



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Social Services
Department No.: 044
Agenda Date: June 24, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Daniel Nielson, Director, Social Services
Contact Info: Luis Servin, Executive Director, Workforce Development Board
SUBJECT: Approval of Santa Barbara County Workforce Development Board Local Plan 2025-2028

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve the Santa Barbara County Workforce Development Board's Local Plan 2025-2028;
- b) Approve and authorize the Chief Elected Official, Laura Capps, Chair of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, to executive the Santa Barbara County Workforce Development Board's Local Plan 2025-2028; and
- c) Determine that the above actions do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant impact on the environment, and therefore it is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(4) and (5) as the proposed action is also an organizational or administrative activity.

Summary Text:

In compliance with the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) issued Directive Workforce Services Directive (WSD)24-09, instructing Local Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) to prepare and submit their Local Plans for Program Years 2025-2028.

The Santa Barbara County Workforce Development Board Local Plan was developed pursuant to this directive, has been submitted to, and accepted by the State. Final approval and signature by the Santa

Barbara County Board of Supervisors, serving as the Chief Elected Official (CEO) under WIOA, is now required to fulfill state submission requirements.

Discussion:

Staff recommends that the BOS approve the Local Plan for the Santa Barbara County local area. This Local Plan has been accepted by the State as it fully complies with mandatory federal and state requirements as stipulated by the Employment Development Department's (EDD) WSD24-09, and aligns strategically with California's 2024-2027 Unified Strategic Workforce Development Plan. The plan, as required by EDD includes key elements such as labor market analysis, program strategies, information on stakeholder engagement, and continuous improvement. Additionally, the Local Plan demonstrates operational alignment with the strategic objectives of the respective Regional Plan, drives coordination with local partners, and highlights key service delivery strategies.

Background:

The federal, state, and local workforce development system involves several interrelated Workforce Plans:

- A State Plan, approved by the U.S. Department of Labor;
- A Regional Plan, collaboratively developed by the State-designated Regional Planning Unit comprising Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Workforce Development Boards, approved by the State;
- A Local Plan specific to the jurisdiction overseen by the Santa Barbara County Workforce Development Board, approved by the State.

These plans are periodically updated. In California, Regional and Local Plans must align and remain consistent with the approved State Plan.

The Local Plan provides a strategic framework guiding local workforce development efforts, which include employment services, partnership coordination, enhanced service delivery, and targeted training initiatives designed to address the evolving needs of the local labor market.

In alignment with WSD24-09, the attached Local Plan incorporates:

- Coordination with WIOA core partners, including EDD, Department of Rehabilitation, Adult Education, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF);
- Enhanced coordination and co-enrollment efforts among partners of America's Job Centers of California (AJCC);
- Increased technology utilization within AJCCs;
- Strategies to comply with WIOA Section 188 and applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 regarding the physical accessibility of facilities, programs and services, assistive technology, and materials for individuals with disabilities, as outlined in Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity Procedures;
- Enhanced coordination workforce and education activities with the provision of appropriate supportive services.

Labor Market Research

To produce the labor-market analysis, stakeholder engagement, and economic projections that anchor both the Regional and Local Workforce Plans, the Workforce Development Board contracted with BW Research Partnership—a nationally recognized applied-research firm that specializes in workforce and economic studies. BW Research has delivered more than 1,000 projects for federal,

state, and local agencies, employing advanced survey design, econometric modeling, and triangulation with Bureau of Labor Statistics data to ensure statistically valid findings.

Their work is formally recognized at every level of government:

- Federal – The U.S. Department of Energy designates BW Research as the data-collection and analytical lead for the flagship U.S. Energy and Employment Report (USEER) series, which informs federal energy-workforce policy.
- State – The California Energy Commission and California Public Utilities Commission engage BW Research to author the California Energy & Employment Report, the state's benchmark on energy-sector jobs.
- Local/Regional – BW Research prepared the 2023-24 Santa Barbara County State of the Workforce Report and co-authored the 2025-28 South Central Coast Regional Plan, providing continuity between regional, local, and state planning efforts.

In addition, the firm holds a General Services Administration Multiple-Award Schedule contract (#47QRAA25D0083), indicating it has passed rigorous federal reviews of technical capability, past performance, and pricing.

Leveraging this proven expertise, BW Research facilitated employer focus groups, conducted county-level industry and occupational projections, and aligned findings with WIOA Section 108 and WSD24-09 requirements. Their analyses provide the empirical foundation for the Local Plan's strategies on sector partnerships, equity, and high-demand career pathways, giving the Board confidence that the plan rests on data and methodologies that meet—or exceed—state and federal standards.

Special Instructions:

Contact Anthony Garduno, Santa Barbara County WDB Compliance Analyst [agardun@countyofsb.org] when the signature pages have been completed to arrange collection, and email a copy of the minute order and signature page to Alma Copado, WDB Administrative Office Professional [acopado@countyofsb.org] and Tricia Beebe [tbeebe@countyofsb.org].

Attachments:

Attachment A – Santa Barbara County Workforce Development Board Local Plan 2025-2028

Authored by:

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