



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: First 5 Children and Families
Commission of Santa
Barbara County

Department No.: 994

Agenda Date: July 15, 2025

Placement: Administrative Agenda

Estimated Time: N/A

Continued Item: No

If Yes, date from: N/A

Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director(s): Wendy Sims-Moten, Executive Director
Contact: Wendy Sims-Moten, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Appointment of Community Members to the First 5 Children and Families
Commission of Santa Barbara County

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 appointment of Joanna Gerber as a regular Community Member (eighth member) to the First 5 Children and Families Commission of Santa Barbara County for a term of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028;
- b) Approve the appointment of Susan Walsh as a regular Community Member (ninth member) to the First 5 Children and Families Commission of Santa Barbara County for a term of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028;
- c) Approve the appointment of Emanuel Perez as a Community Alternate (twelfth member) to the First 5 Children and Families Commission of Santa Barbara County for a term of July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2030;
- d) Approve the appointment of Karrmen Rodriguez as a Community Alternate (thirteenth member) to the First 5 Children and Families Commission of Santa Barbara County for a term of July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2030;
- e) Determine that the above-recommended actions are not a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to

CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5), finding that the actions consist of administrative activities of the government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

This item seeks the Board's approval to appoint two regular Community Members and Two Community Alternates to the First 5 Children and Families Commission of Santa Barbara County (First 5 Commission). The First 5 Commission recommends the appointment of Joanna Gerber and Susan Walsh as regular Community Members, with a term appointment from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028. The First 5 Commission also recommends the appointment of Emanuel Perez and Karrmen Rodriguez as alternate Community Members, with a term appointment from July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2030. These appointments are due to vacancies on the First 5 Commission.

Discussion:

The First 5 Commission consists of nine (9) regular members and four (4) alternate members, all of whom are appointed by the Board of Supervisors by ordinance.

Santa Barbara County Code section 41-4 requires the appointment of five Community Members and two Community Alternates to the Commission. As of June 30, 2025, there are two Community Member vacancies. When filling Community Member vacancies, the Commission first looks to the current Community Alternates to fill the vacancies according to seniority. The Commission then opens applications to the community at large to fill vacancies created by the upward movement of alternate Community Members within the Commission. Joana Gerber and Susan Walsh joined the Commission as alternate Community Members on November 28, 2023. At the time, Ms. Gerber filled seat number 12 and Ms. Walsh filled seat number 13. The Commission recommends the appointment of Joanna Gerber (Seat Number 8) and Susan Walsh (Seat Number 9) as Community Members. Their appointment will require the appointment of two Community Alternates.

As stated in the Commission Bylaws, Article 6 (Membership and Terms) requires Community Member Commissioners to represent one of six categories:

1. Recipients of project services included in the county Strategic Plan.
2. Educators specializing in early childhood development.
3. Representatives of local childcare resource or referral agency, or a local childcare coordinating group.
4. Representatives of local organizations for prevention or early intervention for families at risk.
5. Representatives of community-based organizations that have the goal of promoting nurturing and early childhood development; and
6. Representatives of local medical, pediatric, or obstetric associations or societies.

Based on the applications submitted along with the discussion with the applicants during the interview process, the two recommended Community Alternates are categorized as follows:

Emanuel Perez – Educator specializing in ECD

Karrmen Rodriguez – Representative of a community-based organization promoting nurturing and ECD

The First 5 Commission also recommends the appointment of Emanuel Perez (seat number 12) and Karrmen Rodriguez (seat number 13) as alternate Community Members based on Mr. Perez's and Ms. Rodriguez's applications (Attachment A and Attachment B). Approval of these appointments will permit the Commission to maintain compliance with its membership requirements.

Background:

The Commission was established in 1999 after California voters passed Proposition 10, a state constitutional amendment. Proposition 10 imposed a sales tax on tobacco products and directed those revenues to be used to support early childhood development, focusing on children from prenatal through age five.

Applications to become part of the Commission are posted on the Commission's website and through County online services, outline the basic functions of the Commission, and include the criteria to serve as a Commissioner. Applicants are encouraged to indicate their relevant experience and interest in serving on the Commission. Members of the Commission devote a substantial amount of time to attending meetings, evaluating funding proposals, and monitoring outcomes of existing grants and the ongoing Strategic Plan. Regular and alternate Commission members are expected to attend all Commission meetings.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There are no Fiscal and Facilities impacts to the First 5 Department by appointing the community members to the Commission.

Special Instructions:

Please email a copy of the minute order reflecting the Board's action to the Commission Clerk – Sara Gonzalez.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Emanuel Perez's Application

Attachment B – Karrmen Rodriguez's Application

Contact Information:

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