

## Lia Graham

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**From:** tom@waycodisasterconsulting.com  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2026 8:28 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** budget cuts

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To: The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
From: Tom Way Partner in Wayco Disaster Consulting and Training April 17, 2026

Good Morning all.

I am a retired fire captain/paramedic who retired after 34 years of service.

In my career I have seen the budget struggle first hand. It was never an easy process to spend the taxpayer money equitably.

Safety and training always seemed to be at the top of the chopping list in my opinion.

It is not easy to quantify the savings from a great safety program.

Santa Barbara county has had their fair share of disasters; fire, floods, oil spills, earthquakes etc.

The people who make the emergency plans and staff your Emergency Operations Center should be at the bottom of the list for losing positions.

Their positions are already overloaded with work and we are coming into what is predicted to be a severe fire season.

I hope you reconsider removing one emergency manager this year and possibly a second one next year.

These positions save money and lives.

Thank You,  
Tom Way - MEP