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Sheila de la Guerra Public Comment

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**From:** Sasha Stevens <sstevens@ualocal114.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 1:12 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** UA Local 114 Santa Barbara  
**Subject:** CWA/PLA Support Letter  
**Attachments:** SB County BOS CWA PLA Support Letter 030926.pdf



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Please see attached CWA/PLA support Letter. Thank you.

Sincerely,

**Sasha Stevens**  
**Business Manager / Financial Secretary-Treasurer**

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UA Local Union: UA Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union 114

Letters should  
be confined to  
one subject

Subject: CWA and PLA Support Letter

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Dear Members of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my strong support for the continued use of Community Workforce Agreements (CWA's) and Project Labor Agreements (PLA's) on major public construction projects in Santa Barbara County. These agreements help ensure that public investments create quality jobs, support local workers, and deliver projects efficiently and safely. They establish clear standards for wages, training, safety, and dispute resolution, which helps keep projects moving forward without costly delays caused by labor conflicts.

The County's recent report on the implementation of the CWA shows that the program is working. Projects have proceeded without labor disruptions, and local workforce participation has been significant on several projects. One project has exceeded the fifty percent local workforce goal and others are on their way to meeting this goal.

CWA's also strengthen the local economy by connecting major public infrastructure projects with Apprenticeship Programs and workforce training opportunities. These agreements create pathways for local residents, including young people entering trades and Veterans returning to the workforce, to build long-term careers in the construction industry.

While the report identifies some implementation challenges, many of these issues are common in today's construction market, including labor shortages and rising material costs. As coordination improves and Contractors become more familiar with the agreement requirements, these challenges can continue to be addressed through collaboration between the County, Contractors, and Labor Organizations.

CWA's and PLA's also provide predictability for project owners and taxpayers. By establishing clear workforce standards and dispute resolution procedures in advance, these agreements help reduce risk, improve coordination among trades, and ensure projects are completed to high quality standards. Santa Barbara has an opportunity to continue investing in infrastructure while supporting a skilled local workforce and responsible Contractors. Maintaining strong workforce agreements helps ensure that public dollars create good local jobs and build the next generation of skilled trades professionals.

Thank you for your consideration in supporting CWA's and PLA's.

Sincerely,

**Sasha Stevens**  
**Business Manager / Financial Secretary-Treasurer**