

**JONI GRAY**

Fourth District, Chair

**SALUD CARBAJAL**

First District

**JANET WOLF**

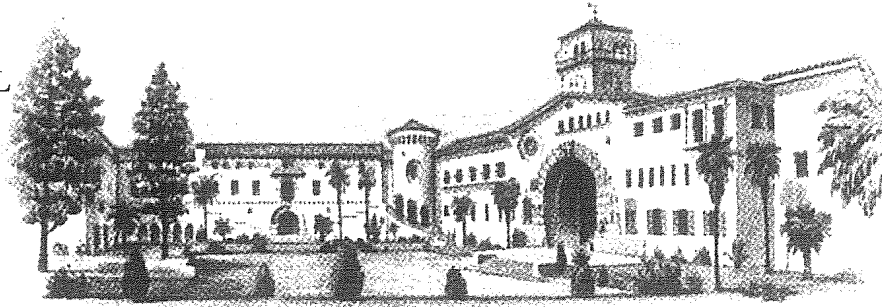
Second District

**DOREEN FARR**

Third District, Vice Chair

**STEVE LAVAGNINO**

Fifth District



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

February 15, 2011

Honorable Jerry Brown  
Governor of California  
State Capitol  
Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax No.: (916)558-3160

***Subject: Special Election related to Proposed State FY 2011-12 Budget***

Dear Governor Brown,

The Governor's Proposed State Budget includes public safety realignment proposals funded by extending temporary taxes. Also included within the Budget are funding reductions to health and social assistance programs, and, the Governor has indicated these cuts could be doubled if voters do not approve the continuation of taxes. Given the importance of revenue assumptions within the Budget, the County requests your support in calling for a special election in June.

The Budget assumes that the revenues generated from the continued increases to the vehicle license fee and sales tax will be dedicated to local governments for public safety. The public safety realignment proposals fund programs and services administered by the Probation and Sheriff Departments such as booking fees, COPS, juvenile probation and camps and a school-based officer. Also included within the public safety umbrella are adult protective services, child welfare services and foster care.

These Realignment proposals suggest a significant change in responsibility between the State and counties and many of these proposals require more detailed information and consultation with counties regarding capacity, impact to local community, balancing of flexibility with consistency and the nature of the intergovernmental relationship between the federal, state and county governments. However, it is clear that the possible realignment of programs must be accompanied by adequate funding.

What is also evident is that the Budget already proposed cuts to assistance programs and without appropriate funding, there would likely be cuts to these and other programs.

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Examples of potential cuts and associated impacts of the proposed budget include:

- County's Public Health Department could lose \$750,000 and 7,305 patients could be negatively impacted by limiting Medi-Cal clients to 10 doctor visits a year.
- The CalWORKs monthly grant for a family of three would be reduced 13%, from \$694 to \$604.
- 33 children age 11-12 within the County would lose child care assistance.
- 24 families with minor children and 989 recipients who are in a shared-housing situation would lose IHSS "domestic and related services" and 290 clients will lose eligibility based upon physician certification of the need for services.

The State has a structural deficit of \$20 billion and solving fiscal problems of this magnitude require difficult choices. Voters should have a part in making these tough decisions. Placing this issue on the ballot in June will ensure that the voters are given the opportunity to weigh in on the funding and prioritization of services.

Sincerely,

Joni Gray  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Members, Board of Supervisors  
Senate President pro Tempore, Darrell Steinberg  
Senate Minority Leader, Robert D. Dutton  
Assembly Speaker, John A. Pérez  
Assembly Minority Leader, Connie Conway  
Senator Tony Strickland  
Senator Sam Blakeslee  
Assemblymember, Das Williams  
Paul McIntosh, Executive Director, CSAC  
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates