



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS

***THE MINUTES OF THE GENERAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS***

January 28, 2025

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025, 9:00 AM AND WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2025, 9:00 AM
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER,
BOARD CHAMBER, ROOM 310
1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

GENERAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025, 9:00 AM

Order Of Business

- A. REGULAR SESSION: Meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

PRESENT: Supervisors Terra Lawson-Remer, Vice-Chair; Joel Anderson; Monica Montgomery Steppe; Jim Desmond; also, Andrew Potter, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

- B. Statement (just cause) and/or Consideration of a Request to Participate Remotely (emergency circumstances) by a Supervisor, if applicable.
- C. Invocation was led by Rabbi Laurie Coskey, Vice Chancellor of Development and Entrepreneurship for San Diego Community College District.
- D. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Holly Kemper.
- E. Presentations or Announcement of Proclamations and Awards:

Supervisor Joel Anderson presented a proclamation declaring January 28, 2025, to be San Diego FC Day throughout the County of San Diego.

Vice-Chair Terra Lawson-Remer and Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe presented a proclamation declaring the weeks of January 29, 2025 through February 12, 2025, to be Lunar New Year Weeks throughout the County of San Diego.

Supervisor Jim Desmond presented a proclamation declaring the Month of January 2025, to be Human Trafficking Prevention Month throughout the County of San Diego.

- F. Non-Agenda Public Communication: Individuals can address the Board on topics within its jurisdiction that are not on the agenda. According to the Board's Rules of Procedure, each person may speak at only one Non-Agenda Public Communication session per meeting. Speakers can choose to speak during either the General Legislative or Land Use Legislative Session.

- G. Approval of the Statement of Proceedings/Minutes for the sessions of January 7, 2025, January 8, 2025 and Special Meeting of January 14, 2025.

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Desmond, seconded by Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, the Board of Supervisors approved the Statement of Proceedings/Minutes for the Regular meeting of January 7, 2025, January 8, 2025; and the Special meeting of January 14, 2025.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond
ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

- H. Consent Agenda
- 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.
- K. Recess to Wednesday, January 29, 2025, at 9:00 AM for the Land Use Legislative Session

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.

Board of Supervisors' Agenda Items

Category	#	Subject
Health and Human Services	1.	AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDING FOR THE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM, HOUSING NAVIGATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM, AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM PLUS HOUSING SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM AND ADOPT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF ALLOCATION AWARDS
	2.	AUTHORIZE SINGLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT OF HAMILTON MICROLAB SERIES MANUFACTURER-SPECIFIC INSTRUMENTATION, MAINTENANCE, CONSUMABLES, AND SUPPLIES FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
	3.	AUTHORIZE A SINGLE SOURCE CONTRACT WITH SHARP HEALTHCARE FOR HOSPITAL-BASED CRISIS STABILIZATION SERVICES WITHIN SHARP CHULA VISTA MEDICAL CENTER
Financial and General Government	4.	2024 ESCHEATMENT OF UNCLAIMED MONEY IN COUNTY TRUST FUNDS

5. 2024 ESCHEATMENT OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY TAX REFUND MONEY IN COUNTY TRUST FUNDS (PROPERTY TAX)
6. AUTHORIZE APPROVAL OF BRAND NAME VEHICLES IN PROCUREMENT OF COUNTY FLEET VEHICLES AND EXPANDED USE OF SIMPLIFIED PROCUREMENT PROCESS TO ALLOW SOLICITING LOCAL BUSINESSES FOR NEW VEHICLE PURCHASES, OUTFITTING, AND REPAIR SERVICES
7. AUTHORIZE APPROVAL OF BRAND NAME ELECTRONIC SECURITY PRODUCTS IN PROCUREMENT OF ELECTRONIC SECURITY PARTS
8. GENERAL SERVICES - AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE AND AWARD CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT(S) FOR NEW STAND-ALONE WORKOUT SHEDS AT SEVEN FIRE STATIONS
9. GENERAL SERVICES - APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE TO LEASE SPACE FOR PUBLIC DEFENDER'S CENTRAL BRANCH
10. GENERAL SERVICES - APPROVAL OF FIRST AMENDMENT TO LEASE FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE IMPERIAL BEACH SUBSTATION, 845 IMPERIAL BEACH BOULEVARD, AND NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
11. APPROVAL OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODES FOR GUAJOME LEARNING CENTERS, MIRACOSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT, SAN ELIJO JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY, AND WORLD TRADE CENTER SAN DIEGO
12. APPOINTMENTS: VARIOUS
13. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED
14. SELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND CHAIR PRO TEM OF THE 2025 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
15. PRESENTATION ON THE IMPACT OF POTENTIAL TARIFFS
16. PURCHASE OF A TWIN-ENGINE HELICOPTER, NEW WATER TENDERS, A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF FIRE SAFETY IN THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, AND WAIVER OF BOARD POLICY A-72
17. ENHANCING CLEARING AND BRUSH MANAGEMENT EFFORTS TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK IN THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AND WAIVE BOARD POLICY A-72

Public Safety

	18.	PRESENTATION ON COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE EFFORTS
Health and Human Services	19.	ENHANCING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ACCESSIBILITY: ESTABLISHING NEW PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS THE CONTINUUM OF CARE AND A-72 WAIVER
	20.	AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF INCOMPETENT TO STAND TRIAL DIVERSION AND COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT GRANT FUNDS
Land Use and Environment	21.	CONVENING A TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY POLLUTION SPECIAL MEETING
Closed Session	22.	CLOSED SESSION
Public Communication	23.	NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

1. **SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDING FOR THE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM, HOUSING NAVIGATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM, AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM PLUS HOUSING SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM AND ADOPT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF ALLOCATION AWARDS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

The County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Child and Family Well-Being Transitional Housing Program (THP) is comprised of the Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus) and the Transitional Housing Placement Program for Non-Minor Dependents (THPP NMD). Both programs improve outcomes for youth entering adulthood from the foster care system. Over the past two decades, the California legislature has made strides in addressing the transitional age youth housing crisis for those involved in the child welfare and probation systems. In 2001, California Assembly Bill 427 established the THP-Plus, which provides affordable housing and supportive services for aged out youth ages 18 to 24 years for up to 24 months as they transition out of foster care. Between 2001 and 2012, there have been numerous State laws, allowing for funding of THP that support youth in identifying and preventing homelessness. Most recently, in 2022, California Senate Bill 154 extended transitional housing services up to age 25 and provided 36 months of support for all youth involved.

Today's actions request the San Diego County Board of Supervisors authorize the application for and acceptance of funding for the THP, Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program, and Transitional Housing Program-Plus Housing Supplement Program, adopt a resolution authorizing application for and acceptance of allocation awards, and apply for future funding for transitional age youth housing.

Today's 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, as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished by enhancing the coordination of upstream prevention strategies and services between community resources and the child welfare system to ensure transitional age youth receive services and supports to secure and maintain a safe environment. Additionally, this item aligns with the County Framework for Ending Homelessness and the Housing Blueprint, promoting prevention and housing stability through equitable access to safe, affordable housing for current and former foster youth, helping to address youth homelessness.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Authorize the application for and acceptance of \$1,545,738 in Transitional Housing Program funds from the California Department of Housing and Community Development for the anticipated funding period of Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 through FY 2026-27 to reduce youth homelessness and authorize the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Agency, to execute all required allocation award documents, including all amendments thereto.

2. Authorize the application for and acceptance of \$413,630 in Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program funds from the California Department of Housing and Community Development, for the anticipated funding period of FY 2024-25 through FY 2026-27 to help youth secure and maintain housing, and authorize the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Agency, to execute all required allocation award documents, including all amendments thereto.
3. Authorize the application for and acceptance of \$1,032,773 in Transitional Housing Program-Plus Housing Supplement Program funds from the California Department of Housing and Community Development, for the anticipated funding period of FY 2024-25 through FY 2026-27 to help meet increasing housing needs and cost of rent demands, and authorize the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Agency, to execute all required allocation award documents, including all amendments thereto.
4. Adopt a resolution entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TO AUTHORIZE AN APPLICATION FOR, AND ACCEPTANCE OF, THE COUNTY ALLOCATION AWARD UNDER ROUND 6 OF THE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM, ROUND 3 OF THE HOUSING NAVIGATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM, AND ROUND 4 OF THE THP - PLUS HOUSING SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM.
5. Authorize the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Agency or designee, to apply for future funding, including grants, supplemental funding and other funding to support transitional housing for youth and support youth secure and maintain housing and avoid homelessness.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Child and Family Well-Being (CFWB) Transitional Housing Program (THP), inclusive of Transitional Housing Program- Plus (THP-Plus) and Transitional Housing Placement Program for Non-Minor Dependents (THPP NMD), provides up to 36 cumulative months of subsidized housing for current and former foster youth ages 18-25 years. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24, 389 youth were served under the THP and 75% maintained and exited to safe and sustainable housing. In any given month, there are approximately 329 unduplicated youth participating in the THP. The goal of the THP is for participants and subgroups within to include Black, Indigenous, People of Color, native Spanish speakers, and LGBTQ+ youth, to secure safe and stable housing by program graduation, and make progress towards life goals, including educational attainment or employment achievement, physical and mental well-being, and connections to community. The ethnicity breakdown for the 389 youth served under the THP in FY 2023-24 includes: 27% African American; 1.5% Asian; 18% Caucasian; 38.5% Hispanic; 0.5% Native American; 0.5% Other Ethnicities/Unknown; and 14% Bi or Multi-Racial.

CFWB partners with nonprofit entities to provide housing opportunities and services in the six County service regions to ensure youth in underserved communities have greater opportunities and access to safe and affordable housing. CFWB engages with program participants and providers to collect data and evaluate service outcomes to ensure positive outcomes for youth transitioning to adulthood and help them maintain safe and stable housing. Participating youth

complete surveys quarterly, which identify areas within the program that are both beneficial and need improvement. The surveys provide information on the effectiveness and satisfaction of the program service delivery to ensure equitable service delivery and programming. Recent data show that in FY 2023-24, approximately 83% of youth surveyed within all available THPs reported being satisfied with the program services.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's actions support the County of San Diego Sustainability Goal #2 of providing just and equitable access by expanding the availability of affordable housing to transitional age youth. Investments in concrete supports, such as housing, reduces economic and personal hardships on youth and provides the supports needed for youth to build resilience, independence, and long-term skills, which will lead to a reduction in youth homelessness and recurrence of generational maltreatment, and associated costs.

