to address these types of allegations until litigation is filed and then as required. As part of this exploration, collaborate with community-based organizations and tenant advocacy organizations, including but not limited to, Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE), and Legal Aid Society of San Diego.
3. Direct the CAO to explore and report back within 180 days with options for County policies and ordinances that would bar anti-competitive behavior, price fixing and unlawful rent increases, and safeguard housing options for first-time homebuyers and working families. Including, but not limited to, exploring options barring the County from entering contracts with entities that use anti-competitive algorithmic devices to set rents or ensure occupancy levels in rental properties, either directly or through an agent, such as a property management firm.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Rents and home prices continue to increase throughout San Diego County with incomes not keeping pace. A February 29, 2024, Zillow article noted that the annual household income needed to afford a mortgage for a typical home in the City of San Diego reached nearly \$275,000. Taking actions against corporate homebuyers and fighting back against allegations of price-fixing, collusion, and tenant harassment will increase housing security for low- and moderate-income tenants.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's proposed action supports the County of San Diego Sustainability Goal #2 to provide just and equitable access to services in support of sustainable communities. This will be accomplished by ensuring equitable access to affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households and by cultivating strong relationships with community partners.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for the actions requested in Recommendation 1 are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan based on existing staff time in the Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk funded by General Purpose Revenue. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

Funds for the actions requested in Recommendation 2 are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan based on existing staff time in County Counsel funded by General Purpose Revenue. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years. There may be fiscal impacts associated with future related recommendations which staff would return to the Board for consideration and approval.

There is no fiscal impact associated with Recommendations 3. There will be no change in net

General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

Today’s action will promote sustainable economic development and regional economic competition by promoting affordable and attainable housing which supports local economic activity.

18. SUBJECT:

OVERVIEW

The County of San Diego Probation Department (Probation) provides a comprehensive array of programs and services to Probation clients and their families throughout the County in Probation facilities and in the community. These services are delivered through County-operated programs, as well as through contracted services.

Adults and youth supervised by Probation may be at-risk of homelessness and in need of housing assistance upon their release from custody. Probation provides interim (short-term) housing solutions to assist clients, ages 18 and above, as part of community reentry assistance using contracts with nine housing service providers. Using these contracts, probation officers link clients to stable, sober, and drug-free housing to support their successful reentry into the community.

Youth supervised by Probation may receive behavioral health assessments by clinicians utilizing standardized screening tools. Based on the results of the assessments, clinicians can refer youth to behavioral health programs such as substance use disorder or other ancillary services such as educational, housing, or social services.

Today’s actions request the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors to authorize two competitive solicitations for contracts to continue providing interim housing programs and regional mental health clinician services. These programs support Probation’s mission of fulfilling clients’ needs, using evidence-based and best practices in the continuum of care, fostering positive outcomes for Probation clients, and promoting enhanced public safety.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. In accordance with Section 401, Article XXIII of the County Administrative Code, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to issue a competitive solicitation for interim housing services, and upon successful negotiation and determination of fair and reasonable price, award contracts for an initial term of one (1) year with up to four (4) one-year options and an additional six months if needed, subject to the availability of funds and a need for the services, and to amend the contract as needed to reflect changes to services and funding, subject to the approval of the Chief Probation Officer.

2. In accordance with Section 401, Article XXIII of the County Administrative Code, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to issue a competitive

solicitation for regional mental health clinician services, and upon successful negotiation and determination of fair and reasonable price, award contracts for an initial term of one (1) year with up to four (4) one-year options and an additional six months if needed, subject to the availability of funds and a need for the services, and to amend the contract as needed to reflect changes to services and funding, subject to the approval of the Chief Probation Officer.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today’s requested actions will provide services to County of San Diego Probation (Probation) clients at risk of experiencing homelessness, and or those with behavioral health conditions. Probation’s Interim Housing program supports justice-involved clients’ successful re-entry into the community by providing residential facilities, social benefits enrollment assistance, and assistance towards permanent housing. Probation’s regional mental health clinicians support justice-involved clients and their families by providing mental health and trauma informed services.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today’s proposed actions contributes to the County of San Diego’s (County’s) Sustainability Goals of improving the quality of life of clients through mental health support provided by clinicians and support equitable access to interim and permanent housing. These services will strengthen individual resiliency, promote client self-sufficiency, and improve client health and well-being. These actions will serve to strengthen the County’s efforts to maximize sustainability practices and have a long-term, positive impact in the lives of justice-involved clients and the community.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact for today's request. Funds for this request are included in FY 2024-25 Operational Plan for Probation Department based on Community Corrections Sub-Account and Community Corrections Performance Incentives Act. After evaluating the proposals submitted, the County of San Diego Probation Department will return to the Board, if needed, with any recommendations for additional appropriations prior to contract award. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

