



Katherine Douglas *Public Comment*

From: Katherine Carmichael <katherine.carmichael@islavistacsd.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 4:28 PM
To: Roy Lee; Laura Capps; Joan Hartmann; Bob Nelson; Steve Lavagnino; sbcob; Eleanor Gartner; Chris Henson
Subject: Budget Workshops Letter
Attachments: 4.15.26 BOS Budget Hearing.pdf

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Good afternoon,
I hope this email finds you well.
Please see the attached letter regarding the 2026-2027 County Budget Workshops.
Thank you,
Katherine Carmichael
Board President
Isla Vista Community Services District

970 Embarcadero del Mar,
Suite 101
Isla Vista, CA 93117



President Katherine Carmichael
Director Spencer Brandt
ISLA VISTA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

RE: 2026-2027 Budget Workshops

April 14, 2026

Chair Nelson and Board of Supervisors,

We understand that the County is facing one of the most difficult budget cycles in recent memory. In difficult times, we all have a shared responsibility to attempt to do more with less. That is why we recommend the Board of Supervisors consider the effects of community-led programming in Isla Vista that has been proven to deliver better public safety outcomes and avoided costs to County agencies.

Isla Vista's public safety trajectory is a genuine success story. According to the Sheriff's Office, violent crimes and property crimes have fallen nearly 48% since the Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD) was established in 2017. Even during the pandemic years when Isla Vista substation staffing was eliminated and patrols came from Goleta, this trend of decreasing crime continued. It is important to note that according to the Sheriff, 11 of the 12 positions proposed for cuts are currently vacant, and have been throughout some of this period.

The IVCSD has invested strategically in health and safety programs. Our flagship Isla Vista Safety Station program, operated in partnership with the University of California Police Department (UCPD), deploys Student Safety Partner peer-to-peer employees on Friday and Saturday nights to offer a safe escort home and serve as a bridge between the community and law enforcement. Additionally, we host a survivor resource center providing crisis counseling services in partnership with Standing Together to End Sexual Assault (STESA).

This year, the IVCSD produced a permitted festival to replace the unstructured Deltopia event, deploying 70 private security staff and successfully transforming a previously resource-intensive weekend for Fire, EMS, and law enforcement. The result was only 6 arrests, a handful of citations, and a 93% reduction in medical calls. This permitted event was produced for only 10% of the cost of the Sheriff's funding request.

The Sheriff deployed approximately 300 law enforcement officers that weekend, including mutual aid from out-of-county agencies. This is exactly the kind of spending that could become avoided costs in 2027 and beyond by continuing permitted festival programming in Isla Vista.

The Board of Supervisors faces difficult choices in balancing the budget, and there is no perfect solution. The IVCSD wants to do its part to be a partner and good stewards of limited resources. Our progress towards a safer Isla Vista has not been contingent on increased or current Sheriff's Office budget allocation.

We understand that you have major decisions to make, and that the CEO's Office is not recommending this funding request. If you are considering the Sheriff's request, we respectfully ask that you first consider an alternative: that a fraction of that funding directed toward IVCSA's permitted festival programming could deliver better public safety outcomes and avoided costs for law enforcement, Fire, and EMS.

Our shared progress in making Isla Vista safer has been remarkable, and we are confident that we can continue to make progress even during difficult budget times.

Respectfully,



Katherine Carmichael
President of the Board of Directors



Spencer Brandt
Director