



County of Santa Barbara

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Minute Order

September 16, 2025

Present: 5 - Supervisor Lee, Supervisor Capps, Supervisor Hartmann, Supervisor Nelson, and Supervisor Lavagnino

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

File Reference No. 25-00809

RE: HEARING - Consider recommendations regarding a Response to the 2024-2025 Grand Jury Reports on Deaths in Custody, as follows: (EST. TIME: 1 HR.)

a) Consider and adopt the Board of Supervisors' responses to the 2024-2025 Grand Jury reports entitled "Fatal Head Injury at the Northern Branch Jail: A Custody-Related Death Investigation," "Another Suicide in Santa Barbara County Jail: Inmate's Death Should Have Been Prevented," and "Preventable Death at the Northern Branch Jail: A Death-in-Custody Investigation";

b) Authorize the Chair to sign the letters and forward the letters and responses to the Presiding Judge of Santa Barbara County Superior Court; and

c) Determine pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines 15378(b) (5) that the above actions are not a project subject to CEQA review, because they are government administrative activities that do not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE

HEARING TIME: 10:47 AM - 11:18 AM (31 MIN.)

Received and filed staff presentation and conducted a public hearing.

Ethan Bertrand, Lynne Gibbs and Karin Hauenstein addressed the Board.

A motion was made by Supervisor Hartmann, seconded by Supervisor Capps, that this matter be acted on as follows:

a) Approved and adopted; directed staff to return on September 23, 2025 with an Administrative Agenda item requesting the County send a letter of support to the Governor regarding AB 1108 (Hart – County Officers: Coroners: In-Custody Deaths);

b) Authorized; and

c) Approved.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 4 - Supervisor Lee, Supervisor Capps, Supervisor Hartmann, and Supervisor Lavagnino



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Absent: 1 - Supervisor Nelson