

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Board Policy A-27 provides, in part, that the County's legislative advocates and/or the Executive Office shall provide monthly reports on the progress of County-sponsored legislation and issues at the forefront of discussion at state/federal levels that may have a fiscal and/or operational impact on the County. Included in the reports shall be known formal positions of notable associations and/or organizations. The Legislative Report is meant to meet that requirement.

This report includes updates on the County's federal and state legislative advocacy efforts, legislation of interest, and copies of advocacy letters sent.

FEDERAL ADVOCACY

RivCo Bill List

118th Congress

- **S. 3830: Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program Establishment Act (Sen. Alex Padilla [D-CA])** Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program to award grants to eligible entities to provide funds to owners and operators of public water systems or treatment works to assist low-income households in paying arrearages and other rates charged to such households for drinking water or wastewater services.
Position: Support [Per Letter Sent to Author on 04/10/24.]
- **H.R.696 (Rep. Calvert, Ken [CA-41])** To direct the United States Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP Code for Eastvale, California.
Position: Support [Per Board Agenda Item 3.1 on 02/07/23]
- **H.R.726 (Rep. McClain, Lisa C. [MI-9])** To amend the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to implement fertility controls to manage populations of wild free-roaming horses and burros, and to encourage training opportunities for military veterans to assist in range management activities, and for other purposes.
Position: Watch
- **H.R. 1586 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 (Rep. LaMalfa, Doug [R-CA-1])/S. 796 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 (Sen. Lummis, Cynthia M. [R-WY])** Exempts discharges of fire retardant by Federal land management agencies and local governments from the permitting requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.
Position: Support

CALIFORNIA STATE ADVOCACY

2023-24 Legislative Session

- **AB 637 (Low-D)** Zero-emission vehicles: fleet owners: rental vehicles. Would allow local jurisdictions to include the rental of ZEVs for compliance purposes in fleet calculations for ZEV acquisition requirements.
Position: Support [Per Letter Sent to Governor on 09/04/24.Attached]
- **AB 817 (Pacheco-D) Local government: open meetings.** Would authorize members of local non-decision-making legislative bodies to participate in public meetings via two-way virtual teleconferencing without posting their location.
Position: Support
Impact: Would allow virtual participation on County appointed boards and commissions, removing barriers for participation.
- **AB 1168 (Bennett-D) Emergency medical services (EMS): prehospital EMS.** Would change the key provisions of the EMS Act, creating a fractured local EMS (LEMSA) system in which local jurisdictions could opt out of our current LEMSAs.
Position: Oppose[Per Letter Sent to Governor on 09/04/24.Attached]
Activation: In addition to partnering with the opposition coalition, EMD staff met with legislative offices to advocate against the bill.
- **AB 1948 (Rendon-D, Santiago-D, and Gipson- D) Homeless Disciplinary Personnel Teams.** Would allow seven counties to continue using AB 728 authority to apply agency collaboration towards coordinating care for individuals and families at risk of becoming unhoused and reducing inflow into homelessness.
Position: Support
Impact: RivCo was one of the original pilot counties. Removing the current sunset would enable the County to continue using a collaborative approach to homelessness.
- **AB 1957 (Wilson-D) Public contracts: Best Value Construction Contracting for Counties.** Authorizes any county in the state to utilize the best-value contracting model and eliminates the statutory sunset on such authority.
Position: Support
Impact: RivCo was one of the pilot counties, the use of best-value contracting has allowed for a selection of contractors based on qualifications and experience, not simply lowest bid prices.
- **AB 2037 (Papan-D) Weights and measures: electric vehicle chargers.** Would require a county sealer to test and verify electric vehicle chargers operated by public agencies.
Position: Support [Per Letter Sent to Governor on 09/04/24.Attached]
- **AB 2115 (Haney-D) Controlled substances: clinics.** Would allow authorized practitioners at nonprofit or free clinics to dispense narcotic drugs to alleviate acute withdrawal symptoms while arranging treatment referrals.
Position: Support [Per Letter Sent to Governor on 09/04/24.Attached]
- **AB 2133 (Kalra-D) Veterinary medicine: registered veterinary technicians.** Authorizes registered veterinary technicians to perform neuter surgeries on male domestic cats

under the direct supervision of a California-licensed veterinarian, provided they meet certain conditions.

Position: Support [Per Letter Sent to Governor on 09/04/24.Attached]