19. SUBJECT: INCLUDING THE IMPACT OF COST-OF-LIVING DIFFERENTIALS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY AS A PART OF COMPENSATION ANALYSIS FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

As one of the region’s largest employers, the County of San Diego is recognized as a leader in fostering a dynamic and inclusive work environment and setting a high standard for public sector employment. In recent years, the County has made strong commitments towards implementing forward-thinking policies that advance equity and employee well-being, and that recognize our workforce as the cornerstone to delivering the high-quality services and programs that our communities and residents rely upon.

As part of this approach, in 2021, the County collaborated with employee groups to utilize compensation studies to compare the wages of employee classifications for 25 represented bargaining units and non-represented employees with those in 13 other counties across the state. This compensation analysis was conducted by Koff and Associates and aimed to provide data that could inform discussions and decisions around compensation levels. Compensation studies are crucial for public sector management for ensuring salaries and benefits are set at levels that allow recruitment and retention of talent while promoting transparency and responsible resource management. To address the impact of regional differences in wages, the 2021 compensation studies used a “cost-of-labor” methodology that focuses on what other employers are paying for similar jobs within the region.

According to the UC Berkeley Labor Center, the cost-of-labor methodology has several weaknesses: (1) public sector work is complex with a diversity of occupations and responsibilities that are not easily compared with private sector benchmarks, (2) unlike the private sector, public sector compensation is not based on the market alone, but reflects budget constraints, revenue availability, and labor negotiations, and (3) there is a well-documented lag in public sector compensation based on educational level, compared to counterparts in the private sector, suggesting that cost of labor may not accurately capture public sector salary realities, and (4) the cost-of-labor methodology fails to adequately account for the vast differences in cost-of-living between these regions. The 13 comparator agencies included counties like: Fresno, Kern, and San Bernardino, which are a far cry from the cost of living in San Diego County. According to Zillow, the median rent in Fresno is \$1,345 per month compared to \$3,095 in San Diego - a 230% difference. In fact, San Diego recently took the No. 1 spot on the U.S. News & World Report's list of the Most Expensive Places to Live in the United States, given soaring housing prices, as well as high food, transportation, childcare, and utilities costs across our region.

An emerging practice in compensation studies is to account for these regional differences using a cost-of-living methodology. The cost-of-living accounts for the actual expenses that employees incur, including housing, transportation, healthcare, childcare, broadband, and other necessities. It can also allow for consideration of the differences in cost-of-living faced by different family structures, including but not limited to single-parent households, households with multiple children under five, households supporting people with disabilities, and more.

Choosing cost-of-living rather than cost-of-labor as the comparator in a compensation study is crucial for ensuring equitable and realistic compensation for employees across different regions and supports the County’s recruitment and retention goals. MIT created a Living Wage Calculator as a robust and highly popular tool that has widespread adoption across public, private, and nonprofit sectors. The tool features geographically-specific data for housing, food, childcare, health care, housing, transportation, other basic needs - like clothing, personal care items, and broadband, among others - and taxes at the county, metro, and state levels for 12 different family types. This tool provides a data-driven tool to compare cost-of-living differences across 3,143 counties in the United States.

