

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 8/3/05  
**Department Name:** CEO  
**Department No.:** 012  
**Agenda Date:** 8/16/05  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Michael F. Brown  
County Executive Officer

**STAFF CONTACT:** Lori Norton  
Analyst, X 3421

**SUBJECT:** Request for Full Reimbursement for 2005 Statewide Special Election in FY 2005-06

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## **Recommendations:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Adopt and authorize the Chair of the Board to sign the attached Resolution of the Board (Attachment A) and Letter (Attachment B) seeking reimbursement for the full cost of the November 8, 2005 Special Election.
- B. Authorize the County Executive Officer to distribute copies of the signed Resolution and Letter to the Governor and the County's elected representatives.

## **Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal No. 1. An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community.

## **Executive Summary and Discussion:**

On June 1, 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger called a statewide special election to be conducted on November 8, 2005. The County is charged with the responsibility to conduct the special election on behalf of the State at a cost which is estimated by the Clerk Recorder / Assessor to be \$1.2 million. The County will need to use local General Fund monies to conduct the Special Election.

In the proclamation calling the Special Election, the Governor states as follows: "The funds necessary to pay the claims of local agencies arising from their costs incurred to conduct the special statewide election shall be included in the State Budget for the 2006-2007 fiscal year, or in an earlier enacted claims bill."

If the \$1.2 million is not reimbursed by the State in Fiscal Year 2005-06, it will reduce the County's General Fund and may impact our ability to meet local needs and priorities of our citizens. As such, it is recommended that the Board adopt the attached Resolution and cover letter urging the State to fully reimburse the cost of the Special Election, and authorize staff to take the appropriate actions to obtain full reimbursement for the cost of conducting the November 8, 2005 special election in FY 2005-06.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

The County is required to conduct elections on behalf of the State of California.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

The estimated cost of conducting the November 8, 2005 Special Election is \$1.2 million. The \$1.2 million is not included in the County's Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Budget which was adopted in June. If the State does not reimburse the County of the cost of the Special Election in FY 2005-2006, the County will be required to pay for the cost of the election using local General Funds.

**Concurrence:**

County Clerk Recorder / Assessor

August 16, 2005

The Honorable Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

RE: Request for Full Reimbursement for 2005 Statewide Special Election in Fiscal Year 2005-06

Governor Schwarzenegger:

Santa Barbara County wishes to express our concern as we face an estimated General Fund cost of \$ 1.2 million to conduct the November 8, 2005 statewide special election. As indicated on the Attached Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors on August 16, 2005, we urge you to take immediate action to fully reimburse California's counties for the cost of the statewide election in fiscal year 2005-06.

As you know, county elections officials are charged with conducting free and accurate elections for federal, state, and local contests. We are able to incorporate regularly scheduled elections into our budget projections, while at the same time balancing the many responsibilities and services our communities require.

In 2003, Counties were required to absorb the \$55 million required to conduct the statewide special recall election, a fiscal draw that that still reverberates throughout county budgets today. For Santa Barbara County that cost was approximately \$1.5 million.

The 2005 statewide special election scheduled for this November is projected to cost counties nearly \$45 million total. As stated in the first paragraph, our county's cost is estimated to be \$1.2 million.

The Honorable Governor Schwarzenegger  
August 16, 2005  
Page 2 of 2

We urge you to take action to fully reimburse counties for the costs of the November 8 statewide special election before the Legislature adjourns in September. Full reimbursement of such costs in fiscal year 2005-06 will ensure that Santa Barbara County and other counties will continue to be able to provide critical local programs and services to our communities.

We look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

Susan Rose  
Chair, County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Governor Schwarzenegger  
Members and Staff, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
Assembly Budget Committee  
Bruce McPherson, Secretary of State  
Karen Keene, Legislative Representative, CSAC

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF REIMBURSEMENT)  
FOR THE NOVEMBER 8, 2005 STATE )  
SPECIAL ELECTION )

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEREAS**, California's counties are charged with the responsibility to conduct free and fair elections on behalf of the State of California, federal jurisdictions and a variety of local governments,

**WHEREAS**, California's counties are required to utilize local General Fund monies to conduct elections,

**WHEREAS**, California's counties do receive reimbursements from local jurisdictions such as cities, schools and special districts for the costs associated with conducting such elections,

**WHEREAS**, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has called a statewide special election for November 8, 2005,

**WHEREAS**, in the Governor's June 1 proclamation authorizing the special election, he stated that:

"The funds necessary to pay the claims of local agencies arising from their costs incurred to conduct the special statewide election shall be included in the State Budget for the 2006-2007 fiscal year, or in an earlier enacted claims bill."

**WHEREAS**, the November 8 statewide special election will increase the General Fund cost for Santa Barbara County by an estimated \$1.2 million.

**WHEREAS**, these costs, if not reimbursed by the State in Fiscal Year 2005-06, will require the use of the county's General Fund and may thereby impact our ability to meet the local needs and priorities of our citizens,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**, to urge the Legislature and the Governor to take immediate action to fully reimburse Santa Barbara County for the increased General Fund Cost it will incur for complying with the Governor's order to conduct a statewide special election on November 8, 2005.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this day August 16, 2005, by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

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CHAIR, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

ATTEST:  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
COUNTY COUNSEL

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_