- **AB 2343 (Shiavo-D) CalWORKs: childcare programs.** Would enhance support for recipients of CalWORKs childcare services to provide additional support and navigation services to recipients experiencing homelessness or escaping domestic violence.
Position: Support [Per Letter Sent to Governor on 09/04/24.Attached]
- **AB 2448 (Jackson-D) Electric Vehicle Economic Opportunity Zone: County of Riverside.** Would establish an Electric Vehicle Economic Opportunity Zone (EVEOZ) in the County of Riverside County to create programs that make electric vehicle manufacturing jobs and education more accessible to lower-income communities.
Position: Support [Per Letter Sent to Governor on 09/04/24.Attached]
- **AB 2557 (Ortega-D) Local agencies: contracts for special services and temporary help: performance reports.** Would restrict county contracting and create onerous reporting requirements.
Position: Oppose
- **AB 2561 (McKinnor-D) Local public employees: vacant positions.** Would require public agencies with high vacancy rates of more than 180, at the request of the recognized employee organization to meet and confer.
Position: Oppose [Per Letter Sent to Governor on 09/04/24.Attached]
- **AB 2866 (Pellerin-D) Pool safety: State Department of Social Services regulated facilities.** Would enhance required safety equipment for swimming pools on the premises of licensed child day care facilities and homebased family day care sites.
Position: Support [Per Letter Sent to Governor on 09/04/24.Attached]
- **AB 2871 (Manshein-D) Overdose Fatality Review Teams.** This bill would authorize a county to establish an interagency overdose fatality review team to assist local agencies in identifying and reviewing overdose fatalities.
Position: Support [Per Letter Sent to Governor on 09/04/24.Attached]
Impact: This bill codifies the best practices that have been created by the RivCo Overdose Fatality Review Team.
- **AB 2882 (McCarthy-D) California Community Corrections Performance Incentives.** Outlines specific goals for the local plans, which must be submitted annually to the Board of State and Community Corrections.
Position: Oppose
- **AB 3149 (Garcia- D) Promotores and Promotoras Advisory and Oversight Workgroup.** Would create the Promotores and Promotoras Advisory and Oversight Workgroup to provide perspective and guidance to changes in the health and human services delivery system, including, but not limited to, the Medi-Cal program.
Position: Support
- **AB 3182 (Lackey- R) Land conservation: California Wildlife, Coastal, and Park Land Conservation Act: County of San Bernardino.** Clarifies state law about the use of Prop 70 land sale proceeds in San Bernardino County, allowing the County to use these land sale proceeds to improve recreational facilities and conserve open space in our region.
Position: Support
- **AB 3198 (Garcia-D) Joint powers agreements: retail electric services.** Would authorize a public agency with the authority to provide retail electric services to enter into

a joint powers agreement with one or more public agencies with jurisdiction within the Coachella Valley Service Area.

Position: Support [Per Letter Sent to Governor on 09/04/24.Attached]

- **SB 366 (Caballero-D) The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets.** This bill would complement and amplify Governor Newsom's Water Supply Strategy, ensuring there are reasonable water supply targets.

Position: Support [Per Letter Sent to Governor on 09/04/24.Attached]

Advocacy Strategy: This bill is being proposed by the Solve the Water Crisis Coalition as a solution to creating more reasonable water targets.

- **SB 994 (Roth-D) Local government: joint powers authority: transfer of authority.** Would facilitate the transfer of land use authority from the March JPA to RivCo.

Position: Sponsored

Impact: This bill idea was proposed by RivCo and the March JPA.

- **SB 1025 (Eggman- D) Pretrial diversion for veterans.** Would include certain felony offenses in the pretrial diversion program for defendants who are current or former members of the United States Armed Forces and who may be suffering from conditions such as sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, or mental health problems because of their military service.

Position: Support [Per Letter Sent to Governor on 09/04/24.Attached]

- **SB 1032 (Padilla-D) Housing finance: portfolio restructuring: loan forgiveness.** Would allow the Department of Housing and Community Development to forgive the full amount of principal, interest, fees, and other balances on certain multifamily housing loans.

Position: Support [Per Letter Sent to Governor on 09/04/24.Attached]

- **SB 1057 (Menjivar-D) Juvenile justice coordinating council.** Would reform the structure and function of county juvenile justice coordinating councils.

Position: Oppose

- **SB 1175 (Ochoa Bogh-R) Organic waste: reduction goals: local jurisdictions: waivers.** Seeks to facilitate local governments' implementation of SB 1383 (Chapter 395, Statutes of 2016), which is a statewide effort to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants by setting specific phased-in targets for reduction of organic waste deposited in landfills.

Position: Support

- **SB 1224 (Ochoa Bogh-R) Alcoholic beverage control: on-sale general license: County of Riverside.** Would facilitate the alcoholic beverage on-sale licensing for the RivCo Fairgrounds for the variety of community-based events held at the Fairgrounds throughout the year.

Position: Sponsored

Impact: This bill idea was proposed by RivCo Facilities Management.

- **SB 1233 (Wilk-D) University of California: Western University of Health Sciences: veterinary medicine: spay and neuter techniques.** Would expand elective coursework for veterinary medicine students and will also be available to California-licensed veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians.

Position: Support [Per Letter Sent to Governor on 09/04/24.Attached]

- **SB 1245 (Ochoa Bogh-R) In-Home Supportive Services.** Streamlines the process for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) clients to receive paramedical services.

Position: Support

Impact: This bill supports RivCo's integrated service delivery work.

- **SB 1249 (Roth-D) Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act.** Charges the California Department on Aging (CDA), within specified time periods, to take administrative actions that recognize the state's major demographic shift towards an older, more diverse population.

Position: Support [Per Letter Sent to Governor on 09/04/24.Attached]

Advocacy Strategy: RivCo Office on Aging Director Jewel Lee testified in the Senate Human Services Committee on 04/01/24 as the lead witness in support.

- **SB 1396 (Gil-R) CalWORKs: Home Visiting Program.** Would extend eligibility for children up to 36 months at enrollment for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Home Visiting Program.

Position: Support [Per Letter Sent to Governor on 09/04/24.Attached]

Advocacy Strategy: RivCo Office on Aging Director Jewel Lee testified in the Senate Human Services Committee on 04/01/24 as the lead witness in support.



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

August 10, 2024

The Honorable Anna Caballero, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 637 (Jackson) – Zero-Emission Vehicles: Fleet Owners: Rental Vehicles
As amended 06/12/24 – SUPPORT
Set for hearing 08/15/24 – Senate Appropriations Committee

Dear Senator Caballero,

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for AB 637—which would provide public and private fleets with additional options to meet the zero emission vehicle (ZEV) procurement requirements under the Advanced Clean Fleet (ACF) regulation, adopted by the CA Air Resources Board.