Today’s action directs the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) to include the MIT Living Wage Calculator as a cost-of-living comparator in the 2024 compensation studies. The scope of this item is limited to the methodological approach to the compensation studies to ensure relevant data is available and does not constrain the County’s full range of options as part of any future compensation negotiations with employee groups.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

~~VICE CHAIR TERRA LAWSON REMER AND SUPERVISOR MONICA~~

~~MONTGOMERY STEPPE~~

- ~~1. Direct the CAO to include the MIT Living Wage Calculator as a comparator to analyze regional differences for the 2024 compensation studies.~~
- ~~2. Direct the CAO to discuss with the employee groups the application of the various indicators in the MIT living wage calculator to determine the final indicators to be used.~~

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Implementing a cost-of-living analysis for determining county compensation would increase equity by ensuring that all employees are compensated based on the actual expenses they incur in their specific regions. This approach addresses regional disparities in living costs, helping to create a more balanced and just compensation structure that reflects the true economic realities faced by workers.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed actions ordinance aligns with the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals by promoting sustainable economic growth for our community. The proposed actions included in this letter provide just and equitable wages.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with today's actions. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years. There may be fiscal impacts associated with future related recommendations which staff would return to the Board for consideration and approval.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

This item has been withdrawn at the request of vice-chair Terra Lawson-Remer and supervisor monica montgomery steppe

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

N/A

BACKGROUND

As one of the region's largest employers, the County of San Diego is recognized as a leader in fostering a dynamic and inclusive work environment and setting a high standard for public sector employment. In recent years, the County has made strong commitments towards implementing forward-thinking policies that advance equity and employee well-being, and that recognize our workforce as the cornerstone to delivering the high-quality services and programs that our communities and residents rely upon.

As part of this approach, in 2021, the County collaborated with employee groups to utilize compensation studies to compare the wages of employee classifications for 25 represented bargaining units and non-represented employees with those in 13 other counties across the state. This compensation analysis was conducted by Koff and Associates and aimed to provide data that could inform discussions and decisions around compensation levels that could support the County's recruitment and retention goals.

To address the impact of regional differences in wages, the 2021 compensation studies used a

methodology called “Cost of Labor” to measure regional differences in wage trends. This metric focuses on what other employers are paying within the region to account for regional variations in wages.

However, this methodology fails to adequately account for the vast differences in cost-of-living between these regions. The 13 comparator agencies included places like: Fresno, Kern, and San Bernardino, which are a far cry from the cost of living in San Diego County. In fact, San Diego recently took the No. 1 spot on the U.S. News & World Report's list of the Most Expensive Places to Live in the United States, given soaring housing prices, as well as high food, transportation, childcare, and utilities costs across our region. According to Zillow, the median rent in Fresno is \$1,345 per month compared to \$3,095 in San Diego - a 230% difference.

An emerging practice in compensation studies is to account for these regional differences using a cost-of-living driven methodology. According to the UC Berkeley Center, “employing cost of living differentials in public sector compensation studies offers a more straightforward approach that aligns with best practices and public sector values. This method adjusts salaries based on purchasing power, ensuring equitable comparisons across different geographic contexts.”

Choosing cost-of-living rather than cost-of-labor as the comparator in a compensation study is crucial for ensuring equitable and realistic compensation for employees across different regions and supports the County’s recruitment and retention goals. The cost-of-living accounts for the actual expenses that employees incur, including housing, transportation, healthcare, childcare, broadband, and other necessities. It can also account for different costs faced by varying households and family structures using standard household equivalence scales. On the other hand, cost of labor typically reflects the average wages paid within a specific labor market, which may not accurately capture the nuance of County positions, which are often not easily compared with other private sector positions in the region.

MIT created a Living Wage Calculator as a robust and highly popular tool that has widespread adoption across public, private, and nonprofit sectors. The tool features geographically-specific data for housing, food, childcare, health care, housing, transportation, other basic needs - like clothing, personal care items, and broadband, among others - and taxes at the county, metro, and state levels for 12 different family types. This tool provides a data-driven tool to compare cost-of-living differences across 3,143 counties in the United States.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

Today’s proposed actions support the County’s 2024-2029 Strategic Plan objectives of Empower Workforce and Empower Innovation by investing in the County workforce and implementing best practices.

