



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: August 27, 2019  
Placement: Departmental  
Estimated Time: 30 minutes  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer, 805-568-3400  
Director (s): Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, 805-568-3010

Contact Info: Jeff Frapwell, Assistant County Executive Officer, 805-568-3400  
Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director, Transportation, 805-568-3064  
Richard Morgantini, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, 805-568-3551

**SUBJECT:** Response to 2018-2019 Grand Jury Report: Railroad Fatalities in Santa Barbara County

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**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 2018-2019 Grand Jury report entitled "Railroad Fatalities in Santa Barbara County", Attachment B; 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 does not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

**Summary Text:**

On June 13, 2019, the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury published a report entitled “Railroad Fatalities in Santa Barbara County”. 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 September 11, 2019.

**Background:**

On June 13, 2019, the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury published a report entitled “Railroad Fatalities in Santa Barbara County”

The Grand Jury concluded that: “The 20 railroad-related deaths that occurred in the 109-mile County railroad corridor during the 2015 through 2018 period are significant and are concentrated within two small areas of track, (High Fatality Zones) HFZ1 and HFZ2. A reduction in pedestrian trespassing deaths, including suicides and transient/homeless deaths, can best be secured by restricting access to and providing additional security in the HFZs. Other jurisdictions in the state of California have achieved success in reducing the number of railroad fatalities by constructing a sealed corridor. A sealed corridor could be constructed from Ortega Hill to Glen Annie Road, essentially spanning the cities of Santa Barbara and Goleta. For maximum effectiveness, the proposed Santa Barbara-Goleta corridor would require a program to:

- mend existing fences and erect new ones
- remove overgrown foliage in the right-of-way area
- improve security patrols by negotiating MOUs with local law enforcement
- increase surveillance by installing video cameras to monitor pedestrian trespassing and transient/homeless encampments.
- A collaboration between all stakeholders, including scheduling regular meetings, will improve railroad safety measures in the County”.

The Board of Supervisors are named as responders to Findings 1 through 6 as well as Recommendations 1-6a and 6b.

The Sheriff’s Office is named as a responder to Finding and Recommendation 3.

**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 Richard Morgantini, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, CEO office.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Board of Supervisors Response

Attachment B: FY 2018-19 Grand Jury Report Railroad Fatalities in Santa Barbara County

Attachment C: Santa Barbara County Sheriff's office response to Grand Jury Report

**Authored by:**

Richard Morgantini, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, County Executive Office