



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER**

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

**Agenda Number:**

**Submitted on:**  
**(COB Stamp)**

**Department Name:** County Executive Office  
**Department No.:** 012  
**Agenda Date:** September 9, 2025  
**Placement:** Administrative Agenda  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Contact: Clare Tobin, Legislative Analyst  
**SUBJECT:** Challenge Award Submissions for California State Association of Counties

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**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) Authorize the County Executive Officer or designee to submit the County's entries into the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) 2025 Challenge Awards competition; and
- b) Find that the proposed action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15378(b)(4) and 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines, because it is government fiscal, organizational or administrative activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

The County has compiled six submissions to compete for a 2025 Challenge Award from the California State Association of Counties (CSAC). Approval of this item would authorize the County Executive Officer or designee to submit the County's entries to CSAC for consideration.

**Discussion:**

The County proposes five entries for submission into CSAC's 2025 Challenge Award competition:

1. County Executive Office - Success Through Interim Housing Projects Video

The County addressed rising homelessness by creating two interim supportive housing projects, La Posada and Hope Village, built through partnerships and situated on public land. These purpose-built, tiny-home communities provide private units along with wraparound services and include specialized recuperative care beds and transitional-age youth housing. A County-produced video highlighted personal stories of transformation, fostering public support and understanding. In their first year, the projects served over 350 individuals, helping many transition to permanent housing and improved health. This replicable model demonstrates how rapid, cost-effective solutions paired with storytelling can tackle homelessness and build community trust.

2. County Executive Office - Your County, Your Heroes Video Series

The “Your County, Your Heroes” video series celebrates the everyday contributions of County employees and volunteers by sharing their stories through engaging multimedia content. Featuring staff across various departments—such as animal services rescuing pets during wildfires, mental health crisis responders, custody deputies, search and rescue volunteers, probation officers, and public works employees—the series highlights their dedication and impact on community well-being. Distributed across multiple platforms in English and Spanish, the videos have reached tens of thousands, boosting public awareness, trust, and appreciation, while strengthening employee morale. This innovative, replicable approach humanizes government work and fosters meaningful connections between the County and its residents.

3. Public Works Department - Accident and Incident Communication System

Public Works developed the Accident and Incident Communication System (AICS) to streamline and improve workplace incident reporting and risk management. Previously, reporting could take over four hours, but AICS—built using software platforms Smartsheet and Microsoft Power BI—enables staff to submit reports from the field via mobile devices, automates PDF creation, and generates real-time dashboards for leadership. This innovation reduced processing time to under one-hour, improved accountability, and helped identify safety trends, resulting in fewer workers’ compensation claims and accidents. The system demonstrates how cost-effective technology can enhance safety and efficiency.

4. Community Services Department - Restoring the Santa Maria Riverbed

The County led a multi-jurisdictional collaborative effort to clear large, entrenched homeless encampments along the Santa Maria Riverbed. Using \$6 million in state funding, the County coordinated with San Luis Obispo County, the City of Santa Maria, and other agencies and nonprofits to plan and implement a housing-first approach. Over 100 individuals were connected to housing and case management, more than 150 tons of debris and hazardous waste were removed, and dozens of animals were rescued. This multi-jurisdictional effort restored the riverbed to a clean, safe condition and serves as a replicable model for addressing complex encampment issues.

5. Department of Child Support Services - Parenting Court

The County’s Parenting Court, launched by the Department of Child Support Services in partnership with the Superior Court and community agencies, aims to help parents overcome barriers to paying child support by providing support services rather than relying solely on punitive measures like contempt proceedings. Participants attend 12 sessions where they connect with workforce programs, family services, and parenting support, guided by judicial

oversight to maintain accountability. Since its start in September 2023, the program has enrolled 17 participants, with six expected graduates, and has already demonstrated success in improving payment compliance, parenting skills, and family relationships. As the first program of its kind in California, the program offers a replicable model for integrating enforcement with supportive, solution-oriented interventions.

### **Background:**

Each year, CSAC holds the Challenge Awards competition to recognize the innovative and creative spirit of California county governments in finding new and effective ways to provide programs and services to their residents. Projects or programs must have been in existence for at least one year and will be evaluated based on innovation, uniqueness, cost-effectiveness, and ease of replication.

### **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

There is a \$100 entry fee per submission. The total fee for five submissions is \$500, which would be paid by the County Executive Office.

### **Fiscal Analysis:**

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>	<b>Total</b>
General Fund	500			500
State				
Federal				
Fees				
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>			<b>500</b>

### **Special Instructions:**

No special instructions. Staff will submit items to CSAC for consideration.

### **Attachments:**

**Attachment A** - 2025 Challenge Award - CEO - Success Through Interim Housing Projects Video Series

**Attachment B** - 2025 Challenge Award - CEO - Your County Your Heroes Video Series

**Attachment C** - 2025 Challenge Award - PW - Accident and Incident Communication System

**Attachment D** - 2025 Challenge Award - CSD – Restoring the Santa Maria Riverbed

**Attachment E** - 2025 Challenge Award - DCSS - Parenting Court

### **Contact Information:**

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