Respectfully submitted,

20. SUBJECT:

OVERVIEW

On February 27, 2024 (16), the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to work with the County of San Diego Probation Department (Probation) to look for opportunities and resources to enhance staff wellness and mental health and identify recommendations for enhancing the wellness program that would benefit the department and its staff. Today's item provides an update on the work done to date.

Research shows that probation officer stress stems from two primary sources: 1) the demands of responding to critical incidents, and 2) more mundane organizational stressors, ranging from understaffed shifts to mandatory overtime. Studies show reducing probation officer stress and increasing wellness can reduce the number of critical incidents and facilitate positive engagement with all clients. Supporting probation officers' physical, mental, and emotional health is fundamental to creating safer communities, building meaningful relationships, and providing better services to the residents of San Diego County.

The Probation Department aims to foster a culture of wellness within the organization. Benefits of a comprehensive wellness program include better job performance, improved recruitment and retention, and enhanced relationships both internally and externally. Having access to wellness resources can lead to fewer complaints, a reduction in the use of sick days, and less uses of force incidents.

Today's action includes receiving a presentation regarding Probation's wellness program and accepting staff recommendations for enhancing the department's existing wellness program. Recommendations include expanding the department's current wellness program by reallocating resources to provide one dedicated staff for the Wellness Unit, increasing staff wellness training opportunities, and procuring a wellness app. Probation also requests to waive Board Policy B-29, Fees, Grants, and Revenue Contracts - Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery to remove the requirements of prior approval of grant applications and full cost recovery, so that Probation may apply for multiple grants without requiring the Board to consider each grant application. Probation shall return to the Board for acceptance of grant funds.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Receive County staff recommendations for enhancing the existing wellness program that would benefit Probation Department staff, including reallocating staff to the Wellness Unit, increasing wellness training opportunities, and procuring a wellness app.
2. Authorize the Chief Probation Officer, through June 30, 2034, to apply for grant funds related to staff wellness and mental health and to execute all required grant documents and related contracts, including any annual extensions, amendments and/or revisions that do not materially impact or alter services or funding in subsequent years. Probation shall return to the Board for acceptance of grant funds.
3. Waive Board Policy B-29, Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts - Department Responsibility for Full Cost Recovery, which requires prior approval of grant applications and full cost recovery for grants.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Public safety is of importance for all communities and all county residents. Strong relationships between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve are imperative to maintaining public safety. A comprehensive wellness program benefits the community by promoting better officer job performance, improving recruitment and retention, and enhancing relationships both internally and externally. It is important to envision better outcomes for underserved and diverse communities disproportionately impacted by the justice system. Enhancing Probation’s wellness program assists with the department’s goal to advance fairness and equity.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's action to accept recommendations to further invest in funding and resources to enhance staff wellness contributes to the County of San Diego’s sustainability goals of protecting the health and wellbeing of Probation’s workforce by providing support services to ensure continuity of operations and advancing health equity by investing in resources that will benefit staff as they address a myriad of challenges. Investing in staff wellness improves the work lives of those who serve our justice involved communities, which impacts the quality of service received by the public.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact for today’s recommendation to receive an update on opportunities for enhancing Probation staff wellness and mental health. If there are any fiscal impacts resulting from future recommendations, staff will return to the Board with identified funding sources for consideration.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

21. **SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE AND APPROVE ACTIONS RELATED TO COMPASSIONATE EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS AND PATHWAYS TO HOUSING PROJECTS WHICH MAY INCLUDE ESTABLISHING APPROPRIATIONS, EXECUTING LEASE, CONTRACT AMENDMENTS FOR EMERGENCY HOUSING SITES, ADMINISTERING THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK CONTRACT AND RELATED CEQA EXEMPTIONS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

On February 8, 2022 (14), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the expansion of emergency housing options by implementing a plan for Compassionate Emergency Solutions and Pathways to Housing (CESPH) for people experiencing homelessness. The plan included leveraging and expanding the existing Regional Homeless Assistance Program (RHAP) as the primary emergency housing option for the unincorporated communities while other

emergency housing options were being assessed and established. To address the need for emergency housing resources in the unincorporated areas of San Diego County and per the approved CESP implementation plan, the County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities (HSEC) in partnership with the County Department of General Services (DGS), reviewed numerous properties for emergency housing solutions, including County-owned sites. Sites that were deemed viable were then further assessed based on the programmatic needs of people experiencing homelessness to ensure the sites were in locations that met their needs and would potentially substitute services provided through RHAP. As part of CESP efforts, one safe parking site was opened in August 2022, and another is currently under construction and set to open in Summer 2024. Another site, Recreational Vehicle Senior and Family Parking is currently in the assessment and design phase.