Current ACF regulations allow fleet owners to claim compliance credit when they lease a ZEV truck instead of a diesel truck for a year or longer, but not for leases shorter than a year. This oversight unreasonably restricts the options available to fleet owners—particularly those with less resources and limited budgets—that are looking for cost-effective ways to meet the ACF's ambitious goals. AB 637 seeks to address this gap and to offer greater flexibility for fleet compliance. Moreover, by incentivizing the leasing of ZEV trucks, AB 637 will boost demand in the private rental market, increase the availability of ZEV trucks, and ensure they are actively used instead of sitting idle in rental parking lots—ultimately contributing to the reduction of California's emissions.

Given the numerous challenges in transitioning to zero-emission technologies, particularly for medium and heavy-duty trucks, it is crucial that public and private fleets have a range of options available when creating their compliance plans so that they can continue to meet the immediate needs of the public. For these reasons, the County of Riverside supports AB 367. Thank you for

AB 637 (Jackson)
County of Riverside – SUPPORT
Page 2

your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Chuck Washington
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Corey Jackson, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

September 4, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: AB 637 (Jackson) Zero-Emission Vehicles: Fleet Owners: Rental Vehicles
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your signature on AB 637—Assembly Member Corey Jackson's measure that would provide public and private fleets with additional options to meet the zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) procurement requirements under the Advanced Clean Fleet (ACF) regulation, adopted by the California Air Resources Board on April 28, 2023.

Our County is committed to paving the way for a resilient, ready, and connected communities and remains committed to complying with ACF regulations. Unfortunately, supply chain issues have made it difficult to comply. Current ACF regulations allow fleet owners to claim compliance credit when they lease a ZEV truck instead of a diesel truck for a year or longer, but not for leases shorter than a year. This omission unreasonably restricts the options available to fleet owners—particularly those with less resources and limited budgets—that are looking for cost-effective ways to meet the ACF's ambitious goals. AB 637 seeks to address this gap and to offer greater flexibility for fleet compliance. Moreover, by incentivizing the leasing of ZEV trucks, AB 637 will boost demand in the private rental market, increase the availability of ZEV trucks, and ensure they are actively used instead of sitting idle in rental parking lots—ultimately contributing to the reduction of California's emissions.

We firmly believe that the rental of zero-emission trucks should count towards the total compliance obligation for these fleets given the numerous challenges in

transitioning to zero-emission technologies. For these reasons, the County of Riverside respectfully requests your signature on this important measure. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Chuck Washington
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Corey Jackson, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

September 4, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: AB 1168 (Bennett) Emergency medical services (EMS): prehospital EMS
REQUEST FOR VETO**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your veto of AB 1168—Assembly Member Steve Bennett's measure which will, if passed, would fragment our emergency medical services (EMS) system in Riverside County.

AB 1168 seeks to overturn an extensive statutory and case law record that has repeatedly affirmed county responsibility for the administration of emergency medical services, and with that, the flexibility to design systems to equitably serve residents throughout their jurisdiction.

With the passage of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Act in 1980, California created a framework for a two-tiered system of EMS governance through both the state Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) and Local EMSAs (LEMSAs). Counties are required by the EMS Act to create a LEMSA system that is timely, safe, and equitable for all residents. To do so, counties honor .201 rights and contract with both public and private agencies to ensure coverage of underserved areas regardless of the challenges inherent in providing uniform services throughout geographically diverse areas.

Passage of this bill would disrupt established agreements and create a fractured system that focuses services on well-resourced cities and districts, creating further strain on the system as a whole and resulting in a disjointed network, the exact problem the EMS Act of 1980 intended to resolve.

Our County is especially concerned with the precedent set by AB 1168. Our LEMSA is tasked with overseeing services in over 7,300 square miles. Passage of this bill could allow for some of the County's 28 incorporated cities to deem themselves a .201 entity moving forward. This goes against the intentions of the EMS Act and has the potential of creating huge gaps in services, which puts already under resourced unincorporated communities at further risk.

We urge you to consider the unintended health equity impacts posed by the passage of AB 1168. Riverside County has been focused on pursuing solutions that increase equitable access to emergency services. Our LEMSA is able take a holistic approach in looking at the equitable distribution of resources. Taking the incorporated cities out of the framework poses the risk of widening health equity gaps.

This bill creates fragmented and inequitable EMS medical services statewide. For these reasons, the County of Riverside respectfully requests your veto. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Chuck Washington
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Steve Bennett, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

September 4, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: AB 2037 (Papan) Weights and Measures: Electric Vehicle Chargers
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your signature on AB 2037—Assembly Member Diane Papan’s measure that extends the jurisdiction of county sealers to include publicly operated electrical vehicle (EV) chargers. This allows county sealers to ensure a fair marketplace by inspecting, testing, and verifying such EV Chargers—so that consumers “get what they pay for.”

Privately operated EV chargers are subject to testing and verifying by county sealers, but publicly operated EV chargers are not as stipulated by a 1997 Attorney General opinion that limited the jurisdiction of county sealers by excluding cities from the definition of “person” presented in Bus. & Prof. Code § 12011. The distinction is meaningless to consumers who, regardless, expect to charge their vehicle at the advertised rate but are effectively left with no option for recourse if they suspect that they are getting less than what they are paying for.