FISCAL IMPACT

Recommendation 1: Authorize the Application for and Acceptance of Transitional Housing Program Funds

Funds for this request are partially included in the Fiscal Years (FY) 2024-26 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in no costs and revenue in FY 2024-25, estimated costs and revenue of \$772,869 in FY 2025-26 and \$772,869 in FY 2026-27, for a total costs and revenue of \$1,545,738 from FY 2024-25 through FY 2026-27 for the Transitional Housing Program. The funding source is Transitional Housing Program allocation of State General Funds. Funds for subsequent years will be included in future operational plans. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

Recommendation 2: Authorize the Application for and Acceptance of Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program Funds

Funds for this request are included in the FY 2024-26 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in no costs and revenue in FY 2024-25, estimated costs and revenue of \$206,815 in FY 2025-26 and \$206,815 in FY 2026-27, for total costs and revenue of \$413,630 from FY 2024-25 through FY 2026-27 for the Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program. The funding source is Housing Navigation and Maintenance Program allocation of State General Funds. Funds for subsequent years will be incorporated into future operational plans. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

Recommendation 3: Authorize the Application for and Acceptance of Transitional Housing Program- Plus Housing Supplement Funds

Funds for this request are not included in the FY 2024-26 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in no costs and revenue in FY 2024-25 and estimated costs and revenue of \$1,032,773 in FY 2025-26 for the Transitional Housing Program-Plus. The funding source is the Transitional Housing Program-Plus Housing Supplement Program allocation of State General Funds. Funds for subsequent years will be included in future operational plans. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent, and adopted Resolution No. 25-002, entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TO AUTHORIZE AN APPLICATION FOR, AND ACCEPTANCE OF, THE COUNTY ALLOCATION AWARD UNDER ROUND 6 OF THE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM, ROUND 3 OF THE HOUSING NAVIGATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM, AND ROUND 4 OF THE THP-PLUS HOUSING SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

2. **SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE SINGLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT OF HAMILTON MICROLAB SERIES MANUFACTURER-SPECIFIC INSTRUMENTATION, MAINTENANCE, CONSUMABLES, AND SUPPLIES FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

The County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Laboratory (PHL) provides high-quality laboratory services to protect the health of the community and prevent the spread of disease. PHL has been a leader in infectious disease control locally, in California, and across the nation by analyzing clinical and environmental samples through surveillance, assessment, and assurance activities. In addition, PHL supports regional preparedness and response to communicable disease events, outbreaks, and emerging infectious disease threats.

On October 25, 2022 (11), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the establishment of appropriations for design and pre-construction services for a new PHL. The new facility will be larger than the previous PHL and will also be a Biosafety Level 2 and 3 reference laboratory, as the County serves as an approved Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Select Agent Laboratory for San Diego and Imperial Counties. PHL is also the designated location for the federal BioWatch program for the detection of bioterrorism agents in San Diego County. This new expanded PHL will allow for enhanced and expanded testing services and capabilities. The use of specialized laboratory equipment is essential to ensure this expansion of testing while maintaining and increasing testing proficiency and accuracy.

Today's actions request the Board authorize a single source contract with Hamilton Company for their Microlab series manufacturer-specific specialized instrumentation, maintenance, consumables, and supplies to sustain critical services and enhance PHL.

Today's actions support 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 by re-enforcing PHL's ability to safeguard and improve the health and well-being of San Diego County residents through enhanced and increased testing, prevention, and intervention to interrupt transmission of disease while maintaining good fiscal management.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. In accordance with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, approve and authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to enter into negotiations with Hamilton Company, and subject to successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award a contract for Hamilton Microlab series manufacturer-specific instrumentation, consumables and ongoing maintenance and repairs for the life of the equipment, for an Initial Term of up to one year, with four one-year Options, and up to an additional six months, if needed, and to amend the contract as needed to reflect changes to services or funding allocations, subject to the availability of funds and the approval of the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Agency.
2. Authorize the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Agency, or designee, to apply for additional funding opportunity announcements, if available, that would support the Public Health Laboratory efforts.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

San Diego County has one of the busiest border crossings in the United States and is home to a diverse population including military and tribal communities. Reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have highlighted disparities among populations impacted by diseases such as HIV, viral Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Infection, tuberculosis, and COVID-19. Disparities in ethnicity have shown to be linked to behavioral risk factors, environmental exposures, social determinants of health, and access to accurate and timely testing. To protect the health and well-being of all residents, the County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Laboratory (PHL) provides diagnostic testing that helps to diagnose diseases among the public, including but not limited to, tuberculosis, measles, mumps, norovirus, and malaria. Additionally, insights from testing results and patient demographics, available through the laboratory information management system, enables PHL to record and monitor health disparities and inequities across a wide range of diseases. PHL works in conjunction with public health clinics, local hospitals and healthcare providers, and the County Department of Environmental Health and Quality to analyze clinical and environmental samples to detect and identify bacteria, viruses, and other pathogens, perform rapid diagnostic testing, and characterize pathogens.

A fully functioning PHL that implements the core activities of surveillance, assessment, and assurance, is essential to provide the best health outcomes for our communities. Thus, PHL is continuously tracking advancements in specialized laboratory and testing equipment to ensure the most efficient and effective instrumentation is a priority. The procurement of advanced instrumentation will lead to improved testing capabilities, reduced response times, and more efficient and effective services to interrupt the transmission of disease and protect all San Diego County residents, especially the most vulnerable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's actions support the County of San Diego (County) Sustainability Goal #3 to transition to a green, carbon-free economy, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and Sustainability Goal #4 - to protect the health and well-being of everyone in the region, with a focus on collaborating with community partners and advocating for environmental justice for communities that have been disproportionately impacted. The County Public Health Laboratory continuously increases capacity and testing services aimed at detecting and preventing illnesses by using the most effective and efficient equipment available. Testing and identification will improve the overall health of communities, reduce the demand for associated care services, while increasing the effectiveness of care providers and lowering operating costs of facilities, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions and waste generated within the care sector. Since climate change and air pollution are direct threats to human health, the reduction of pollution is also considered a preventative healthcare measure.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Operational Plan of the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in estimated costs and revenue of \$300,000 in FY 2024-25 for purchase of one-time equipment and lab supplies and estimated costs and revenue of \$50,000 in FY 2025-26 for ongoing lab supplies and maintenance of the equipment. Funds for subsequent years will be incorporated into future operational plans. The funding sources are Enhancing Laboratory Capacity Enhancing Detection grant funds and existing Health Realignment. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

3. SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE A SINGLE SOURCE CONTRACT WITH SHARP HEALTHCARE FOR HOSPITAL-BASED CRISIS STABILIZATION SERVICES WITHIN SHARP CHULA VISTA MEDICAL CENTER (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

Under the leadership of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board), the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Services (BHS) has made key investments over the last several years to enhance community-based behavioral health services including the establishment of several crisis stabilization units (CSUs). CSUs provide immediate mental health support and treatment services in a therapeutic setting to people with serious behavioral health needs who require urgent care beyond what an outpatient clinical service can provide. Services typically last less than 24 hours and include crisis intervention, ongoing assessment and stabilization, medication administration, consultation with family and outpatient providers, and linkage and/or referral to follow-up community-based services and resources.

In January 2024, Sharp HealthCare (Sharp) received one-time grant funding to support the design and development of a new Emergency Psychiatric Assessment, Treatment, and Healing (EmPATH) CSU within the Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center. Similar to a traditional CSU, an EmPATH CSU offers care for people experiencing a psychiatric crisis through crisis stabilization services. The EmPATH model differs as it is co-located in an emergency department (ED), thus enabling people with behavioral health needs to transition smoothly to a CSU without being discharged. Sharp will establish approximately six EmPATH CSU recliners adjacent to the ED that are anticipated to provide care for a large proportion of people with serious behavioral health conditions who are eligible for Medi-Cal. As the specialty mental health plan for people with serious mental illness, the County can receive Medi-Cal reimbursement for these services through the California Department of Health Care Services.

Today's item seeks authority to establish a single source contract with Sharp for approximately six CSU recliners within the Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center that serve people with behavioral health conditions who are eligible for Medi-Cal. Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center will be the only hospital providing CSU services co-located within an ED through the new EmPATH unit, which uniquely positions it to facilitate quicker connections to behavioral health crisis care for people entering the ED.

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 by advancing crisis care in San Diego County and expanding capacity in the South Region.

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 enter into negotiations with Sharp HealthCare for hospital-based crisis stabilization services, co-located within the Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center emergency department, and subject to successful negotiations and

determination of a fair and reasonable price, award a contract for an Initial Term of up to one year, with four 1-year Options, and up to an additional six months, if needed; and to amend the contracts to reflect changes in program, funding or service requirements, subject to the availability of funds and the approval of the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Agency.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), Behavioral Health Services (BHS) functions as the specialty mental health plan for Medi-Cal eligible residents within San Diego County with serious mental illness, and the service delivery system for Medi-Cal eligible residents with substance use disorder care needs. As a regional steward of public health, BHS must ensure that services address the 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.

