



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

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

Department Name: CEO
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: February 8, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director (s): Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer

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Contact Info: Nancy Anderson, Assistant County Executive Officer
Reese Ellestad, Fiscal & Policy Analyst

SUBJECT: Response to 2021 Grand Jury Report: Pensions in Santa Barbara County Require Vigilance

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Consider and adopt the responses in Attachment A as the Board of Supervisors' response to the 2021 Grand Jury report entitled "Pensions in Santa Barbara County Require Vigilance"; and
b) Authorize the Chair to sign the letter included in Attachment A and forward the letter and responses to the Presiding Judge of Santa Barbara County Superior Court; and
c) Determine pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5) that the above actions are not a project subject to CEQA review, because they are government administrative activities that do not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

Summary Text:

On November 30, 2021, the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury distributed a report entitled "Pensions in Santa Barbara County Require Vigilance." Today, the Board will consider the proposed response to the report, adopt their preferred response and authorize the Board Chair to sign the response letter. The Board is required to respond in writing to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court by March 3, 2022.

Background:

In the report, the Grand Jury concluded that: "...while no current problems or undue risks exist and that none of the cities or the County are in imminent danger of being unable to meet their pension obligations, there still exists a need to remain vigilant and to prepare for unforeseen changes that could affect their future ability to fund their pension obligations in a timely manner." The Grand Jury also recommends the cities and County consider tools to mitigate future risks, including Section 115 Pension Trusts, Pension Obligation Bonds, and Pension Reserve Funds.

The Board of Supervisors is named as a responder to Findings 1a and 2 and Recommendations 1 and 2. Refer to Attachment A for the County's responses.

Additional Agencies Required to Respond:

Cities of Carpinteria, Buellton, Goleta, Guadalupe, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria and Solvang.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Staff anticipates no fiscal or facilities impacts as a result of the Board's action on this matter.

Special Instructions:

1. As per Recommendation b), please forward the original signed letter and responses to the Presiding Judge of Santa Barbara County Superior Court.
2. Please send a copy of the signed letter and a copy of the minute order to Reese Ellestad, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, CEO office.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Board of Supervisors Response

Attachment B: Grand Jury Report: "Pensions in Santa Barbara County Require Vigilance"

Authored by:

Paul Clementi, Budget Division Chief, County Executive Office