As EV ownership continues to grow and as the County of Riverside continues to develop a robust and capable EV charging network to support the electrification of the county’s fleet, it is paramount that county sealers provide an unbiased, third-party verification just as they do with all other commercial scaling and volumetric measuring devices.

For these reasons, the County of Riverside respectfully requests your signature on this measure. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Chuck Washington
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Diane Papan, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

September 4, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: AB 2115 (Haney) Controlled Substances: Clinics
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your signature on AB 2115—Assembly Member Haney's measure which increases access to methadone by aligning state law with federal rules. This change would help expand efforts to prevent overdose deaths and further improve access to healthcare for our most vulnerable residents.

Our County is committed to fostering safe, sustainable, and healthy communities, this includes supporting efforts that improve quality outcomes. Methadone is the most well-studied pharmacotherapy for opioid use disorder (OUD), it reduces all-cause and overdose mortality, increases treatment engagement, and prevents harm related to injections. Unfortunately, people with OUD face multiple barriers to accessing methadone—as it can only be dispensed in a limited number of situations.

The Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) recently allowed clinics and hospitals to dispense 72 hours of methadone while referring a person to an Opioid Treatment Program. This extended dispensing authority provides methadone access while individuals are awaiting enrollment in a methadone clinic, such as on the weekends and in the evenings. Current California law does not fully align with this new authority. AB 2115 would address this issue by updating state laws. This change would lower the barrier to patients receiving opioid withdrawal management services, improve linkage to longer term treatment at methadone clinics, and reduce ongoing opioid use and overdose risk.

For these reasons, the County of Riverside requests your signature on AB 2115. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Chuck Washington
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Matt Haney, Member, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

June 2, 2024

The Honorable Assembly Member Ash Kalra
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

**Re: AB 2133 (Kalra) – Veterinary medicine: registered veterinary technicians
As amended 04/10/24 – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Kalra,

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for AB 2133—your measure that under specific conditions would allow registered veterinary technicians (RVTs) to perform neuter surgeries on male domestic cats.

As you are aware, there is a pet overpopulation crisis in California straining all our county-run animal shelters, that is only exacerbated by a severe shortage of veterinarians available to perform spay and neuter services. By expanding the scope of practice for RVTs and with the precautionary guidelines it establishes, AB 2133 will help to expand access to veterinary care and reduce euthanasia rates—without compromising the health, safety, and wellbeing of veterinary patients.

California RVTs are already trained and able to perform anesthesia for sterilization surgeries, dental extractions, and suturing. Anesthesia is widely viewed as the “riskiest” part of any surgery, while dental extractions are viewed as a far more difficult procedure with far more complications than cat neuters. AB 2133 falls in line with the current state regulations for both procedures by requiring the “direct supervision” of a DVM.

The County of Riverside’s Department of Animal Services (DAS) has made great strides and developed innovative solutions to combat the overpopulation crisis, this includes—hosting wellness clinics in unincorporated, underserved, high-stray communities to increase community access to veterinary care; adding shelter space and a new spay/neuter surgery suite; increased permanent veterinarian staffing, to specifically support spay and neuter surgeries. This resulted in the department performing more than 11,100 spay or neuter surgeries in 2023, which is our highest annual number since the pandemic. As a result of these efforts, as well as others, the DAS has increased the live release rate from 66% to 80% in the last year. While we have achieved significant progress, our goal is to reach a 90% live release rate. This will not be possible if we

do not increase the availability of veterinary services. Allowing RVTs to perform neuter surgeries under specific conditions will provide DAS with another safe and practical tool to combat the overpopulation crisis and to better leverage the resources currently at our disposal.

For these reasons, the County of Riverside supports AB 2133. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Chuck Washington
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

September 4, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: AB 2343 (Schiavo) CalWORKS: Childcare Programs
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your signature on AB 2343—Assembly Member Schiavo's measure that allows agencies administering CalWORKs Stage One or Stage Two childcare programs to provide enhanced support and navigation services for families experiencing homelessness, surviving domestic violence, or both.

Our County is committed to providing financially stable and results oriented service delivery. CalWORKs families face unique barriers that prevent them from accessing available resources that are only compounded by a lack of affordable childcare. This bill will address disparities, systemic inequities, and help to mitigate the short- and long-term detrimental effects homelessness and domestic violence has on child development.

AB 2343 also authorizes these services to be delivered in collaboration with homeless service agencies, domestic violence organizations, and other supportive housing groups. This approach fosters future partnerships and local initiatives that not only leverage existing resources, but also offer greater flexibility, cultural competence, and a deeper understanding of community need—making it easier to engage residents and increase participation in programs. This leads to higher service utilization and improved outcomes. All in all, AB 2343 will allow our County to address service gaps and deliver more comprehensive wraparound care.

For these reasons, the County of Riverside respectfully requests your signature on this measure. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or cscherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Chuck Washington
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Pilar Schiavo, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

September 4, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: AB 2448 (Jackson)
Electric Vehicle Economic Opportunity Zone: County of Riverside
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your signature on AB 2448—Assembly Member Corey Jackson's measure that establishes an Electric Vehicle Economic Opportunity Zone (EVEOZ) in Riverside County.

AB 2448 seeks to serve as a model that can be replicated throughout the state to ensure that all communities will share in the economic benefits of the zero-emission vehicle industry. Specifically, it directs the Labor and Workforce Development Agency to establish and administer programs that make electric vehicle manufacturing jobs and education more accessible to lower-income communities in one of the fastest-growing regions in the state.