According to 2023 data from the County Medical Examiner's Office, residents in South Region had the third-highest rate of drug overdose deaths among all HHSA regions, with a staggering 117% increase from 2018 to 2023-the largest growth of any region. In 2022, South Region residents had an average of 22 emergency department (ED) encounters per week with substance use disorder (SUD) indicated as the primary diagnosis, with more than half among Medi-Cal recipients. Additionally, South Region residents had an average of 260 ED encounters per week for serious mental illness (SMI), accounting for 15% of all SMI-related ED visits in the county, 29% of which were among Medi-Cal recipients. Establishing crisis stabilization services will increase capacity of critical behavioral health care in South Region and will expand inpatient care to Medi-Cal eligible adults and others, improving access to critical crisis care for vulnerable adults who are experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's proposed action aligns with County Sustainability Goal #2, to ensure equitable access to County services. Establishing inpatient care services within the South Region prioritizes equitable access to essential behavioral health inpatient services for Medi-Cal eligible adults, enabling those in need of higher levels of care to be connected to care in close proximity to where they reside.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for these requests are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-26 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, today's recommendations will result in approximate costs and revenue of approximately \$3.0 million in FY 2024-25 and \$9.1 million in FY 2025-26. The funding sources are Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and Short-Doyle Medi-Cal. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

4. SUBJECT: 2024 ESCHEATMENT OF UNCLAIMED MONEY IN COUNTY TRUST FUNDS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

This is a request to approve the escheatment of specified unclaimed funds pursuant to California Government Code sections 50050-50057 and Penal Code sections 1420-1422. Public notice has been given by the Treasurer-Tax Collector that 1) the amount of \$195,191.91 was deposited in Trust Funds in the Treasury of San Diego, 2) was not the property of the County of San Diego (the "County"), 3) has remained unclaimed for the requisite years, and 4) will become property of the local agency effective October 5, 2024, if no claim is received prior to that date. The final claim period ended on October 4, 2024.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to transfer total of \$151,405.90 from County Trust Funds from identified County Departments and deposit it as revenue in the County's General Fund.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer through the Office of Revenue and Recovery to transfer a total of \$43,786.01 from its Trust Funds and deposit it as revenue in the Office of Revenue and Recovery's Victim Services Fund.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The Treasurer-Tax Collector recognizes the systemic impacts that inequitable policies may create for residents of the County of San Diego. Impacts have historically included outcomes related to racial justice and issues of belonging that are reflected in the programs, services and resources allocated to communities. County departments submit a list of unclaimed monies in their possession to the Treasurer-Tax Collector for inclusion in the Treasurer-Tax Collection escheatment noticing and advertising activity. The Treasurer-Tax Collector provides widespread public notice that these unclaimed monies are available to claim by displaying a full list of items on the Treasurer-Tax Collector website, and by placing display ads in local community news publications throughout the County and supplying local shelters with the display ad information to post in their establishment as means to notify the public of the upcoming deadline to claim the monies before they are escheated. The notices and display ads utilize "plain language" and graphics to convey the message and action that is needed to make a claim. Concurrent to these efforts staff perform extensive research and make attempts to contact the rightful owner of the money and encourage a claim be submitted. It is anticipated that these actions have a positive impact on groups to include Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), women, people with disabilities, immigrants, youth, and the LGBTQ community.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed actions to escheat unclaimed refunds and return the revenue to the County General Fund are appropriate as they support the County of San Diego's Strategic Initiative of Sustainability and the Goal of Economy, to align the County's available resources with services to maintain fiscal stability and ensure long-term solvency. The proposed actions to escheat revenue are also in alignment with the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goal of providing just and equitable access as the process to claim refunds is widely accessible to all claimants.

FISCAL IMPACT

If approved, this request will result in \$151,405.90 of unanticipated revenue to be realized by the County's General Fund and \$43,786.01 by the Office of Revenue and Recovery Victim Services Fund. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

5. **SUBJECT: 2024 ESCHEATMENT OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY TAX REFUND MONEY IN COUNTY TRUST FUNDS (PROPERTY TAX) (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

This is a request to approve the escheatment of unclaimed property tax refunds pursuant to section 5102 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Approve the escheatment of unclaimed property tax refunds and direct the Chief Administrative Officer through the Auditor and Controller to transfer \$529,486.45 from the Treasurer-Tax Collector trust funds and deposit in the County General Fund.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The Treasurer-Tax Collector recognizes the systemic impacts that inequitable policies may create for residents of the County of San Diego. Impacts have historically included outcomes related to racial justice and issues of belonging that are reflected in the programs, services and resources allocated to communities. The Treasurer-Tax Collector has provided widespread public notice that these property tax refunds are available to claim by displaying a full list of items on its website for the past four years, and by placing display ads in local community news publications throughout the County and supplying local shelters with the display ad information to post in their establishment as means to notify the public of the upcoming deadline to claim refunds before they are escheated. The notices and display ads utilize plain language and

graphics to convey the message and action that is needed to claim a refund. Concurrent to these efforts staff perform extensive research and make attempts to contact the rightful owner the refund and encourage a claim be submitted. It is anticipated that these actions have a positive impact on groups including Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), women, people with disabilities, immigrants, youth, and the LGBTQ community.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed actions to escheat unclaimed refunds and return the revenue to the County General Fund are appropriate as they support the County of San Diego's Strategic Initiative of Sustainability to align the County's available resources with services to maintain fiscal stability and ensure long-term solvency. The proposed actions to escheat revenue is in alignment with the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goal of providing just and equitable access as the process to claim refunds is widely accessible to all claimants.

FISCAL IMPACT

If approved, this request will result in \$529,486.45 of unanticipated revenue to the General Fund. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

6. **SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE APPROVAL OF BRAND NAME VEHICLES IN PROCUREMENT OF COUNTY FLEET VEHICLES AND EXPANDED USE OF SIMPLIFIED PROCUREMENT PROCESS TO ALLOW SOLICITING LOCAL BUSINESSES FOR NEW VEHICLE PURCHASES, OUTFITTING, AND REPAIR SERVICES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

Over the past 25 years, the County of San Diego (County) has standardized its fleet to Ford Motor Company (Ford) products. On December 7, 1999 (6), the Board of Supervisors (Board) initially approved the County to standardize the makes, models, and types of vehicles acquired for use by various County departments. Subsequently, 78% of the Fleet are Ford brand vehicles. Similarly, the Board approved specifying vehicle manufacturers in support of covert, undercover operations since March 22, 2005 (8). The remaining portion of the fleet consists of various brands to meet department orders, such as off-highway construction equipment, forklifts, and buses. As a result of automotive industry shortages or cancellations, as well as State and County sustainability regulations and goals, the Department of General Services (DGS) Fleet Services

Division (Fleet) and the Department of Purchasing and Contracting (DPC) need the flexibility to specify makes, models, and outfitting for the portion of the Fleet (22%) that cannot standardize to Ford or qualify as covert in order to fulfill departments' orders and successfully achieve sustainability goals.

Historically, Fleet and DPC have managed vehicle purchases through competitive procurement, with a significant portion of awarded contracts coming through cooperative agreements outside of the County (e.g. Sourcewell). Since the pandemic, Fleet has moved away from cooperative agreement contracts in favor of maximizing business with local dealers through simplified procurement methods. This strategy circumvents industry shortages and cancellations and promotes the local economy. Further, Fleet needs replacement vehicle parts pricing schedules to match automotive parts industry standards to simplify bidding for local vendors.

Today's request is for the Board to approve and authorize the Director, DPC, to (i) approve the use of procurement methods in which DPC specifies the brand-name vehicle makes, models, and outfitting, including for Ford products and other vehicle brands; (ii) waive Board Policy A-87(4), Competitive Procurement's public notice of procurement requirement exclusively for undercover vehicle purchases; (iii) approve the use of simplified procurement methods up to \$1,000,000 when procuring vehicles, outfitting, and repair services from local dealers; and (iv) approve the utilization of replacement vehicle parts pricing structures that correspond with industry standards exclusively when parts procurement is ancillary to repair services.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. In accordance with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, approve and authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to specify brand-name vehicle makes, models, and outfitting in procurements for up to five years, as required to support County department operations.
2. Waive Board Policy A-87(4), Competitive Procurement's public notice of procurement requirement when soliciting new vehicles, outfitting, and/or vehicle repair services for up to five years in support of covert operations.
3. Approve and authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to utilize Board Policy A-87's Simplified Procurement Procedure for procurements up to \$1,000,000 when soliciting new vehicles, outfitting, and/or vehicle repair services for up to five years, where eligibility to compete for award is reserved exclusively for local businesses.
4. Waive Board Policy A-81(C)(1)'s prohibition on Cost-Plus-a-Percentage-of-Cost contracts and, in line with industry standards, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to procure vehicle parts using a pricing structure of cost-plus-percentage markup for up to five years, when contracting with local businesses for vehicle repair services where vehicle parts and replacement parts are ancillary to the services.

5. Find that the proposed actions are categorically exempt from environmental review in accordance with Section 15060(c)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines because they are not projects as defined by Section 15378.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Approval of today's request helps achieve County department operational and environmental goals; promotes alignment with industry standard pricing models when purchasing vehicle replacement parts; and simplifies contracting methods to better support economic opportunity for local businesses.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Board approval to specify brand-name vehicle makes and models and expand use of Board Policy A-87's Simplified Procurement Procedure contribute to the County Electric Vehicle Roadmap and Green Fleet Action Plan strategies, which align with California Air Resources Board's mandates related to zero-emission vehicle conversion. These actions will also contribute to the County's annual greenhouse gas reduction goals as described in the Climate Action Plan (2024) of 236,498 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO_{2e}) by 2030 and 396, 815 MTCO_{2e} by 2045.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for these requests are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan for the General Services Fleet Internal Service Fund (ISF). If approved, this request will result in current year cost and revenue of an estimated amount of \$18,500,000. The funding sources will be ISF charges to client departments for services. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

Expenditures from this action may create private sector jobs and economic opportunities in San Diego County for local employees, independent shops, and local dealerships.

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

7. **SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE APPROVAL OF BRAND NAME ELECTRONIC SECURITY PRODUCTS IN PROCUREMENT OF ELECTRONIC SECURITY PARTS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

The Department of General Services (DGS) is responsible for maintaining the security and fire life safety systems in the County of San Diego (County)'s facilities. DGS's motto *Semper Salus* means "Always Safe." This approval to specify brand name products in procurements will help to ensure that the County upholds its commitment to safety for its employees and residents.

