



**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: May 12, 2026
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Contact: Marisa Kahn, County Risk Manager
SUBJECT: Amendment of Public Risk Innovation, Solutions, and Management Joint Powers (PRISM) Agreement

DocuSigned by:

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County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Authorize the Chair to adopt a Resolution: (1) approving amendments to the Public Risk Innovation, Solutions and Management (PRISM) Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) (Attachment A); and (2) authorizing the County’s designated Primary and/or Alternate PRISM Board member to execute the Amended Joint Powers Agreement on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara (“County”) (Attachment B)
- b) Determine that the above action is exempt under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), finding that the action consists of administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is before the Board of Supervisors (Board) to 1) increase the seats on the PRISM Executive Committee, and 2) increase the seats on the PRISM Board of Directors with additional seats representing non-County public entities, who make up half of the contributions to the PRISM insurance pool. Specifically, it authorizes the Chair of the Board to execute a resolution approving an amendment to the PRISM JPA and authorizes the County’s Primary and/or Alternate PRISM Board member to execute that amendment on behalf of the County.

Discussion:

The members of PRISM, including County representatives, have proposed to update the composition of the Board of Directors to recognize the partnership that the counties have with the public entity members. At present, the PRISM Board of Directors is composed of 54 county members (all county members have a voting position on the Board of Directors) and seven (7) public entity voting spots for a total of 61 voting members. There are also three (3) alternates for the public entity votes, but they only stand in place of the seven (7) voting spots and not in addition to. The proposal is to add 10 additional voting public entity board seats so that the total number of public entity voting seats will be 17 (with three (3) additional alternates) instead of seven (7) (with three (3) additional alternates). This results in a total of 71 voting Board of Directors seats. Under this proposal, the counties will have a total of 76 percent of the total voting Board of Director seats.

In addition, the PRISM members have also proposed to update the composition of the Executive Committee which oversees the day-to-day activities of the organization. Currently, the executive committee has 11 members, and the proposal is to increase the number to 13 with an additional two (2) alternates. The Executive Committee members are elected by the Board of Directors. The other changes that are proposed are updates to the Agreement that reflect the current operations of the organization and remove the word insurance from the document since the organization is a pool, not insurance.

These proposed changes are shown in redline in Attachment B and described in detail in the Summary of Proposed Redline Changes to the JPA in Attachment C.

Background:

PRISM was formed by and for the California counties in 1979 by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC). Today, 54 out of the 58 counties in California participate in one or more of the PRISM programs. In 2001, PRISM expanded its offerings to other California public agencies. At this point, over 70 percent of the cities in California participate in one or more of the PRISM programs. In addition, a variety of special districts, school districts, and JPAs also participate in PRISM Programs. PRISM is recognized as the largest public entity property and casualty pool in the United States.

The proposed changes to the JPA were discussed with PRISM's Executive Committee and various Committee Chairs at a strategic planning retreat in November 2022. The discussion largely centered around the idea that public entities have been members of the organization since 2001, have participated in governance of the organization by serving on PRISM Committees, and approximately half of the contributions made to PRISM each year are from the public entity members while the other half is from counties. The group felt that the organization should reconsider the size and function of the Board of Directors, including what it delegates to others and whether to eliminate the distinction between counties and public entity members in the governance process. The composition of the Executive Committee was also discussed.

Thereafter, the Executive Committee tasked the Governance Sub-Committee with reviewing the JPA and proposing amendments to reflect its desire to expand governance opportunities for the public entity members and participation on the Executive Committee. The Governance Sub-Committee did so and those proposed changes were then reviewed by the Executive Committee and approved by the Board of Directors on March 6, 2026. PRISM has also made some other amendments to the Agreement to "clean up" the document to coincide with current practices and the future vision of the organization and to remove the word "insurance" from the Agreement since the JPA is a risk sharing pool that provides excess coverage for members and risk-sharing pools are not "insurance."

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There are no fiscal or facilities impacts as a result of the recommended actions. No additional compensation is provided to staff who serve as Director and Alternate.

Special Instructions:

Please provide an electronic copy of the signed Resolution and Minute Order to the CEO's Office, attention: Marisa Kahn.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Resolution of the Board of Supervisors

Attachment B – Redline Version of the Proposed Amended JPA

Attachment C – Summary of Proposed Changes to the JPA

Contact Information:

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