The bill also benefits car mechanics who build and maintain the vehicles, electricians and welders who create charging stations, and software developers who design programs to operate the cars. The Labor and Workforce Development Agency will engage with key stakeholders—including educational institutions, electric vehicle manufacturing businesses, and local and national financial institutions—to develop grants, tax incentives, apprenticeships, and hiring programs aimed at onboarding, training, and retaining workers within the geographical boundaries of the EVEOZ.

AB 2448 intends to act as a blueprint for other EVEOZ throughout the state. For these reasons, the County of Riverside respectfully requests your signature on this measure. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Chuck Washington
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Corey Jackson, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

September 4, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: AB 2561 (McKinnor) Local Public Employees: Vacant Positions
REQUEST FOR VETO**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your veto on AB 2561—Assembly Member Tina McKinnor's measure which will, if passed, impose a significant administrative burden on local agencies already struggling to fulfill vacant positions.

AB 2561 would require local agencies to present this plan during a public hearing to the governing legislative body and to publish the plan on its internet website for public review for at least one year. Our County struggles with recruitment and retention and has been proactive in working to address class and compensation across the board. We are acutely aware of the impact long-term vacancy rates have—both on local agencies themselves and on the communities we serve.

AB 2561 will not provide public agencies a path forward to reducing staff vacancies. First and foremost, AB 2561 fails to understand that not all vacancies are created equally. In our County, vacancy rates are highest amongst specialty positions like nurses, licensed behavioral health professionals, social workers, and public safety professionals who are also experiencing nationwide workforce shortages and a dwindling pipeline for new entrants, driven by both an expansion of services and an aging workforce.

The public sector workforce has also changed significantly, especially in a post-COVID era where public employees were on the front lines of the COVID response. They experienced extreme burnout and harassment from the public.,

then, had to endure the seemingly endless series of demands to transform county service delivery—while also providing consistent and effective services. There is no doubt a correlation between the county programs dealing with the largest realignments of service delivery and structural overhaul as mandated by the state and those departments with the highest vacancy rates. To further complicate the matter, local government agencies are competing with not just each other both also with the private sector.

Imposing an incredibly short timeframe, AB 2561 will prove to be impractical without increasing costs or diverting critical resources—especially in the absence of adequate state funding and support. Adding another unfunded mandate on public agencies will not solve the problem this bill has identified. Instead, it is more likely to create even more burn-out for the employees tasked with producing the various reports AB 2561 mandates.

For these reasons, the County of Riverside respectfully requests your veto on AB 2561. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Chuck Washington
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Tina McKinnor, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

September 4, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: AB 2866 (Pellerin) Pool safety: State Department of Social Services
regulated facilities
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, we write to respectfully request your signature on AB 2866—Assembly Member Gail Pellerin's measure that would enhance required safety equipment for swimming pools on the premises of licensed child day care facilities and home-based family day care sites.

Drowning – which is preventable – is the leading cause of death for children aged 1 to 4 years old. The County of Riverside is committed to water safety and drowning prevention. Through our Water Safety Coalition, the County brings together multiple county agencies to promote public education efforts and water safety resources to prevent accidental drownings.

AB 2866 puts in place a common-sense two-step system that would enhance drowning prevention measures at childcare facilities across the state. Specifically, AB 2866 requires licensed childcare facilities to install at least two specified safety features. Additionally, the facility must assure that specified safety equipment is easily and visibly accessible in the pool area and must conduct and log a daily inspection.

AB 2866 recognizes the need for bringing the pool safety standards that have been in place for nearly 30 years to day care facilities, representing a sensible drowning prevention standard. For these reasons, the County of Riverside

respectfully requests your signature on this measure. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Chuck Washington
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Gail Pellerin, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

September 4, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: AB 2871 (Maienschein): Overdose Fatality Review Teams
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your signature on AB 2871—by Assembly Member Maienschein. This measure would authorize counties to establish multiagency Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Teams. As an early adopter of the OFR team model, the County of Riverside can attest to the value and benefits of this approach in building community awareness about overdose prevention and analyzing overdose cases to improve countywide overdose epidemiology.

Our nation's drug fatality crisis is well-documented. A recent National Center for Health Statistics' brief¹ found that the age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths in the United States increased from 8.2 deaths per 100,000 standard population in 2002 to 32.6 in 2022; however, the rate remained relatively stable between 2021 and 2022. According to the most recent fatal drug-related overdose data available² through California Department of Public Health, there were approximately 11,000 overdose deaths across the state for the 12-month period between December 2022 and November 2023. Riverside County has experienced 889 overdose deaths in 2022 and an estimated 826³ in 2023. Our county has committed considerable resources to taking a data-driven approach to inform an array of strategies and interventions to address overdose fatalities, including early deployment of an OFR team.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db491.pdf>

²

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/sapb/CDPH%20Document%20Library/PrelimMonthlyDeathData_2024_01_FINAL_ADA.pdf

³ Riverside County's overdose death total is an annualized figure based on 11 months of data. See

<https://countyofriverside.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=5e0ff2f698264ac6bd8795d6888e14a5>

Piloted in February 2020 and launched in June 2020, the County of Riverside's OFR team became the first and only such team in California. This effort has proven to be a valuable tool for sharing data, informing strategic planning, promoting health equity, and aligning prevention efforts among Riverside County stakeholders through improved coordination and collaboration. Our multidisciplinary team meets monthly to review selected overdose cases within a pre-identified focus area and identifies opportunities to improve countywide overdose epidemiology. In turn, the team develops recommendations that seek to prevent the initiation of substance use and substance use disorders, increase access to treatment for people who use drugs, and increase access to harm reduction resources to prevent overdoses and stop overdose deaths. Additionally, our OFR has welcomed visitors and observers from other counties and other states to our monthly meetings, as a means to share knowledge and promote broader adoption of the OFR model.