Today's request is for the Board to approve the specification of single source brand name products in procurements for repair of existing County security (e.g., access control panels, card readers, security cameras) and fire life safety (e.g., alarm panels, alert and notification devices) systems, pursuant to Board Policy A-87(3). The Board of Supervisors (Board) previously approved the specifying of brand name products in procurements for electronic security parts on May 21, 2019 (13). This authority has expired, and DGS needs a new approval from the Board to properly repair and maintain the County's security and fire life safety systems. Specifying brand name products in procurements allows the DGS Electronic Security Team to maintain warranties and equipment in accordance with manufacturer safety and reliability standards across County properties.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. In accordance with Board Policy A-87 Competitive Procurement sections (1)(D)(2),(5) and (6), approve and authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to specify brand-name electronic security products in procurements for up to five years.
2. Find that the proposed action is categorically exempt from environmental review in accordance with Section 15060(c)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines because it is not a project as defined by Section 15378.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The Department of General Services (DGS) is an internal service department within the County of San Diego (County). DGS ensures that other departments have the necessary workspaces to accomplish their own business objectives. Approval of today's request will enable DGS to complete repairs on essential safety equipment more quickly. The authorization to specify brand name security and fire life safety system parts for repairs will have a positive effect on County employees and residents by ensuring facilities and infrastructure meet manufacturer safety guidelines.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Board approval of this request to specify brand-name electronic security products in procurements for security and fire life safety systems parts supports the County's Sustainability goals of Economy, Ecology, and Resiliency. This procurement maintains fiscal stability while also ensuring the capability to respond to immediate safety needs for individuals (and, more specifically, County employees), families, and the region; it recognizes the lifecycle impacts of products; and it mitigates safety risks through promoting functioning security and fire life safety systems and streamlined safety protocols for the public across County facilities.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan for the Department of General Services Facilities Management Internal Service Fund (ISF). If approved, the annual spend for the County's security and fire life safety systems is projected at \$900,000, with an annual projected escalation of 6%, for a total contract value of \$5.07 million. The funding source is ISF charges to client departments for services. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

8. SUBJECT: GENERAL SERVICES - AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE AND AWARD CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT(S) FOR NEW STAND-ALONE WORKOUT SHEDS AT SEVEN FIRE STATIONS (DISTRICTS: 2, 5)

OVERVIEW

Fire Stations located throughout the unincorporated area of San Diego County in Harbison Canyon, Deerhorn, Lake Morena, Julian, Ranchita, Shelter Valley, and Intermountain have a need for dedicated fitness space to support the health, safety, and overall wellness of staff. A dedicated fitness space at these remote locations will help firefighters maintain optimal fitness, reduce injury risks, enhance overall performance, and ensure they are prepared to serve their respective communities. Currently, staff at these locations utilize the station vehicle bay as a makeshift fitness area. Installing new stand-alone workout sheds will allow firefighters to have a space intended for fitness activities and reduce negative health impacts associated with their work.

Today's request is for the Board of Supervisors to authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to advertise and award a construction contract or contracts for the installation of stand-alone workout sheds at each of the following Fire Stations: FS-24 Harbison Canyon; FS-37 Deerhorn; FS-42 Lake Morena; FS-56 Julian; FS-58 Ranchita; FS-62 Shelter Valley; and FS-85 Intermountain. If approved, construction is expected to begin in Spring 2025, with an estimated completion in Summer 2025.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Find that the proposed projects for the installation of stand-alone workout sheds at the following fire stations: FS-24 Harbison Canyon, FS-37 Deerhorn, FS-42 Lake Morena, FS-56 Julian, FS-58 Ranchita, FS-62 Shelter Valley, and FS-85 Intermountain are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301, 15303, 15304 and 15311.
2. Authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to advertise and award a construction contract or contracts and to take any action authorized by Article XXIII, Section 401, et seq. of the Administrative Code, with respect to contracting for the installation of stand-alone workout sheds at each of the following fire stations: FS-24 Harbison Canyon, FS-37 Deerhorn, FS-42 Lake Morena, FS-56 Julian, FS-58 Ranchita, FS-62 Shelter Valley, and FS-85 Intermountain.

3. Designate the Director, Department of General Services as the County Officer responsible for administering the construction contract or contracts for the installation of stand-alone workout sheds at each of the following fire stations: FS-24 Harbison Canyon, FS-37 Deerhorn, FS-42 Lake Morena, FS-56 Julian, FS-58 Ranchita, FS-62 Shelter Valley, and FS-85 Intermountain.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The authorization and award of a construction contract or contracts for the installation of stand-alone workout sheds at County Fire Stations would contribute to the County of San Diego's Strategic Plan Equity Goal of Health by focusing on system approaches that ensure equal opportunity for health and well-being, and Empower Goal of Workforce by investing to support programs and services to ensure continuity of operations.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The authorization and award of a construction contract or contracts for the installation of stand-alone workout sheds at County Fire Stations would contribute to the County of San Diego's Strategic Plan Sustainability Goal of Resiliency to help ensure the capability to respond and recover to immediate needs for individuals, families, and the region.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan for the Major Maintenance Capital Outlay Fund (MMCOF) and San Diego County Fire. If approved, this request will result in combined estimated costs of \$2,220,000 for the following MMCOF projects: 1026220 Harbison Canyon FS-24 (\$475,000), 1026110 Deerhorn FS-37 (\$335,000), 1026112 Intermountain FS-85 (\$90,000), 1026108 Julian FS-56 (\$335,000), 1026111 Lake Morena FS-42 (\$345,000), 1026113 Ranchita FS-58 (\$335,000), and 1026856 Shelter Valley FS-62 (\$305,000). The funding source is available prior year General Fund fund balance and existing current year General Purpose Revenue. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

If approved, these recommendations will have a positive impact on the business community. Many of the funded projects will involve construction projects implemented by private construction firms selected through a competitive bid process.

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

**9. SUBJECT: GENERAL SERVICES - APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE TO LEASE
SPACE FOR PUBLIC DEFENDER'S CENTRAL BRANCH
(DISTRICT: 1)**

OVERVIEW

The San Diego County Public Defender (PD) has operated their Central Branch at 451 A Street (formerly 450 B Street), San Diego, since 2010. The existing lease for space totaling approximately 92,303 square feet expires on September 30, 2026.

In Fiscal Year 2022-23, PD added 90 positions increasing staffing in all branches with a large allocation of new staff assigned to the Central Branch. The current leased premises at 451 A Street cannot accommodate the additional staff and is no longer sufficient to meet departmental needs as currently configured. The Department of General Services conducted a space validation study that supports the need for approximately 113,638 square feet of space to support Central Branch operations.

Today's request is for approval in principle to search for expanded lease space for the Public Defender Central Branch. Upon successful negotiation of a lease agreement, staff will return to the Board to request approval of the transaction.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Find that the proposed approval in principle is not an approval of a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15378 (b)(5) of the State CEQA guidelines.
2. Approve in principle the lease of approximately 113,638 square feet of space for the Public Defender Central Branch.
3. Authorize the Director, Department of General Services, to conduct a site search, negotiate a lease, and upon successful negotiations, return to the Board for approval of the lease agreement.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The Public Defender Central Branch office is lacking critical elements to support the community in its current location. A larger facility would benefit the community that has been traditionally underserved due to the lack of space for adequate programs, and resources providing equitable access to legal resources.

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 in principle for a larger facility for the Public Defender Central Branch 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

There is no fiscal impact associated with the requested approval in principle to negotiate for additional space in the existing building or at a new location. The lease costs resulting from this action will be determined during lease negotiations and will be considered only if the rates and conditions are as or more favorable than the present lease and further, the Public Defender's office will repurpose existing General Purpose Revenue to cover any increased costs resulting from lease negotiations. Should a favorable lease term, conditions, and cost that can be absorbed by the Public Defender without compromising their budget be negotiated, staff shall return to the Board to request approval of a new lease agreement. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

10. **SUBJECT: GENERAL SERVICES - APPROVAL OF FIRST AMENDMENT TO LEASE FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE IMPERIAL BEACH SUBSTATION, 845 IMPERIAL BEACH BOULEVARD, AND NOTICE OF EXEMPTION (DISTRICT: 1)**

OVERVIEW

On July 1, 2018, the Director, Department of General Services (DGS), administratively approved a lease agreement with City of Imperial Beach for the Sheriff's Office (Sheriff) Imperial Beach Substation. The Imperial Beach Substation has been operated by the Sheriff since 1983 through a series of leases, however, the current lease expired on June 30, 2023. The lease is currently on holdover, which has allowed the County to continue occupancy on a month-to-month basis while an amendment was negotiated.

Staff from DGS have negotiated an amendment for the Imperial Beach Sheriff Substation to extend the term of the lease. Since the proposed term length exceeds administrative authority of five years, Board of Supervisors (Board) approval of the amendment is required. Today's request is for Board approval of the amendment.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Find the proposed lease amendment for the Imperial Beach Substation is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines 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 845 Imperial Beach Boulevard, Imperial Beach, California.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

It is anticipated that the proposed lease amendment for the Imperial Beach Sheriff Substation will contribute positively to the communities it supports by providing resources and equitable access to law enforcement services for the City of Imperial Beach and the unincorporated communities of Bonita, Chula Vista, Lincoln Acres, Proctor Valley, San Miguel, and Otay Valley.

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 this amendment supports the County's Strategic Initiative of Sustainability to ensure the capability to respond to the immediate needs for individuals, families and the region.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan in the Sheriff's Office. If approved, this request will result in current year costs of approximately \$19,178.35 in Fiscal Year 2024-25. Fiscal Year 2025-26 costs are estimated at \$47,041.68 which includes a 3% rent adjustment to go into effect July 2025. Funds for the remaining term and for each option year (if exercised), will be included in future years' operational plans for the Sheriff's Office. The funding source is contract city revenue. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

11. **SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODES FOR GUAJOME LEARNING CENTERS, MIRACOSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT, SAN ELIJO JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY, AND WORLD TRADE CENTER SAN DIEGO (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

The Board of Supervisors serves as the Code Reviewing Body for any local agency, other than cities, with jurisdiction wholly within the County, pursuant to Government Code Section 82011.

