

Attachment B



HURST+BROOKS+ESPINOSA

2024 State Advocacy Accomplishments

Hurst Brooks Espinosa, LLC – October 2024

It has been our honor to represent the County of Santa Barbara before the California State Legislature and administrative agencies this year. Below we summarize highlights of our engagement in Sacramento on the County's behalf.

Legislative Advocacy

- On County's behalf – at the direction of the Legislative Program Committee (LPC), in coordination with CEO staff, and consistent with the Legislative Platform and Priorities – actively engaged on consequential bills ranging from those that address groundwater management, open meetings, cannabis, solid waste, oil and gas operations, local public safety programs, public meetings, product stewardship programs, housing finance, and local emergencies, among others. Advocacy activities included the following:
 - Conducted information and intelligence gathering to advise and position on a variety of measures;
 - Drafted legislative bill letters for and provided testimony before relevant committees;
 - Recommended engagement with advocacy coalitions, where appropriate and advantageous; and
 - Worked in collaboration with the county associations and other local agency advocates on advocacy approach.
- Successfully represented the County in large coalition efforts opposed to legislative efforts that sought to inappropriately recast or reduce county authority in the context of two components in 2011 Realignment: the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) as contemplated in SB 1057 (Menjivar) and the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) as contemplated in AB 2882 (McCarthy). Both measures were held in the second house Appropriations Committee. In coordination with other county associations, HBE took a lead role in direct advocacy, with a particular focus on identifying specific fiscal impacts and conflicts with the underlying 2011 Realignment premise and structure.
- Advocated on the County's behalf on key issue areas that would have affected counties statewide, including AB 817 (Pacheco) related to remote meetings and AB 2557 (Ortega) related to contracting practices.
- Below we summarize the Governor's final actions for the measures on which the County engaged directly during the 2024 legislative year:

Position	# of bills	Final outcomes
Support	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9 signed by Governor - 11 died during legislative process (i.e., did not advance to Governor's desk) - 1 vetoed by Governor
Support in Concept	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 signed by Governor
Active watch	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 signed by Governor - 4 died during legislative process
Oppose	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 died during legislative process

Budget Advocacy

- Prepare detailed written summaries of Governor's proposed 2024-25 January budget, Governor's 2024-25 May Revision, and all budget bills and trailer bills comprising the final 2024-25 budget package;
- Advocated on behalf of the County in support of two public safety related budget items, both of which were approved in the state's final 2024-25 spending plan:
 - Restoration of \$40 million for the final year of a three-year Public Defense Pilot Program;
 - Allocation of \$103 million in funding for various victims' services programs in recognition of lower-than-expected federal support through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA);
- Opposed the Governor's May Revision proposal to reduce the allocation to the state's Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative by \$250 million; the final 2024-25 budget restored the \$250 million available for expenditure.
- Advocated to restore the Future of Public Health funding, proposed for elimination by the Administration, which included \$200 million dedicated to local health department workforce and infrastructure; the final budget package appropriated \$184.1 million for this purpose, representing an eight percent reduction; and
- Advocated to reject significant cuts proposed by the Administration for human services programs administered by counties, including:
 - Restoration of funding for the CalWORKs Single Allocation and CalWORKs Family Stabilization, CalWORKs Expanded Subsidized Employment, mental health and substance abuse services, and the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program. Funding for the CalWORKs Single Allocation and Family Stabilization were fully restored in the budget, while the final budget partially restored funding for Expanded Subsidized Employment, mental health and substance abuse services, and the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program.

- Preservation of funding (\$50 million General Fund (GF)) for caregiver approvals and preservation of funding for the Family Urgent Response System (FURS) (\$30 million GF). The final budget preserved both programs.
- Support for the alternative in the Legislature's budget plan to defer – rather than eliminate – funding for the Bringing Families Home (BFH) Program; the final budget package delays \$40 million until 2025-26 and another \$40 million until 2026-27.
- Restoration of funding for the Adult Protective Services (APS) program and the preservation of funding (\$4.8 million GF) for APS training. The final budget included full funding for APS and APS training.
- Supported continuation of funding for the Home Safe Program, which provides tangible housing assistance for victims of abuse, neglect and financial exploitation; the final budget reappropriated up to \$92.5 million GF for the program from 2022-23 and made it available for expenditure until June 30, 2026.

Other Advocacy/Engagement

- Undertook a two-day visit in January to meet with members of the Board of Supervisors and department staff to discuss policy and budget issues as well as to plan and prioritize advocacy activities for 2024;
- Presented a Legislative and Budget Advocacy Briefing to county staff during January in-person visit;
- Prepared a Frequent Asked Questions (FAQ) document addressing the different base shortfall provisions in 1991 and 2011 Realignment fiscal structures;
- Updated written summary of the provisions of SB 525 (Durazo, 2023) to reflect implementation of health care minimum wage as of October 16, 2024;
- Prepared on a weekly basis a written update on legislative events, hearings, and other activities related to policy development and politics influencing state legislative advocacy;
- Prepared detailed summary of SB 867 (Prop 4) – the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024;
- Prepared summary of 10 ballot measures that qualified for the November 2024 ballot;
- Monitored quarterly Medi-Cal Stakeholder Advisory Committee meetings and provided written updates on items of interest;
- Monitored Proposition 1/Behavioral Health Transformation implementation efforts and provided regular written updates;

- Continued to troubleshoot on 340b payment issues; maintained regular communication with Department of Health Care Services and the California Primary Care Association;
- Engaged other counties and legislative staff on the question of Form 700 filing obligations for members of the county's independent redistricting commission;
- Connected county officials with staff at the California Association of Winegrape Growers and the Wine Institute to discuss timing and communication regarding scheduled controlled burns; and
- Maintained strong and collaborative relationships with members of the Santa Barbara County legislative delegation and their staffs.