We appreciate that this measure would establish an organizational construct for other counties that wish to establish an OFR team. Importantly, AB 2871 also contains needed provisions that govern information sharing, which is critical to assessing how best to address overdose deaths, treat substance use, and promote harm reduction.

For these reasons, the County of Riverside respectfully requests your signature on this measure. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Chuck Washington
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Brian Maienschein, Member of the Assembly
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

September 4, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: AB 3198 (Garcia) Joint Powers Agreements: Retail Electric Services
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, we write to respectfully request your signature on AB 3198—Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia's measure that authorizes a public agency to enter into a joint powers agreement with other public agencies in the Coachella Valley Service Area.

The County of Riverside is a self-help County with a record of working collaboratively with regional government agencies to address local issues. A tool by which the County achieves this is the formation of joint powers agreements. AB 3198 is a local bill which allows the County to work with other public agency and tribal nation stakeholders in the provision of electric services in the Coachella Valley, including the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), to utilize the formation of a joint powers agreement as an option for the provision of electrical services.

For these reasons, the County of Riverside supports AB 3198 and respectfully requests your signature on this measure. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Chuck Washington
Chair

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Vice Chair

cc: The Honorable Eduardo Garcia, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

August 26, 2024

Administrator Shailen Bhatt
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Support for Riverside County Transportation Commission's
Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program Application**

Dear Administrator Bhatt:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to express our strong support for Riverside County Transportation Commission's (RCTC) application to receive \$16 million from the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program.

This funding will support the RCTC Wildlife Crossing and Corridor Program, which includes two essential components: (1) Wildlife Crossing #10 across the Ramona Expressway and (2) an adjacent protected wildlife corridor. This critical wildlife crossing is a key component of the larger Mid County Parkway mobility project—which aims to address the long-term transportation needs of western Riverside County, while also minimizing negative impacts to the natural environment where the Mid County Parkway will be constructed.

Each year, highway projects cause millions of collisions between wildlife and automobiles that result in significant property damage, injuries, and death to both wildlife and people. Wildlife crossings are highly effective in mitigating these negative safety and environmental impacts. In Riverside County, these conflicts increase the dangers on a stretch of the Ramona Expressway already known for vehicle collisions. Wildlife Crossing #10 will allow wildlife—including protected species such as the bobcat, Stephens' kangaroo rat, and San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit—to safely travel through the Mid County Parkway project area. The adjacent wildlife corridor will further encourage wildlife to safely use the crossing, reducing the likelihood of dangerous encounters with vehicles on the expressway. Together, the RCTC Wildlife Crossing and Corridor Program will strengthen the conservation and connectivity goals established under the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

For these reasons, the County of Riverside supports RCTC's application. We appreciate the FHWA's consideration of this funding request, which will help create a safer, more sustainable Riverside County for both our residents and wildlife alike. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or cs herrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chuck Washington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chuck" being more prominent than the last name "Washington".

Supervisor Chuck Washington
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

September 4, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: SB 366 (Caballero) California Water Plan: Long-Term Water Supply Targets
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your signature on Senator Anna Caballero's measure SB 366. Given the extreme climate impacts of the 21st century, the anticipated reductions from existing water resources, and the controls on the use of groundwater, California needs additional water supply.

Our County is committed to paving the way for resilient, ready, and connected communities. SB 366 would establish long-term water supply targets for the state to achieve, require a financing plan, and would update the requirement that state agencies develop a plan to achieve those targets—in consultation with local water agencies, wastewater service providers, and other stakeholders. Fulfilling the generational responsibility to develop a water system that will adapt to changes in the environment and allow the state to thrive now and for future generations.

SB 366 will complement your Water Supply Strategy and extend beyond any single Administration—as it is a vital step towards securing the state's water future. For these reasons, the County of Riverside proudly supports SB 366 and requests your signature on this measure. Thank you for your consideration. Should

SB 366 (Caballero)
County of Riverside – SUPPORT
Page 2

you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or cserrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Chuck Washington
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Anna Caballero, California State Senate
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

September 4, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1020 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 1025 (Eggman) Pretrial Diversion for Veterans
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your signature on Senate Bill 1025, Senator Susan Eggman's measure that would expand eligibility for an existing military pretrial diversion program.

Under current law, active-duty members of the military and veterans who have been convicted of a misdemeanor are eligible to enter a pre-plea diversion program, which suspends criminal proceedings for a specified time and under certain conditions. SB 1025 would extend this pretrial military diversion opportunity to those who are charged with a felony for instances in which the defendant is suffering from a sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance use disorder, or a mental health condition that has resulted from military service. The bill also enumerates several serious and violent felonies that would disqualify a veteran from participation in the diversion program. Taken together, these proposed refinements to the military diversion program would bring consistency and parity across other diversion programs in the state.

California is home to the largest concentration of veterans than any other state in the nation. Approximately 117,000 veterans¹ – and even more active-duty

¹ California Veteran Population by County:
<https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/PublishingImages/Pages/Veteran-Demographics-/California%20Veteran%20Population%20by%20County.pdf>

military personnel – reside in Riverside County; only two other counties in the state have a higher veteran population. In recognition of the importance of military service as well as the challenges many veterans experience as a direct result of their active duty, the County – through its Department of Mental Health Veterans Services Liaison – is dedicating resources and supports to address the need of those experiencing mental health difficulties. Those efforts prioritize support to veterans and their families with a goal toward ensuring the highest quality of life marked with the dignity and honor they deserve.

