

Lia Graham

From: HARVEY WOLF <wolfs16@cox.net>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2026 8:44 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Fwd: Letter from SB County Gray Panthers-Restoration of OEM manager
Attachments: Letter to SB County Supervisors.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Please include this email and attached letter with the other public comment items.

Janet

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: wolfs16@cox.net
Date: April 16, 2026 at 4:54:02 PM PDT
To: bnelson@countyofsb.org, lcapps@countyofsb.org, jhartmann@countyofsb.org, roylee@countyofsb.org, steve.lavagino@countyofsb.org
Cc: m.miyasato@countyofsb.org
Subject: Letter from SB County Gray Panthers-Restoration of OEM manager

On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Gray Panthers, I am submitting a letter requesting a reinstatement/restoration of the OEM manager position.

Janet Wolf

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

I appreciate the phone calls from many of you regarding the email I sent on April 13th. In that email I expressed my concern with the recommendation to eliminate one emergency manager position from the Office of Emergency Management.

Since that time, and after watching the hearing yesterday, my concern has only increased. Today, during a Board meeting of the Santa Barbara County Gray Panther's, I received support to write to you again imploring you to maintain the OEM Emergency Manager position. The Gray Panthers is a county wide organization representing older adults with an email list of over 500 County residents. The Gray Panthers hosted visits at the EOC and we are keenly aware of the value of our emergency managers and the importance of maintaining a rigorous system of emergency notification. Recently many of our Gray Panther Board members visited two retirement communities and on both occasions the issue of emergency preparedness and notification were top of mind for the residents.

Apparently, Fire Chief Huff agrees with this sentiment. At yesterday's Board of Supervisors meeting, Chief Huff remarked that the elimination of that position was a difficult decision. He stated that this cut will insure "service level impacts" and "real impacts to planning, training and inter agency coordination". Fire Chief Huff repeated that the incidents occurring in the County are more complex and interagency coordination is imperative. Chief Huff said that what keeps him up at night are a few things, but most notably is that grant funding for the emergency manager positions may disappear in the near future.

This should keep you up at night too. We respectfully request that you allocate a relatively small portion of the discretionary General Fund monies to ensure that this position is restored.

Finally, back in March during your board meeting and budget discussion this position was requested to be restored. We are not sure why it was removed from the restoration list at yesterday's budget hearing, only one month later. What happened?

In your March budget report, it states that there is approximately \$16 million in unallocated discretionary General Fund revenue that "can be saved and applied to the deficit anticipated next fiscal year or used to restore some proposed reductions of critical Board priorities".

The Gray Panther Board requests that the reinstatement of this ONE position should be a priority for you as it is for us...the safety of our community, especially our vulnerable and underserved, are at stake.

Thank you for your consideration,

Janet Wolf, Gray Panther Board Secretary on behalf of the SB Gray Panther Board

Lia Graham

From: Janet Wolf <janetwolf@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2026 8:42 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Fwd: Budget Workshop Request

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Please include this email with the other public comment letters. Janet
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Janet Wolf <janetwolf@icloud.com>
Date: April 13, 2026 at 4:44:34 PM PDT
To: lcapps@countyofsb.org, jhartmann@countyofsb.org, roylee@countyofsb.org,
Nelson@bos.countyofasantabarbara.org, steve.lavagino@countyofsb.org
Subject: Budget Workshop Request

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

I am grateful that you have given the public the opportunity to comment on your preliminary budget discussions for the next fiscal year and I appreciate the opportunity request that you make a small, but what I consider to be an important addition to the list of restorations.

Specifically, I suggest that you restore the proposed Fire Department reduction of one emergency manager position, that would have been a savings of \$190,942.00.

As you are well aware, our County has witnessed several and severe emergency events over the past few decades including, but not limited to fires, mudslides, power outages and environmental disasters. Aside from significant property loss and environmental damage we unfortunately bore witness to injuries and fatalities.

It is likely that we will experience future disasters and, as a County we must continue to be diligent and well prepared.

That is why I am concerned with the reduction of the one emergency manager position.

Like you, I visited the EOC and the opening of the Regional Fire Communications center on December 9, 2025. I have also been lucky enough to tour the EOC on two other occasions with groups of senior citizens. It is apparent that while we have an amazing EOC it would be useless without the dedicated emergency management staff who are available to all of us every day, 24 hours a day. For a county our size and with a growing population, we need to maintain a seasoned and professional staff at the EOC. The thought of losing one of only four emergency managers is very concerning to me.

I am so incredibly impressed with the EOC team, and I truly hope that you will be able to fund this position as you consider the budget for the next fiscal year.

With sincere appreciation,

Janet Wolf