On March 12, 2024 (18) the Board approved the Jamacha Sleeping Cabin site and authorized the acceptance of \$10 million in funding from the State of California to offset the construction costs related to this site. Subsequently on June 25, 2024 (8), the Board rescinded approval of the Jamacha Sleeping Cabin site and directed the Chief Administrative Officer to explore and assess alternative homeless solutions in Spring Valley and surrounding communities, including the Troy Street site in Lemon Grove and return with recommendations to include an analysis of feasibility, cost and timeline to develop the Lemon Grove site as well as options for utilizing the funding previously allocated to Jamacha project.

Today's item provides an update on actions related to CESP and requests the Board direct the Chief Administrative Officer to pursue one of three proposed options. If Option A or B is selected, then the Board would also establish appropriations, authorize the design, development, and construction of the Troy Street Sleeping Cabin site. Under these options, today's action also requests the Board amend a construction contract, approve a lease agreement with the State of California, Department of Transportation for the Troy Street Sleeping Cabin site, and find that these actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. Under Option C, today's action will reallocate funding to RHAP to continue to serve people experiencing homelessness in the unincorporated communities.

Today's action supports the County vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in San Diego County that have been historically left behind, as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This item also advances the County Framework for Ending Homelessness by ensuring our most vulnerable community members have access to housing, care coordination, and connections to more stable housing opportunities.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Receive the report including feasibility analysis of alternative emergency housing solutions and direct the Chief Administrative Officer to pursue one of the three proposed options to expand emergency housing in the unincorporated communities:
 - 1.1. Option A: Authorize the Troy Street Sleeping Cabin site located at 2800 Sweetwater Road, Lemon Grove to proceed without State funding, while continuing to pursue the reallocation of State funds to offset construction costs through the grant agreement.
 - 1.2. Option B: Authorize the Troy Street Sleeping Cabin site located at 2800 Sweetwater

- Road, Lemon Grove only if the State agrees to amend the grant agreement and provide funding to offset construction costs of the Troy Street site.
- 1.3. Option C: Reallocate all funding set aside for sleeping cabins as part of the Homeless Services portion of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Framework to the Regional Homeless Assistance Program (RHAP) to continue serving people experiencing homelessness in all unincorporated communities with emergency housing and cease the search process to establish sleeping cabins.
 2. If Option A or B is selected, approve recommendations 2.1 through 2.6:
 - 2.1. Find in accordance with Section 15061(b)(3) of the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines that it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that establishing appropriations and amending the Compassionate Emergency Solutions and Pathways to Housing (CESPH) project contract may have a significant effect on the environment and is, therefore, exempt from CEQA.
 - 2.2. Find that the proposed lease with the State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the work proposed at the Troy Street Sleeping Cabins site are exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines sections 15301, 15303, 15304, 15311 and 15269(c).
 - 2.3. Transfer appropriations of \$11,100,000 within the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS), Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities, from Services & Supplies to Operating Transfers Out to provide funding to the Major Maintenance Capital Outlay Fund for the Troy Street Sleeping Cabin site based on ARPA funding; and establish appropriations of \$11,100,000 in the Major Maintenance Capital Outlay Fund for the Troy Street Sleeping Cabin site MMCOF Project 1026800, based on an Operating Transfer In from HHS. **(4 VOTES)**
 - 2.4. Approve and authorize the Director, Department of General Services (DGS), to execute a lease with Caltrans for the Troy Street Sleeping Cabin site located at 2800 Sweetwater Road, Lemon Grove, to exercise any options to extend the lease prior to its expiration, if appropriate, and to execute any amendments to the lease that do not increase the rent or extend the term.
 - 2.5. In accordance with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement and Administrative Code Section 401, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to enter into negotiations with Turner Construction, and upon successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, amend contract #569169, to increase the Budget Not-to-Exceed amount to add the cost of developing the Troy Street Sleeping Cabins site, subject to the availability of funds; and to amend the contract as required to reflect changes to services and funding allocation, for the CESPH project.
 - 2.6. Designate the Director, DGS, as the County of San Diego Officer responsible for administering the Construction Manager at Risk Contract (CMAR) Contract #569169 and authorize the Director, DGS to execute any and all documents necessary for the implementation of the CMAR contract.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The 2024 Point-in-Time Count (PITC) of persons experiencing homelessness identified 10,605 individuals living on the streets or in San Diego County shelters on one night. Of this number, 6,110 individuals were reportedly unsheltered, approximately 44% of whom reported chronic homelessness, 28% were female, 9% were veterans, 2% were families, 8% were youth. Of those experiencing homelessness, 16% identified as Black, African, or African American, which is