SB 1025 would make a needed change to expand opportunities for veterans and active-duty members of the military to avoid serving jail time if they successfully complete treatment, education and any other requirements specified by the court. In turn, expanded eligibility for participating in pretrial diversion programs – which already exists in other diversion programs in the state – would offer our state's veterans and active-duty members important rehabilitative opportunities and access to needed services.

For these reasons, the County of Riverside respectfully requests your signature on this important measure. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the County of Riverside Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Respectfully,



Supervisor Chuck Washington
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Susan Eggman, Member of the Senate
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

August 10, 2024

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

Re: SB 1032 (Padilla) – Housing finance: portfolio restructuring: loan forgiveness
As amended 05/16/24 – SUPPORT
Set for hearing 08/15/24 – Assembly Appropriations Committee

Dear Assembly Member Wicks,

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for SB 1032 which will give the Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) the authority and discretion to forgive specific legacy loans.

Our county is dedicated to making homelessness a rare, brief, and non-reoccurring experience by taking a comprehensive, system-level approach. This approach addresses the various factors contributing to homelessness, including the significant shortage of affordable housing. The Inland Empire faces one of the most severe shortages of affordable homes in the nation, with only 18 affordable and available homes for every 100 renter households. Additionally, 58.6% of Riverside County renters are considered rent-burdened by HUD, spending more than 30% of their household income on rent—a figure that surpasses both state and national averages. Preserving and developing affordable housing in high-cost areas is crucial, and state and federal financing programs, some of which have been in place for decades, play a key role in this effort.

For instance, HCD administers several loan programs established by the Legislature in the 1980s and 1990s to preserve affordable housing across the state. These programs provided loans to public housing providers, such as the Housing Authority of the County of Riverside (HACR), with terms designed to balance impactful funding with the need to keep rents affordable. Some of these loans, however, included provisions that allowed housing agencies to defer principal and interest payments, effectively trapping public housing providers in an ongoing cycle of debt with no clear way out.

These loans were structured on the assumption that housing agencies would only need to pay the HCD monitoring fee, with the expectation that future excess cash flows could be used to pay down the principal and interest. In practice, however, these affordable housing units rarely generate excess cash flows due to the rent affordability restrictions imposed by the loan program and the high costs of maintaining the units. As a result, many housing agencies have accumulated significant balances of principal and interest, which now appear on their balance sheets and hinder their ability to secure additional state and federal assistance. Given the current reality of how these loans operate, it is time to grant HCD the authority to forgive these loans and provide much-needed relief to the affected housing agencies.

Without loan forgiveness, these housing agencies will default on these loans, effectively increasing the possibility that a housing agency will need to close affordable housing sites which serve the most vulnerable residents of their communities, which will ultimately lead to more homelessness across the state. For these reasons, the County of Riverside supports SB 1032 as it will help to preserving and developing affordable housing. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Chuck Washington
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

September 4, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: SB 1233 (Wilk)
University of California: veterinary medicine: spay and neuter techniques
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully request your signature on SB 1233—Senator Scott Wilk's measure that establishes a framework to create a first-in-the-nation High-Quality High-Volume Spay/Neuter (HQHVSN) certification program at the University of California and Western University of Health Sciences.

There is a pet overpopulation crisis straining all our county-run animal shelters, which is exacerbated by lack of access to veterinary care. SB 1233 provides much needed short- and long-term solutions. HQHVSNs are a minimally invasive surgical technique that allows for large numbers of spay and neuter procedures to be performed in a safe and cost-effective manner.

The establishment of a HQHVSN certification program at both veterinary schools would open two no-cost/low-cost centers in Northern and Southern California. These surgical centers would directly serve pet owners who demonstrate a financial need while also training and licensing veterinary students, practicing veterinarians, and registered veterinary technicians (RVTs) to perform HQHVSNs.

If approved, this measure will advance the efficiency, access, and quality of spay and neuter services—improving animal welfare and ensuring more pets can live healthy lives. SB 1233 directly supports the County of Riverside Department of Animal Services' (DAS) efforts to increase veterinary access and

combat overpopulation. For these reasons, the County of Riverside respectfully requests your signature on this measure. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or cserrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Chuck Washington
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Scott Wilk, California State Senate
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

September 4, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: SB 1249 (Roth) Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, we write to respectfully request your signature on SB 1249—Senator Richard Roth's measure that charges the California Department on Aging (CDA), within specified time periods, to take administrative actions that recognize the state's major demographic shift towards an older, more diverse population.

Building on the Master Plan for Aging, SB 1249 tasks the department to collect relevant robust data and develop strategies and approaches to maximize the impacts of aging programs and initiatives across communities. Specifically, the bill provides a county the option, to petition CDA to assume control of the area agency on aging that serves the local jurisdiction. The bill also requires on or before September 30, 2026, and in consultation with area agencies on aging and stakeholders, CDA to develop the core programs and services to be provided by all area agencies on aging.

Riverside County agrees that CDA plays a crucial role in weaving together local efforts into a cohesive system of support for seniors, by acting as a key coordinating body among various state/local agencies and organizations; and aligning resources, policies, and initiatives to ensure a comprehensive and seamless delivery of aging services.