The recommended action would approve the proposed amendments to the Conflict of Interest code for Guajome Learning Centers, MiraCosta Community College District, San Elijo Joint Powers Authority, and approve the adoption of the code for World Trade Center San Diego.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Approve the Conflict of Interest codes for Guajome Learning Centers, MiraCosta Community College District, San Elijo Joint Powers Authority, and World Trade Center San Diego.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

County government includes standing and special boards, commissions, committees and task forces formed to advise the Board of Supervisors and County staff on issues and policies 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 and as such must provide transparent, bias-free decision-making. The Board of Supervisors serves as the Code Reviewing Body for any local agency, other than cities, with jurisdiction wholly within the County, pursuant to Government Code Section 82011. Under the California Political Reform Act, a public official has a disqualifying conflict of interest in a governmental decision if it is foreseeable that the decision will have a financial impact on their personal finances or other financial interests. In such cases, there is a risk of biased decision-making that could sacrifice the public's interest in favor of the official's private financial interests. To avoid actual bias or the appearance of possible improprieties, the public official is prohibited from participating in the decision.

The recommended action would approve the amended Conflict of Interest codes submitted by Guajome Learning Centers, MiraCosta Community College District, San Elijo Joint Powers Authority, and approve the adoption of the code for World Trade Center San Diego. The Conflict of Interest codes in this Board Letter enables the County of San Diego to provide transparency and accountability to individual residents, ensuring equitable operations of the government that are free from undue influence.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Under the Political Reform Act, all public agencies are required to adopt a Conflict of Interest code that designates positions that are required to file the Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700). Conflict of Interest codes must be maintained as updated and accurate to ensure that necessary public officials report their personal financial interests. These required filings provide public transparency about possible conflicts of interest and to ensure governmental decisions are made in the best interest of the public. This Board Letter supports the County of San Diego's sustainability goal of, "Engaging the community to partner and participate in decisions that impact their lives and communities and transparently share results of outcomes."

FISCAL IMPACT

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

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

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," and Board Policy A-77, "Appointments to Fill Vacancies and Cancellation of Election where Insufficient Nominations Filed Prior to Uniform District Election and Citizen Planning Group Election". Board Policy I-1, "Planning and Sponsor Group Policies and Procedures."

RECOMMENDATION(S)

SUPERVISOR JOEL ANDERSON

Appoint Lucille Hargraves to JAMUL/DULZURA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP, Seat No. 5, for a term to expire January 8, 2029.

Appoint Joseph Sarapochillo to RAMONA DESIGN REVIEW BOARD, Seat No. 2, for a term to expire September 9, 2025.

SUPERVISOR MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE

Appoint Jacob Christie to the SPRING VALLEY COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP, Seat No. 14, for a term to expire January 4, 2027.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Appoint James Mendelson to the CITIZENS' LAW ENFORCEMENT REVIEW BOARD, Seat No. 10, for a term to begin January 29, 2025 and to expire June 30, 2027.

Re-appoint Clayton Lackey to the PALOMAR AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, Seat No. 9 for a term to expire January 8, 2029.

Re-appoint Michael Hall to the Past Grand Jurors Association Implementation Review Committee, Seat No. 5, for a term to expire December 31, 2025.

Re-appoint Cheryl Converse-Rath to the Past Grand Jurors Association Implementation Review Committee, Seat No. 6, for a term to expire December 31, 2025.

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

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

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

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

14. SUBJECT: SELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND CHAIR PRO TEM OF THE 2025 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

The Board of Supervisors will select the Chair, Vice Chair, and Chair Pro Tem for the 2025 calendar year. This item was continued from the January 7, 2025 (1) session due to the lack of required affirmative votes.

RECOMMENDATION(S)**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Select a Chair, Vice Chair, and Chair Pro Tem.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The Chair's primary role is to preside at all meetings of the Board and ensure that business is conducted in an orderly fashion and that all have an equal opportunity to observe and participate in the proceedings. The Board promotes civil discourse in public discussion and debate, utilizing the adopted "Code of Civil Discourse" from the National Conflict Resolution Center, as its expression of conduct that should be aspired to by all participants in public meetings.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The Officers have opportunities to support sustainability goals that engage the community in meaningful ways and continually seek stakeholder input to foster inclusive and sustainable communities.

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

There is no business impact associated with this action.

ACTION 1.1:

A motion was made by Supervisor Lawson-Remer, seconded by Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, for the Board of Supervisors to appoint Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, Chair and Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe, Vice-Chair.

(A substitute motion was introduced.)

ACTION 1.2:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Desmond, seconded by Supervisor Anderson, the Board of Supervisors continued this item until the meeting on April 22, 2025.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

**15. SUBJECT: PRESENTATION ON THE IMPACT OF POTENTIAL TARIFFS
(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

On December 10, 2024 (38), the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved to accept the Fiscal Year 2024-25 first quarter report on projected year-end results and the accompanying actions needed for the County of San Diego budget. In addition to these actions, the Board requested staff return in January 2025 with a presentation on the possible impacts future tariffs may have on the San Diego region. Today's action is to receive this presentation.

RECOMMENDATION(S)**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Receive the presentation on the impact of potential tariffs.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed presentation on tariffs and their impact on the San Diego region will provide residents with information on what a tariff is and how nations use tariffs to protect industries. Ongoing communication with the community and being open about how tariffs may impact County residents and businesses as well as any responding County programs or policies will be crucial to make sure any policies or actions from this presentation are fair for everyone.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The presentation on potential tariffs and their impact on the San Diego region presents both opportunities and challenges from a sustainability perspective. Potential opportunities include incentivizing local production, diversifying supply chains, and driving innovations in sustainable procurement. However, tariffs may also increase costs for essential goods and services, which

may disproportionately impact vulnerable communities. By exploring the sustainability implications of trade policies, the presentation can inform decision-making and support the development of strategies that promote economic resilience, environmental stewardship, and social equity.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with receiving the presentation. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Lawson-Remer, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took the following actions:

1. Received the presentation on the impact of potential tariffs.
2. Directed the Chief Administrative Officer to return to the Board at a future meeting with further assessment of the options the County can do to support local communities, including but not limited to, a Federal Trade Zone program.

AYES: Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

NOES: Anderson

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

16. **SUBJECT: PURCHASE OF A TWIN-ENGINE HELICOPTER, NEW WATER TENDERS, A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF FIRE SAFETY IN THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, AND WAIVER OF BOARD POLICY A-72 (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

With an urgency underscored by the devastating fires in Los Angeles, today's action enhances fire preparedness and strengthens firefighting capabilities through a multi-faceted approach including:

- **Expanding resources:** Acquiring additional twin-engine helicopters and new water tenders, subject to funding availability.
- **Evaluating vulnerabilities:** Conducting thorough assessments of open spaces and regional water resources.
- **Convening appropriate agencies and representatives:** Return to the Board of Supervisors (Board) for a public presentation on overall wildfire preparedness.

We have seen historic fires throughout California and the western United States in recent years, including the recent fires that ravaged Los Angeles. We must push to prepare for the real risk of wildfire in San Diego, and there should be no greater priority than securing the major equipment firefighters need to fight fires and save lives and property in the San Diego region.

As we continue to learn from past fires in San Diego and the recent fires in Los Angeles, the urgency increases to take immediate, tangible action to make the region safer from devastating fires. While state and regional mutual aid are available, they often require time and approval to mobilize. Ensuring local fire departments are equipped with modern technology and equipment is essential to prevent small fires from escalating into large-scale emergencies.

Twin-engine firefighting helicopters that attacked fires both day and night, and mobile water tenders that filled from various sources and deployed to the front lines were crucial to containing the fires in Los Angeles. San Diego has an opportunity to better prepare and equip itself to reduce and prevent the devastation for the immediate future. For fire prevention, vegetation management and brush clearing are paramount. Fast, effective water transportation is crucial for combating wildfires in these areas. As we witnessed in Los Angeles, even areas with urban infrastructure can lose pressure with a loss of power and other issues caused by wildfire, highlighting the need for a mobile, robust fire response.

Currently, County of San Diego emergency responders operate with outdated firefighting equipment. The County's helicopter fleet consists of aging single-engine aircraft that are built out of 1960s and 1970s airframes. Twin-engine, nighttime-capable helicopters are cutting-edge tools in wildfire management. While San Diego County has one such helicopter, it urgently needs an additional, twin-engine helicopter to effectively combat wildfires. Similarly, water tenders-mobile water storage tank trucks-allow firefighters to bring water directly to the front lines, bypassing the need for fixed infrastructure.

Investing in these critical resources will strengthen San Diego County's ability to respond to and prevent wildfires, safeguarding its communities and natural landscapes from future disasters.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SUPERVISOR JIM DESMOND

1. Waive Board Policy A-72 Agenda and Related Process, Section 2.C.2.ii, which establishes required timelines for review when preparing a Board Letter.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to coordinate with the relevant departments to utilize the \$3.75 million grant funds, accepted November 7, 2023 (1), from the U.S. Forest Service for the purchase of a twin-engine helicopter, pursue additional grant funding, and refer to budget the identification of a one-time funding source for the remaining cost unsupported by grant funds, subject to funding availability.
3. In accordance with Section 401, et. Seq., of the County Administrative Code, once funding is available, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to issue a competitive solicitation for one dual engine helicopter and upon successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award a contract for a dual engine helicopter and to amend contract as needed to reflect changes to services and funding.
4. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to pursue grant funding and consider during the budget planning process the purchase of additional water tenders for the San Diego County Fire Protection District to serve north county and south county, subject to funding availability.