more than three times the proportion of African Americans in San Diego County; 2% identified as American Indian, which is double the proportion of American Indians in San Diego County. Of the 6,110 unsheltered individuals, over 200 were counted in the unincorporated areas of San Diego County.

The County of San Diego (County) Framework for Ending Homelessness (Framework) was created to provide a strategic path for ending homelessness in the county across five strategic domains and ensures an equitable approach to service delivery. Ensuring racial and social equity in all aspects of homelessness prevention and response is one of the key drivers guiding the Framework efforts. Securing equitable housing, supports, and funding will assist those who are at-risk of or experiencing homelessness throughout the region. The County has conducted lived experience forums in the North, East, and South Regions to gain valuable information on shaping programs and has implemented regular lived experience feedback questionnaires. The County Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities administers Compassionate Emergency Solutions and Pathways to Housing (CESPH) programs, which serve people experiencing homelessness in the unincorporated communities. It is anticipated that CESPH will provide needed housing and support to people across the unincorporated areas of San Diego County, including youth and those who are disproportionately represented in the homeless system, including people who are justice-involved, and people with a range of health and social needs, as well as Black, Indigenous and People of Color.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's proposed actions support the County of San Diego (County) Sustainability Goal #1 to engage the community in meaningful ways and continually seek stakeholder input, Sustainability Goal #2 to provide just and equitable access to services and resources, and Sustainability Goal #4 to protect the health and well-being of everyone in the region. People at-risk of or experiencing homelessness, impacted community members, community partners, and other key stakeholders are engaged during the development of County plans to address homelessness and their feedback is valued and incorporated into the development of programs. Today's actions related to the Compassionate Emergency Solutions and Pathways to Housing program support the most vulnerable community members in the unincorporated communities to have just and equitable access to housing, services, and resources. This includes ensuring access to and facilitating connections to health services and behavioral health support.

FISCAL IMPACT

All options assume the use of \$41.8 million available in the Homeless Services section of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Framework for operating costs of the Regional Homeless Assistance Program (RHAP) and construction and operating costs of sleeping cabins. This amount represents the use of ARPA funds and General Purpose Revenue earmarked through the previously approved ARPA revenue loss strategy, and is inclusive of the \$8.5 million in ARPA funds initially allocated for construction of the Jamacha Sleeping Cabin site. Under all options listed in Recommendation 1, sufficient funds are available for construction costs of the Troy Street Sleeping Cabin site and operating costs of RHAP through Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26. The selection of option A, B, or C determines the one-time ARPA balance available for operational funding beginning in FY 2026-27 and the remaining gap where funding for ongoing operations would still need to be identified.

Operating costs for FY 2026-27 are estimated at \$13.8 million annually for options A and B, and \$15 million annually for option C. Under Option A, approximately \$13.1 million of additional funding would need to be identified to fully offset operational costs in FY 2026-27. Under Option B, approximately \$8.4 million would need to be identified. Under the RHAP only model in Option C, the FY 2026-27 funding gap drops to \$3.2 million given there are no upfront construction costs. For operating costs starting in FY 2026-27, the Department will monitor and incorporate in future operational plans as funding becomes available. Details of each recommendation is provided below and a funding summary is included in Attachment B.