Similarly, through the Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) Model, the County of Riverside promotes a holistic approach to address the diverse needs of aging

populations. Our County's local efforts to weave social services and community health care systems allows for early detection and management of health issues, promotes preventive care, enhances social support networks, and ultimately improves the overall well-being and quality of life for older individuals.

For these reasons, the County of Riverside respectfully requests your signature on this measure. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Chuck Washington
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Richard Roth, California State Senate
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

August 10, 2024

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

Re: SB 1396 (Alvarado-Gil) – CalWORKs: Home Visiting Program
As amended 04/08/24 – SUPPORT
Set for hearing 08/15/24 – Assembly Appropriations Committee

Dear Assembly Member Wicks,

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for SB 1396—Senator Alvarado-Gil’s measure that extends the timeframe in which children may be enrolled in CalWORKs Home Visiting Programs (HVPs) and the period in which families can participate.

HVPs aim to strengthen parent-child relationships and enhance family wellbeing by connecting families with early childhood professionals who offer support in the home, on the parents’ schedule, and at no cost. These programs provide developmental guidance, health and safety coaching, and referrals to additional services. The County of Riverside’s Children and Families Commission, known as First 5 Riverside County (F5RC), partners with key stakeholders and associated sector leaders to co-design a comprehensive system of home visiting throughout the county, offered in both English and Spanish. F5RC’s investments in family resiliency draw heavily on evidence-based and promising-practice models, most of which require national affiliation and entail the annual monitoring of outcomes and measurements to ensure program efficiency. This includes the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) program, which pairs parents with home-based educators to learn age-appropriate activities that support school readiness; the Blindness Support Services program, which assists children who are blind, visually impaired, or have other sensory disabilities using a tactile approach to learning; and other programs such as Healthy Families America (HFA), Parent Child Plus (PC+), and the Nurturing Parent Program (NPP).

Research shows that participation in an HVP has immense benefits to children under 2 years old and their families—such as better maternal and infant health, reduced emergency room visits, and increased safety practices. For children who participate in HVP until the age of 5, research

shows improved language and cognitive development, improved math and reading scores, reduced absenteeism, and decreased school suspensions. For every \$1 invested into an HVP, communities receive a benefit of up to \$5.70 in savings in child welfare, K-12 education, and community safety.¹

SB 1396 would extend the enrollment timeframe from a child under 24 months of age to a child under 36 months of age. This bill also removes the 24 month statutory limit on participation in HVPs for children in CalWORKs families and instead allows those children to continue to participate through the duration of the applicable HVP model. This will help to keep dropout rates low and ensure that families will not miss out on the critical developmental benefits that comes from continued participation in HVPs. Finally, SB 1396 allows children whose participation would otherwise be terminated because the family no longer meets CalWORKs income, eligibility, or need criteria to continue through the duration of the program or for up to an additional 12 months, whichever is longer.

For these reasons, the County of Riverside supports SB 1396 as this bill will maximize the health and developmental benefits of this highly effective program. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Chuck Washington
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation

¹ Home Visiting: Improving Outcomes for Children. <https://www.ncsl.org/human-services/home-visitingimprovingoutcomes-for-children>



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Yxstian Gutierrez 951-955-1050

July 2, 2024

The Honorable Senator Scott Wilk
1021 O Street, Room 7140
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1233 (Wilk) - University of California: veterinary medicine: spay and neuter techniques
As amended 04/16/24 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Wilk,

On behalf of the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors, I write to express our strong support for SB 1233—your measure that establishes a framework to create a first-in-the-nation High-Quality High-Volume Spay/Neuter (HQHVSN) certification programs at the University of California and Western University of Health Sciences, California’s two accredited schools of veterinary medicine.

As you are aware, in California, there is a pet overpopulation crisis in California straining all our county-run animal shelters, that is only exacerbated by lack of access to veterinary care. As a statewide survey in 2023 highlighted, there are 344,000 shelter animals in California that did not have adequate access to veterinary care staff, and 40% of shelters could not provide consistent access to spay and neuter services.¹

The framework established in SB 1233 will play a seminal role in addressing overcrowding at animal shelters and the pet overpopulation crisis in California by providing both short- and long-term solutions for the shortage of veterinary care. First, the establishment of certification programs at both veterinary schools will open two no-cost/low-cost centers in Northern and Southern California. These surgical centers will directly serve pet owners who demonstrate a financial need while also training and licensing veterinary students, practicing veterinarians, and registered veterinary technicians (RVTs) to perform HQHVSNs—a minimally invasive surgical technique that allows for large numbers of spay and neuter procedures to be performed in a safe and cost-effective manner. This will both immediately add to the population of qualified

¹ <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/5ae46f84f8c3438d9c32126d54681936>

veterinary professionals who join the spay/neuter effort and, over the long-term, shift the

dynamics of California's veterinary workforce so that HQHVSN is a core and essential skill that can be deployed at shelters, non-profits, and in private practice across the state. This will improve the efficiency, access, and quality of spay and neuter services—improving animal welfare and ensuring more pets can live healthy lives.

The establishment of two HQHVSN certification programs will directly support the County of Riverside Department of Animal Services' (DAS) efforts to combat the pet overpopulation crisis and aid in our goal of achieving a 90% live release rate. For these reasons, the County of Riverside supports SB 1233. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Carolina Herrera, Director of Legislative Advocacy & Governmental Affairs at the Riverside County Executive Office (951) 955-1180 or csherrera@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Chuck Washington
Chair, County of Riverside Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, County of Riverside Legislative Delegation