5. In accordance with Section 401, et. Seq., of the County Administrative Code, once funding is available, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to issue a competitive solicitation for additional water tenders and upon successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award a contract for additional water tenders and to amend contract as needed to reflect changes to services and funding.
6. Direct Chief Administrative Officer to work with the San Diego County Water Authority, municipalities, fire safe councils, and relevant agencies and stakeholders to assess fire related items, including but not limited to the list below, and provide a report to update the Board within 90 days and return to the Board for presentation within 180 days:
 - a. Water supply and hydrant systems: assessment and upgrades, maintenance protocols, water management plans, assessment of additional heli-hydrant sites and opportunities.
 - b. Dam supplies and reservoir management: water release planning and reservoir levels.
 - c. Fire prevention and preparedness: vegetation management, public education, building codes.
 - d. Emergency Response Coordination: interagency collaboration and communication systems.
 - e. Insurance and financial recovery: insurance policy review and disaster relief funds.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The year-round threat of wildfires disproportionately impacts rural, low-income, and underserved communities in San Diego County, where limited water infrastructure and resources heighten vulnerabilities. Enhancing fire preparedness through investments in helicopters, water tenders, and vegetation management ensures equitable protection for these communities, which often face the greatest risks. By prioritizing modern equipment and proactive strategies, this initiative addresses disparities in emergency response capabilities and promotes safety for all residents, including those in remote and historically under-resourced areas. Collaboration with local stakeholders ensures a comprehensive approach to wildfire preparedness that considers diverse needs and perspectives. These efforts safeguard lives, property, and natural ecosystems, fostering resilience across the county. About 79% of the County's unincorporated area is designated as High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. More than 80% of San Diego County's jurisdictional area qualifies as a disadvantaged unincorporated community based on a San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission report on funding, administration, and performance of the former County Service Area No. 135 (now San Diego County Fire Protection District).

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

Funds for the actions requested in Recommendation 2 to purchase a twin-engine helicopter are not included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan in the Sheriff's Office. The total cost of a twin-engine helicopter is estimated at \$18,000,000. Grant funding of \$3,750,000 is available from the U.S. Forest Service. If approved, the remaining cost which is not supported by grant funding, currently estimated at \$14,250,000 pending further coordination with departments, will be referred to the Board's Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget deliberations to identify a one-time funding source, subject to funding availability. There will be no additional staff years associated with Recommendation 2.

Funds for the actions requested in Recommendation 4 to purchase additional water tenders are not included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan in the San Diego County Fire Protection District. At this time there is no funding source budgeted to support the purchase of additional water tenders, estimated at \$975,000 each, for a type 1 water tender, which holds approximately 3,000 gallons of water. An additional three full-time staff from CAL FIRE for each tender would also be required to staff each tender. Costs to staff each additional tender are estimated at \$750,000. If approved, this purchase and associated staffing will be referred to the Board's Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget deliberations to identify funding sources, subject to funding availability and may require reallocation of existing funding compared to current year.

Funds for the actions requested in Recommendation 6 are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan based on existing staff time in the impacted departments. There is no fiscal impact associated with Recommendations 1, 3 and 5; there will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years associated with these Recommendations. 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

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Desmond, seconded by Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, the Board of Supervisors took the following actions:

1. Waived Board Policy A-72 Agenda and Related Process, Section 2.C.2.ii, which establishes required timelines for review when preparing a Board Letter.
2. Directed the Chief Administrative Officer to coordinate with the relevant departments to utilize the \$3.75 million grant funds, accepted November 7, 2023 (1), from the U.S. Forest Service for the purchase of a twin-engine helicopter for County Fire for 24/7 fire response, pursue additional grant funding, and refer to budget the identification of a one-time funding source for the remaining cost unsupported by grant funds, subject to funding availability.
3. In accordance with Section 401, et. Seq., of the County Administrative Code, once funding is available, authorized the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to issue a competitive solicitation for one dual engine helicopter and upon successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award a contract for a dual engine helicopter and to amend contract as needed to reflect changes to services and funding.

4. Directed the Chief Administrative Officer to pursue grant funding and consider during the budget planning process the purchase of additional water tenders for the San Diego County Fire Protection District to serve north county and south county, subject to funding availability.
5. In accordance with Section 401, et. Seq., of the County Administrative Code, once funding is available, authorized the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to issue a competitive solicitation for additional water tenders and upon successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award a contract for additional water tenders and to amend contract as needed to reflect changes to services and funding.
6. Directed Chief Administrative Officer to work with the San Diego County Water Authority, municipalities, fire safe councils, and relevant agencies and stakeholders to assess fire related items, including but not limited to the list below, and provide a report to update the Board within 90 days and return to the Board for presentation within 180 days:
 - a. Water supply and hydrant systems: assessment and upgrades, maintenance protocols, water management plans, assessment of additional heli-hydrant sites and opportunities.
 - b. Dam supplies and reservoir management: water release planning and reservoir levels.
 - c. Fire prevention and preparedness: vegetation management, public education, building codes.
 - d. Emergency Response Coordination: interagency collaboration and communication systems.
 - e. Insurance and financial recovery: insurance policy review and disaster relief funds.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

17. SUBJECT: ENHANCING CLEARING AND BRUSH MANAGEMENT EFFORTS TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK IN THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AND WAIVE BOARD POLICY A-72 (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

We have seen historic fires throughout California and the western United States in recent years, including the significant fires that recently ravaged Los Angeles. Given the severity and destructive power underscored by these fires, it's clear we must always be prepared for this very real risk in San Diego County. This must include having an effective clearing and brush management program in place. Proactive wildfire risk management is critical for reducing both the frequency and severity of wildfires. One of the most proactive steps we can take as a region is to eliminate or significantly diminish the amount of overgrown vegetation in the wildland-urban interface areas (areas of transition from wilderness to developed land). This includes removing things such as dead plants, grasses, shrubs, and trees - all of which provide for hazardous wildfire fuels. By deliberately managing dead and overgrown vegetation we're able to better contain and reduce the intensity of future fires. While the focus is to protect human lives and property, effective clearing and brush management also helps contain fires and slows their spread, making emergency response efforts easier for firefighters and first responders in the air and on the ground.

When it comes to clearing and brush management, we should explore all available tools and options including both traditional and modern solutions. One such tool includes employing the use of livestock to clear areas for defense against wildfires. For example, the use of goats and sheep for clearing, which eat a variety of types of vegetation and can navigate challenging terrain commonly found in the unincorporated areas appears to be an effective and common-sense approach to reduce wildfire fuels in the County. Not only are they great grazers, but they are also a natural solution that doesn't require the use of heavy machinery or harsh herbicides. As a government we should capitalize on the very real benefits that a deliberate and effective use of livestock could bring to our overall defensive strategy against wildfires. That being said, as part of today's item all methods and current best practices should be reviewed for consideration, such as mowing and prescribed burns. The second option as part of today's item includes conducting a comprehensive evaluation of County properties such as road rights-of-way, parks, and preserve lands for opportunities to apply additional clearing. The purpose of this would be to strategically remove fuels and other hazardous vegetation on County property, particularly where located along or near the boundaries of adjacent fire-prone wildlands. By establishing new or enhancing existing brush management efforts on County land, we can better slow or help contain the spread of fires to protect residential neighborhoods, agricultural land, and other critical areas such as power and water infrastructure.

While taking steps to reduce fuels on County property is essential, it's important to keep in mind that large amounts of fuels reside on private property. Private properties in the rural areas are often many acres in size and contain vast amounts of vegetation, and it's the owner's prerogative to perform clearing and brush removal. Additionally, clearing large properties often requires the use of expensive machinery and chemicals such as woodchippers, bulldozers and herbicides. Not only that, by many residents likely have more vegetation to dispose of than their organic waste bins can hold. Newer technologies could be used to assist rural residents in their vegetation management efforts. Utilized by the US Forest Service, vegetation incinerators, or "air curtain burners" are self-contained industrial incineration devices. Air curtain burners burn organic waste at very high temperatures while a high-velocity air curtain is blown across to reduce smoke and emissions. The County could utilize air curtain burners through the San Diego County Fire Protection District (County Fire) to assist residents in clearing their vegetation by providing a way for people to inexpensively dispose of brush and vegetation. For instance, County Fire could host brush recycling events with air curtain burners akin to community recycling events for electronic waste.

Taken together, today's action directs the Chief Administration Officer (CAO) to do three things: 1) explore additional tools and options to enhance the County's clearing and brush management efforts, conducting a feasibility analysis on modern best practices, including the use of livestock, such as goats and sheep for clearing overgrown vegetation; 2) conduct a comprehensive evaluation of all County property, particularly road rights-of-way, parks, and preserve lands for opportunities to apply additional clearing; and 3) explore ways to help residents clear their own properties through financial incentives or direct assistance in the disposal of brush and vegetation.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

SUPERVISOR JIM DESMOND

1. Waive Board Policy A-72 Agenda and Related Process, Section 2.C.2.ii, which establishes required timelines for review when preparing a Board Letter.

2. Direct the CAO to explore options to enhance the County’s clearing and brush management efforts and report back within 120 days, including conducting a feasibility analysis on modern best practices, including the use of livestock such as goats and sheep for clearing overgrown vegetation. Generally, this recommendation should include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Explore options to have the County directly assist interested private property owners clear their land. Examples might include the County performing or contracting for vegetation removal services, administering grants, or creating other financial incentives such as rebates.
 - b. Explore funding options, including grants, for the purchase of mobile above-ground vegetation incinerators, known in the fire industry as “air curtain burners.”
 - c. Study the costs and staffing needs for County Fire to create and host community vegetation burn events utilizing air curtain burners, as mentioned above.
 - d. Assess the availability of local ranchers or other businesses who perform brush clearing services and explore potential public-private partnership opportunities.
 - e. Coordinate with appropriate stakeholders, such as fire districts, agricultural members, state and federal wildlife agencies and others to ensure wildfire defensive strategies are aligned and mutually beneficial.
3. Direct the CAO to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of all County property, particularly road rights-of-way, parks, and preserve lands for opportunities to apply additional clearing and report back within 120 days. This should include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Evaluate road rights-of-way, parks and preserve lands and identifying areas that could provide for new or enhanced clearing efforts to reduce fuels adjacent to or near fire-prone wildlands, especially when located near existing residential neighborhoods.
 - b. Look for update opportunities in the County’s Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) to better align conservation and brush management goals.
 - c. Coordinate with appropriate stakeholders, such as fire districts, agricultural members, state and federal wildlife agencies and others to ensure wildfire defensive strategies are aligned and mutually beneficial.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The year-round threat of wildfires disproportionately impacts rural, low-income, and underserved communities in San Diego County where limited water infrastructure and resources heighten vulnerabilities. Enhancing fire preparedness through enhanced clearing and brush management ensures equitable protection for these communities which often face the greatest risks. By seeking to prioritize a proactive strategy such as clearing to slow or potentially stop a fire, today’s action addresses disparities in emergency response capabilities and promotes safety for all residents, including those in remote and historically under-resourced areas.