Troy Street Sleeping Cabins Recommendation 1 Options A or B and Recommendation 2 One-Time Construction Costs

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-26 Operational Plan for Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) and are not included in the FY 2024-25 Operational Plan in the Major Maintenance Capital Outlay Fund (MMCOF) for the Troy Street Sleeping Cabins MMCOF Project 1026800. If approved, today's actions will result in an increase of appropriations in the MMCOF for estimated one-time design and construction costs and revenues of up to \$11.1 million in FY 2024-25. The funding source is an Operating Transfer In from HHS based on ARPA funds offset by any additional State funding made available. At this time, there will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

Ongoing Operating Costs

Under options A and B, RHAP would continue at \$15 million annually for 250 beds through FY 2025-26 and reduce to 180 beds beginning in FY 2026-27 once the Troy Street Sleeping Cabins are operational. The estimated operating costs for FY 2026-27 are \$13.8 million (\$10.8 million for RHAP and \$3 million for sleeping cabins). The selection of either option A or B impacts necessary operational funding to continue programming through FY 2026-27 depending on available State funding for Troy Street. The balance necessary to fund FY 2026-27 operating costs is anticipated to range from \$8.4 million to \$13.1 million depending on whether State funding is received to offset sleeping cabin construction costs. At this time, there will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

Reallocation of funding to the Regional Homeless Assistance Program Option C

There are no one-time construction costs under this option. Funds for operating costs of RHAP are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-26 Operational Plan for Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, today's action will result in costs and revenues of \$15 million annually in FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years. Annual costs of \$15 million would continue forward into FY 2026-27. It is estimated that \$3.2 million of funding would need to be identified to fully fund operations in FY 2026-27.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

22. SUBJECT: RECEIVE UPDATE ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CAPITAL FACILITY PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR PROPOSITION 1 INFRASTRUCTURE BOND FUNDING AND AUTHORIZE GRANT SUBMISSIONS, AND AUTHORIZE A FORMAL PROCESS TO ISSUE LETTERS OF SUPPORT (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

In California, counties are responsible for administering specialty mental health and substance use services for residents eligible for Medi-Cal. In this capacity within San Diego County, the County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Services (BHS) serves as the specialty mental health plan for Medi-Cal eligible residents with serious mental illness, and the service delivery system for Medi-Cal eligible residents with substance use disorder care needs. To ensure access to quality care that meets the needs of Medi-Cal beneficiaries in San Diego County, BHS is required to maintain a local network of behavioral health services and providers.

In March 2024, California voters passed Proposition 1 that includes the Behavioral Health Services Act (Senate Bill 326) and the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2023 (Assembly Bill 531), which authorized \$6.38 billion in a general obligation bond to expand behavioral health treatment, residential care settings, and housing to support people with mental health conditions and substance use disorders. Funds from the bond will be allocated to competitive grants for facilities that provide behavioral health treatment and residential settings, including for tribal entities; housing Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with behavioral health needs; and others who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with behavioral health needs.

To inform the priorities for the Proposition 1 Infrastructure Bond funding, on April 9, 2024 (4), the Board directed the creation of a process for seeking and investing funding, informed by data, community advocates, and stakeholders, and return to the Board within 120 days with a set of priorities to inform County planning efforts for these funds. The Proposition 1 grant funding will be administered by the State in multiple funding rounds through the *Bond Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (Bond BHCIP)* and the State preliminary guidance indicates that awards will be prioritized to counties, cities, tribal entities, nonprofit, and for-profit entities demonstrating site control, emphasizing residential treatment, and commencing service delivery in an expedient manner. Following a review of capital projects within the BHS portfolio, BHS is recommending the prioritization of several behavioral health capital projects for Proposition 1 grant funding through Bond BHCIP. These capital projects are anticipated to be the strongest candidates for grant funding based on the State's criteria and priorities, are high priorities locally, are furthest along in development, and will yield significant impact to clients in need of care in San Diego County.

