

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment

#3

From: Elias Garcia <GarciaE@agc-ca.org>
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 1:45 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Departmental Agenda #3 – HEARING - Consider recommendations regarding the development of a Countywide CWA
Attachments: 22.2.1_AGCCCommentLetter.pdf

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Dear Supervisors,

Attached you will find our letter for your consideration for the CWA hearing tomorrow. We hope that you would consider our input and suggestions. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me via this email or at 818-294-4038.

Sincerely,

ELIAS GARCIA
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AGC of California
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The Voice of the Construction Industry



January 28, 2022

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Departmental Agenda #3 – HEARING - Consider recommendations regarding the development of a Countywide Community Workforce Agreement (CWA) Ordinance and Project Template

Dear Supervisors,

The Associated General Contractors of California (AGC) has been the voice of the construction industry since 1920, representing union and open-shop contractors of all sizes. We believe our industry is vital to the success of California and our members actively look to create opportunities to build and strengthen our state. This letter pertains to the ongoing discussions regarding the forthcoming Community Workforce Agreement for County projects.

At the August 17, 2021 Board hearing, we expressed our view that while we didn't believe a CWA was necessary, we nevertheless advocated for contractors to be consulted during CWA negotiations when the Board voted to move forward with a CWA. We were disappointed that the Board passed this opportunity to engage contractors as it had during the 2014 negotiations. As the staff report for last summer's hearing noted, the "use of stakeholders in 2014 was beneficial to the negotiations". We believe a similar outcome could have been achieved this time around.

Given the implications of implementing a CWA countywide, the best course of action would be to pause negotiations to allow time for contractors to assess the various options laid out in the staff report and to evaluate the impacts to their businesses. It would similarly afford staff an opportunity to study the potential effects, positive and negative, of a CWA given that the County has not had experience with a CWA in the past.



Should your Board decide to move forward, we respectfully request that you consider some of the recommendations in the staff report including setting a high-dollar threshold for projects subject to the CWA; rebidding provisions should a project fail to receive sufficient bidders or if bids exceed the engineer's estimate; and piloting the use of a CWA for data collection purposes that would inform the Board on the feasibility of future adoption of a CWA. At a minimum, appropriate metrics should be put in place to ensure transparency and accountability in the administration of the CWA.

AGC of California continues to be neutral in our labor representation – we represent both union and open-shop companies, both of which are handled by our association with the same approach. AGC supports the county in its efforts to engage and employ local companies and residents, and with the right education and partnerships, those goals can be obtained through neutral workforce development and industry engagement.

Thank you for your consideration of our letter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email at garciae@agc-ca.org or via cell at (818) 294-4038.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elias Garcia".

Elias Garcia

Senior Government Affairs Manager

Associated General Contractors of California