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. In addition, the effective and deliberate use of livestock to clear land for defense against wildfires avoids the pollution that would otherwise be generated by traditional methods like mowing or applying herbicides. Livestock are a natural solution whose use would significantly align with the County's sustainability goals. Air curtain burners could be an effective tool to assist private property owners in the clearing and brush management efforts while potentially be more environmentally friendly than traditional methods of burning vegetation.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with today's actions to direct staff to explore tools and options on clearing brush management and report back within 120 days. The report back will include financial impacts and staff requirements along with potential funding options, including the redirecting of current resources through the reduction or elimination of existing programs to implement any of the options approved by the Board in the report back. 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.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Desmond, seconded by Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

18. **SUBJECT: PRESENTATION ON COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE EFFORTS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

The situation currently unfolding in Los Angeles is a stark reminder of the unpredictability of natural disasters and the importance of proactive and coordinated measures to ensure the safety of our residents and region. In consideration of these events, this item recommends the Board of Supervisors receive a presentation on our region's emergency preparedness efforts. This presentation will serve as a valuable opportunity to highlight our current capabilities and ensure our collective readiness for future challenges.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Receive a presentation on County of San Diego emergency preparedness and response efforts.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Individuals with access and functional needs, including individuals with disabilities, older adults, children, individuals with limited English proficiency, and those who are transportation disadvantaged, are often disproportionately impacted by disasters. Today's presentation will provide residents with vital information on key emergency response protocols and procedures County departments have developed to ensure public safety during emergencies and will offer important steps all residents can take to become more disaster prepared.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's presentation contributes to the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals by engaging the community in meaningful ways to ensure there is capacity to respond and recover to immediate needs of individuals, families, and the region.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with receiving the presentation. There is no change to the net General Fund cost and no additional staff years. If there are any resulting Board actions from today's presentation that have a future financial impact, staff will return to the Board to identify costs and funding for consideration.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Anderson, seconded by Supervisor Lawson-Remer, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

19. **SUBJECT: ENHANCING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ACCESSIBILITY:
ESTABLISHING NEW PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS THE CONTINUUM
OF CARE AND A-72 WAIVER (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

The State of California is facing a mental health crisis and urgent action needs to be taken to help enhance our Behavioral Health Continuum of Care (CoC) to best meet the needs of our most vulnerable residents in San Diego County. The State of California is facing a shortfall of approximately 1,971 beds at the acute level, which are necessary to treat patients suffering from severe psychiatric distress. In the State of California, counties are responsible for administering specialty mental health and substance use services to residents eligible for Medi-Cal. The County of San Diego's (County) Behavioral Health Services (BHS) performs this duty by maintaining a local network of mental health and substance use services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries. The County's Optimal Care Pathways (OCP) model, a data-informed algorithm that serves as a tool to quantify the utilization of various behavioral health services across the region from crisis care to long-term community-based care, estimates that we will need to establish 400 additional beds of board and care to meet regional needs. Board and care involves providing long-term housing, meals, and other support services for individuals with behavioral health conditions.

In San Diego County, one in twenty people are currently living with a serious mental illness, and that rate increases to one in thirteen people who live in low-income households. Our regional needs to improve behavioral healthcare accessibility are particularly urgent for Medi-Cal beneficiaries who face additional barriers to behavioral health treatment. Barriers to accessing care, such as an insufficient number of board and care treatment slots, can leave people with mental illness or substance use disorder homeless, institutionalized, or facing prolonged hospitalization without an appropriate destination to be discharged for ongoing care. Delayed discharges from hospitalization can then lead to the regression of patient behavioral health status, bottlenecks in care systems as patients who should be stepping down to a lower level of care occupy beds longer than needed, and increased costs on our regional healthcare systems.

In response to the regional needs identified by the OCP model, the County must develop a behavioral health system that emphasizes access and prevention, connecting people to the care that meets their individual needs while prioritizing the least restrictive settings. The County has several opportunities to enhance existing partnerships or establish new partnerships across the region that will enhance our behavioral health CoC across all levels of acuity.

For intensive inpatient services, the County has an opportunity to enhance our current partnership with Paradise Valley Hospital (PVH) by increasing the capacity of behavioral health inpatient services. These potential enhancements could lead to the establishment of 25-30 additional Medi-Cal Managed Care Psychiatric Inpatient Services beds at PVH. The inpatient psychiatric setting serves individuals with severe, acute symptoms of mental illness in need of 24-hour observation and intensive treatment. Inpatient psychiatric care provides a secure environment where adults can regain their functioning and establish an aftercare plan before transferring to a lower acuity level of care.

At the outpatient service level, the County has an opportunity to establish new partnerships to enhance access to Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOP) and Partial Hospitalization Programs (PHP) for Medi-Cal beneficiaries. IOP and PHP are evidence-based mental health treatment programs that provide care for individuals suffering with behavioral health issues while allowing them to live at home. IOP and PHP programs can serve as an effective bridge between inpatient care and traditional outpatient therapy and have been shown to improve long-term behavioral health outcomes and reduce readmission rates for individuals who were previously hospitalized with a behavioral health condition. This partnership would expand care to Medi-Cal eligible residents, enhancing access to care for people with serious mental illness receiving care through the County's Behavioral Health Plan.

At the long-term care level, the OCP model has previously identified an urgent need to establish approximately 400 beds for board and care to meet regional behavioral health service needs. Board and care facilities include adult residential facilities (ARFs) and residential care facilities for the elderly (RCFEs) that provide housing and 24-hour support for individuals in need of care who are unable to live independently in other types of housing. The primary barrier to long-term behavioral healthcare in San Diego County is the limited number of licensed care facilities, particularly those serving individuals with serious mental illness and who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI). In response to these needs, the County must continue to pursue innovative partnerships and funding strategies to enhance board and care accessibility,

particularly for Medi-Cal eligible individuals. A future partnership could involve an organization with an established track record serving as both a real-estate developer and high-quality provider of long-term behavioral health services in a residential setting.

The expansion of these various services across the CoC will also present important opportunities for regional academic institutions and healthcare providers to establish academic clinical training programs. The establishment of new clinical training programming will be vital in enhancing workforce development for our regional behavioral health systems and create opportunities for San Diego residents to pursue rewarding careers in behavioral health, including Psychiatry, Clinical Psychology, Psychiatric Nursing Practice, Nursing, Social Work, Pharmacy, Healthcare Administration, and various other professions. Such action will result in an influx of high-quality behavioral health providers and staff throughout San Diego County, elevating the quality of care across the region.

Today's action presents an opportunity to improve the accessibility and quality of behavioral health services across all levels of behavioral health acuity, and significantly enhancing the quality of our continuum of care countywide. Today's action also presents an opportunity to expand workforce development opportunities for our regional behavioral health continuum of care through the expansion of academic clinical training programs.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

SUPERVISOR MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE

1. Waive Board Policy A-72 Agenda and Related Process, Section 2.C.2.ii, which establishes required timelines for review when preparing a Board Letter.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to enter into discussions with Prime Healthcare to expand the number of behavioral health psychiatric acute inpatient beds available to people who are Medi-Cal eligible within Paradise Valley Hospital.
3. Direct the CAO to explore partnerships and funding strategies to enhance Intensive Outpatient Program and Partial Hospitalization Program services.
4. Direct the CAO to explore partnerships and funding strategies to enhance substance use disorder treatment services.
5. Direct the CAO to explore partnerships and funding strategies to enhance regional Board and Care capacity.
6. Direct the CAO to explore opportunities to enhance partnerships between these programs and local academic institutions.
7. Return back to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors within 90 days with updates on actions related to Recommendations 2, 3, 4, and 6 and to seek contracting authority and establish appropriations, as needed.
8. Report back to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors within 180 days with updates on actions related to Recommendation 5.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Medi-Cal beneficiaries face health inequities spanning all stages of healthcare from access to outcomes. Patients enrolled in Medi-Cal face more barriers to accessing care, receive lower quality care, and ultimately experience worse health outcomes than patients enrolled in Medicare or private insurance plans. These negative sequelae are felt most intensely by the Black community and other communities of color throughout the County. As a regional steward of public health, the County of San Diego must ensure that services address the social determinants of health by being accessible, equitably distributed, capable of meeting the needs of a diverse population, and prioritizing communities most in need.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The adoption of these recommendations will enhance the health and social wellbeing of San Diego County residents. In establishing these enhancements to the behavioral health continuum of care, the County of San Diego will improve access to critical behavioral health outpatient, inpatient, and long-term care for vulnerable adults, improve overall health for local populations, and establish more effective and efficient health systems.

FISCAL IMPACT

There are no immediate fiscal impacts associated with today's item. There may be future fiscal impacts depending on the outcomes of negotiations with future partners. Any recommendations resulting from these negotiations will be brought back to the Board of Supervisors for approval and funding. At this time, there will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Lawson-Remer, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

20. **SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF INCOMPETENT TO STAND TRIAL DIVERSION AND COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT GRANT FUNDS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

The California Department of State Hospitals (DSH) is making funding available to counties to locally serve individuals charged with a felony offense who are found Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST). This includes funding for local infrastructure, as well as funding for local diversion and community-based restoration programming to reduce the number of IST findings through upstream prevention before custody or diversion and to reduce the number of individuals with serious mental illness arrested and incarcerated for behavior connected to their illness.

The *IST Diversion and Community-Based Restoration Infrastructure Project* grant (IST Infrastructure Grant) will provide funding for capital infrastructure to serve individuals who have been charged with a felony, deemed IST, and who are identified by DSH as eligible for diversion or community-based services. With letters of support from the San Diego Superior Court, Public Defender's Office, District Attorney's Office, and the County of San Diego (County) Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), the County applied for the maximum allocation of up to \$21,375,000 for Fiscal Years 2024-25 through 2027-28.