Today's action requests the Board receive an update on behavioral health capital facility projects prioritized for Proposition 1 Infrastructure Bond funding and authorize the submission of Bond BHCIP grant applications for essential infrastructure projects, including the Substance Use Residential and Treatment Services facility, the new Children's Crisis Residential Care facility, and others including the Central Region Community-Based Care facility, should State and local criteria and priorities for funding align. In addition, today's action requests the Board authorize a

formal process to evaluate requests for letters of support submitted by local entities, as required for applications for Proposition 1 Infrastructure Bond funding, and issue letters of support for projects aligned with State and County priorities and criteria.

Today's action supports the County vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in San Diego County that have been historically left behind, as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished through further strengthening the continuum of behavioral health services in San Diego County.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Receive an update on recommended behavioral health capital facility projects prioritized for Proposition 1 Infrastructure Bond grant funding, and authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, or designee, to submit grant fund proposals through the Bond Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program and Permanent Supportive Housing program for the behavioral health capital projects identified, and additional future applications for these projects or others identified as priority areas of investment, if opportunities arise.
2. Authorize the Behavioral Health Services Director to implement a formal process for the Behavioral Health Services department to evaluate requests for letters of support submitted by local entities, as required for applications for Proposition 1 Infrastructure Bond funding, and issue letters of support only for projects that meet State criteria, align with one or more State priorities, and align with County priorities.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Services (BHS) functions as the specialty mental health plan for Medi-Cal eligible residents with serious mental illness, and the service delivery system for Medi-Cal eligible residents with substance use disorder care needs within San Diego County. As a regional steward of public health, BHS must ensure services address social determinants of health by being accessible, capable of meeting the needs of a diverse population, and equitably distributed to those most in need. BHS utilizes a population health approach, evidence-based practices, robust data analysis, and input from consumers, community-based providers, healthcare organizations, and other stakeholders to identify community needs and design services that are impactful, equitable, and yield meaningful outcomes for clients. BHS conducts ongoing engagement activities, such as community outreach, focus groups, listening sessions, and key informant interviews, to ensure community input remains central to priorities and planning activities.

Establishing additional dedicated behavioral health infrastructure to support people with mental health and substance use needs who are Medi-Cal eligible is expected to yield positive outcomes for some of the most vulnerable residents in San Diego County. This will be accomplished through the development of the new Substance Use Residential and Treatment Services (SURTS), the new Children's Crisis Residential, and the new Central Region Community-Based Care (CBC) facilities. These facilities will enhance access to behavioral health care across the region for adults in need of residential substance use services, children in need of behavioral health crisis services, and adults in need of access to housing and care within a licensed board

and care facility. According to the 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 94% of people aged 12 and older with a substance use disorder do not receive any treatment. The SURTS facility will help meet the unmet and rising need for residential treatment options. In addition, development of the new Children’s Crisis Residential facility establishes a new resource for youth care not currently in place within the local behavioral health care continuum. The Central Region CBC will provide a new pathway for individuals in higher levels of care to step down into community-based care within the least restrictive setting.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today’s proposed action supports the County of San Diego (County) Sustainability Goal #1, to engage the community in meaningful ways and continually seek stakeholder input, and Sustainability Goal #2, to ensure equitable access to County services. BHS has conducted extensive engagement activities to better understand local behavioral health needs and enhance collaboration with local partners. Through these efforts, BHS has solicited community feedback to inform department priorities, inclusive of services and infrastructure planning. Prioritizing the development of the recommended facilities will support increased capacity dedicated for children and adults with behavioral health conditions. These services will support equitable access to essential behavioral health care for Medi-Cal eligible children and adults, enabling them to be connected to the care they need.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with these recommendations. If awarded grant funding, the County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services department will return to the Board at a future date with additional recommendations. At this time, there will be no change in net County General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

23. SUBJECT: CLOSED SESSION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

- A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Hilltop Group, Inc. v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2021-00023554-CU-TT-CTL
- B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
De Jong v. County of San Diego;
San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2022-00022592-CU-NP-CTL
- C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
AmerisourceBergen Drug Corp. et al v. County of San Diego;
United States District Court Northern District of Ohio Case No.

D. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph 4 of subdivision (d) of Government Code section 54956.9: (Number of Cases - 1)

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

At the direction of the Board.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A