On August 29, 2024, DSH notified the County of a preliminary award for the full amount. With today's action, and any requisite approvals by DSH and other regulatory bodies, the County will utilize funds for facility renovations to convert existing psychiatric acute inpatient beds within the San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital (SDCPH) to specialized long-term care beds for patients deemed felony IST. Today's item requests the San Diego County Board of Supervisors to authorize acceptance of one-time IST Infrastructure Grant funds of up to \$21,375,000.

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, as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities by implementing new services that are designed to improve outcomes for persons with serious mental illness who are involved with the criminal justice system.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Authorize the acceptance of one-time Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) Diversion and Community-Based Restoration Infrastructure Project grant funding of up to \$21,375,000 from the California Department of State Hospitals (DSH) for Fiscal Years 2024-25 through 2027-28, for facility improvement costs to establish capital infrastructure to serve individuals identified as IST on felony charges, and authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, or designee, to execute all required documents, upon receipt, including any annual extensions, amendments, or revisions that do not materially impact or alter the services or funding level.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Individuals who are justice-involved frequently experience barriers that impact their ability to successfully navigate systems of care and the justice system. Nationwide, systemic issues such as poverty, lack of education, inadequate access to healthcare, unsafe neighborhoods, and insufficient social support contribute to disproportionately high rates of crime, arrests, and incarceration among Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, as well as individuals of a lower socioeconomic status who are struggling with mental health or substance use challenges or experiencing homelessness. It is anticipated that the funding associated with the Incompetent to Stand Trial Diversion and Community-Based Restoration Infrastructure Project grant will have a positive impact on these populations by enhancing access to community-based mental health and diversion programming.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's actions support the County of San Diego's (County) Sustainability Goal #2 to provide just and equitable access to County services by addressing barriers that disproportionately affect justice-involved individuals, particularly Black, Indigenous, and People of Color populations and those experiencing homelessness, mental health, or substance use conditions.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for the Incompetent to Stand Trial Diversion and Community-Based Restoration Infrastructure Project grant are not included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request is anticipated to result in no costs and revenue in FY 2024-25 and one-time estimated costs and revenue of \$21.4 million in FYs 2025-26 through 2027-28 for facility improvements which will be included in future Operational Plans. The funding source is State General Funds from the California Department of State Hospitals. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

Noting for the record that this item was discussed at the January 29, 2025 session; ON MOTION of Supervisor Desmond, seconded by Supervisor Lawson-Remer, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

21. SUBJECT: CONVENING A TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY POLLUTION SPECIAL MEETING (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

For decades, the Tijuana River valley pollution crisis has plagued the binational region of San Diego and Baja California, as rapid population growth and inadequate wastewater infrastructure have allowed untreated sewage and industrial runoff to flow across the border and into communities. This crisis is not just a South Bay issue but impacts communities across the entire San Diego region, jeopardizing access to clean water and clean air, while polluting our beaches and coastlines.

The County of San Diego has led on this issue, declaring a local state of emergency since June 2023, and taking aggressive action, including spearheading air quality and public health efforts with our regional, state, and federal partners, providing air purifiers for impacted residents, and working to address trash capture and flood risk in the river valley.

Thanks to the relentless efforts of local and congressional leaders, unprecedented progress has been made. In December 2024, the San Diego Congressional Delegation secured the final \$250 million in federal funding needed to complete the \$650 million repair and expansion of the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, eventually doubling its capacity to treat 50 million gallons per day. This historic appropriation is the biggest investment in nearly three decades and a major step in the right direction, but the fight is still far from over.

While these investments mark a historic milestone, the challenges remain urgent. Persistent air quality issues, ongoing contamination, and ecological degradation continue to pose significant threats to the river valley, estuary, and coastal communities. Despite the progress made, these critical issues demand sustained and immediate action.

Now more than ever, we need coordinated efforts across local, state, federal, and international levels and a shared understanding of how agencies on both sides of the border are tackling different aspects of the problem. As the issue grows in regional significance, it is imperative that the County convene a special meeting to explore the problem in greater depth, highlight progress and solutions that are underway, and collaborate to generate new opportunities for action.

Our communities have long demanded transparency and accountability on efforts to resolve the Tijuana River pollution. The public deserves a clear and comprehensive understanding of the significant progress underway, the gaps that still need to be addressed, and the opportunities for further action. This convening can serve as a platform for fostering collaboration among a diverse range of stakeholders-community members, local and binational leaders, technical experts, and relevant agencies-while identifying innovative solutions to bridge these gaps and drive meaningful, lasting change.

On January 8, 2025, the County Board received a presentation from staff that identified programs and additional opportunities for state and federal partnership to address the Tijuana River valley pollution conditions that could be explored. The Board discussed the need to continue taking urgent action to stop the sewage, open our beaches, and address the health threats to our communities.

Today's item directs the County to coordinate a special meeting in Spring 2025. The special meeting would be structured as panels that cover different dimensions of the issue to highlight the interconnected nature of this work. These dimensions may include U.S. sewage and water infrastructure, Mexican sewage and water infrastructure, immediate health impacts, and long-term environmental remediation. Invited representatives from partner agencies would share presentations on their work, highlight progress being made, and answer questions.

By convening a special meeting with key stakeholders and agencies, the County can ensure progress is effectively communicated, on-going gaps are identified, and new opportunities for collaborative action can emerge to protect the health and welfare of our communities.

RECOMMENDATION(S)**VICE-CHAIR TERRA LAWSON-REMER**

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to coordinate a Tijuana River Valley Pollution special meeting in the Spring of 2025 with invited representatives from partnering agencies sharing presentations on their work, highlighting progress being made, and discussing gaps and opportunities for further action. County staff should provide a synopsis of meeting outcomes, including a summary of progress being made, identified gaps and challenges, and opportunities for continued collaborative action.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The Tijuana River pollution and contamination have disproportionately impacted communities that have been underserved and under-resourced, such as low-income communities and communities of color. It is imperative that the County take action to ensure that these individuals have solutions to improve and protect their local waterways, the surrounding land, and their air quality.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

This board letter aligns with the County's sustainability goals by protecting the environment and fighting to eliminate hazardous substances, chemicals, and waste from our water sources and water bodies in San Diego.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding for the requested action is included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan based on existing staff time in the Department of Environmental Health and Quality, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs, the Office of County Counsel, and the Department of Public Health Services funded by General Purpose Revenue and other funding sources. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

The long-term impacts of the transboundary pollutants in the Tijuana River Valley area, subsequent beach closures and air quality issues have had a devastating impact on the surrounding communities up and down San Diego County's coast and near the border through decreased visitors and street traffic. It is imperative that the County convene stakeholders who are leading efforts toward infrastructure fixes needed to mitigate this binational issue.

ACTION:

Noting for the record that this item was discussed at the January 29, 2025 session; ON MOTION of Supervisor Lawson-Remer, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Administrative Officer to coordinate a Tijuana River Valley Pollution special meeting in the Spring of 2025 with invited representatives from partnering agencies sharing presentations on their work, highlighting progress being made, and discussing gaps and opportunities for further action. County staff should provide a synopsis of meeting outcomes, including a summary of progress being made, identified gaps and challenges, and opportunities for continued collaborative action. County staff are also directed to engage State and Federal Elected Officials from the beginning as co-leads for the meeting and include them on invitations that go out.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

22. SUBJECT: CLOSED SESSION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph 2 of subdivision (d) of Government Code section 54956.9: (Number of Potential Cases - 1)

B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION

(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)

Scott Smith and Lisa Hayes v. County of San Diego; San Diego Superior Court
Case No. 37-2023-00037538-CU-PA-NC

C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION

(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)

Kwayde Miller v. County of San Diego, et al.; San Diego Superior Court
Case No. 37-2020-00044662-CU-PT-NC

D. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

(Government Code section 54957.6)

Designated Representatives: Susan Brazeau, Clint Obrigewitch

Employee Organizations and Unrepresented Employees: Teamsters Local 911, Deputy District Attorney Association, Deputy District Attorney Investigators' Association, Deputy Sheriff's Association of San Diego County, San Diego Deputy County Counsels Association, San Diego County Probation Officers' Association, Public Defender Association of San Diego County, San Diego County Supervising Probation Officers' Association, Service Employees International Union, Local 221 and all unrepresented employees.

E. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

(Government Code section 54957)

Title: Chief Administrative Officer

ACTION:

County Counsel reported that for Closed Session on January 28, 2025, the Board of Supervisors took no reportable actions.

23. SUBJECT: NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMUNICATION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

Leslie Ann Masland spoke to the Board regarding support of a labor agreement for SEIU County employees.

Pam spoke to the Board regarding immigration and in opposition to the County's Super Sanctuary Policy.

Crystal Irving spoke to the Board regarding support of a labor agreement for SEIU County employees.

Alan C. spoke to the Board regarding support of retaining paper speaker slips.

Drucilla Willis spoke to the Board regarding allegations of employees being bullied at the San Marcos library.

Paul the Bold spoke to the Board regarding the State Constitution.

Consuelo spoke to the Board regarding government oppression.

Truth spoke to the Board regarding current Public Records Act requests.

John Bottorff spoke to the Board regarding opposition to renewing a lease with West Coast Tomato Growers.

Becky Rapp spoke to the Board regarding health risks of high potency THC.

Terri-Ann Skelly spoke to the Board regarding health concerns of marijuana use.

Peggy Walker spoke to the Board regarding the negative impacts of marijuana use on youth.

Justin Castro spoke to the Board about being dismissed from County employment.

ACTION:

Heard, referred to the Chief Administrative Officer.

The Board recessed at 5:37 p.m., in memory of Brenda Van Ommering, Kevin Skinner and Joan Jantz-Eberle, until Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 9:55 a.m. for the Land Use Legislative Session.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of San Diego, State of California

Consent: Vizcarra

Discussion: Zurita


NOTE: This Statement of Proceedings sets forth all actions taken by the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors on the matters stated, but not necessarily the chronological sequence in which the matters were taken up.

Approved by the Board of Supervisors, on Tuesday, February 11, 2025.



TERRA LAWSON- REMER
Vice-Chair

Attest:



ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board

01/28/2025