

From: Pam Gates <pamegates@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2026 5:00 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment



Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

To Chair Nelson and Supervisors Lavagnino, Capps, Lee, Hartmann:

I am writing to you today to address the potential cuts to the Racial Equity Grant (REG) funding. I understand that there are tough choices to be made due to the County's deficit but I ask you not to just look at the dollars spent or not spent now, but the cost to the community.

The REG is a commitment the County made following the killing of George Floyd and its declaration that racism is a public health crisis in 2020. This is support to the community and not useless thoughts and prayers statements.

Will you as Supervisors continue that commitment? If not, you will send a strong message to the community that you no longer value the work of the 37 equity-focused organizations that have received REG funding. These are not neutral budget decisions—they reinforce the narrative that investment in marginalized communities is optional or unnecessary, despite well-documented funding disparities. And these cuts do not just impact these communities, they hurt everyone in the community.

The Fund for Santa Barbara has been an excellent fiduciary agent for these funds. It's participatory grantmaking model ensures that REG funds reach the organizations that effectively do the work to address the root causes of inequity.

A report from the Fund using data from grantees, shows that from 2022 and 2023 alone, REG-funded organizations

Reached 1,000+ students and hundreds of parents across 5+ school districts, embedding racial equity work directly into education systems

Engaged 2,000+ participants through large-scale cultural events, creating accessible spaces for connection, learning, and visibility

Supported hundreds of community members in ongoing organizing, advocacy, and leadership spaces, building a stronger base for sustained work Strengthened grassroots organizations into more stable, resourced, and coordinated groups, increasing their ability to lead and respond to community needs.

The question here is are you going to prioritize investment in community-based, preventative solutions over continued expansion of carceral systems? That choice is yours. Please make it wisely.

Thank you.

Pam Gates

Sheila de la Guerra

From: Scott Wheeler <wheelerscott77@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 12:33 AM
To: sbcob; Roy Lee; Laura Capps; Joan Hartmann; Supervisor Nelson; Steve Lavagnino
Subject: Request for Letter of Support from the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Re: Lawrence Welk Show 70th Anniversary

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

My name is Scott Wheeler, I live in Tallahassee, Florida and would like to see if it is possible to have an item placed on the agenda for an upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting: to request a letter of support for my project regarding Lawrence Welk. Welk was a longtime national television and musical celebrity known among other things for patriotism, family friendly entertainment, his show's performance of music from a variety of genres, including Country, Polka, Jazz, and Patriotic, and he performed at a 1957 Presidential inaugural ball for President Dwight D. Eisenhower. This year is the 70th Anniversary of "The Lawrence Welk Show"'s national debut (July 2, 1955), its original run was more than 25 years (1955-1982), and repeats shown to this day in many states across America. Please know I am not asking for any money from the Board of Supervisors.

Since beginning in January 2025, there have been letters of support/proclamations/resolutions from county commissions/equivalents across 24 states (OR, UT, FL, NY, MO, ND, SD, NE, KS, MN, IA, MI, OH, WI, IN, PA, WV, MD, NH, ME, GA, NC, AL, MS) in some way commemorating the anniversary from former Congressman Collin Peterson who was chairman of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee, the respective native counties of Lawrence Welk (Emmons County, ND), his wife Fern (Morton County, ND), and Myron Floren (Day County, SD) as well as Floren's hometown of Roslyn, the city (Abilene, Kansas) and county where President Eisenhower grew up, (Dickinson, KS) the Agriculture Department and Division of Performing Arts respectively at North Dakota State University, the National FFA Organization (aka Future Farmers of America), the Northarvest Bean Growers Association, and other organizations.

I care about this in part because I am the third generation in my family to watch the show as my mother grew up watching it with my grandfather, and sometimes when the tap dancer Arthur Duncan performed, she would go in the kitchen and pretend to tap dance.

Please find below a draft letter of support text that can be modified if desired, and I am happy call into a meeting whether by phone or video to be available to try to answer any questions anyone may have (this is optional). Please find below some of the numerous connections Lawrence Welk, "The Lawrence Welk Show" and cast have had to the Golden State of California; below those are draft/template texts that can serve as templates but please feel free to put in your own words.

I am happy to provide letters, resolutions, etc so far received. Ultimately, the goal is national, I am reaching out to all 50 states and believe for these and other reasons it would be both relevant and an honor if I could include Santa Barbara County, California as a valued part of this nationwide goal in America's 250th year.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Scott A. Wheeler, Jr.
(850) 728-7618
Tallahassee, Florida

Some Important California connections:

-Lawrence Welk has two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame: <https://walkoffame.com/lawrence-welk/>

-The Lennon Sisters also have a star: <https://walkoffame.com/the-lennon-sisters/>

-In 1972, Lawrence Welk was the Grand Marshal of the Rose Parade also known as Tournament of Roses) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Marshals_of_the_Rose_Parade
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rose_Parade

-Lawrence Welk's final concert (1982) was in Concord, Contra Costa County. <https://www.oklahoman.com/story/news/1982/06/20/no-more-ah-one-ah-two/62881092007/?gnt-cfr=1&gca-cat=p&gca-uir=true&gca-epti=z114836e1140xxv114836d--53--b--53--&gca-ft=273&gca-ds=sophi>

-P. 275 of his 1971 Autobiography mentions a mobile home village in Escondido they had

The Lawrence Welk Show: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lawrence_Welk_Show (KTLA, Los Angeles 1951-1955, ABC 1955-1971 national television from Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, 1971-1982 it was in syndication and continued to be be filmed in Hollywood)

3 of the 6 Welk Resorts were in California (Palm Springs, Riverside County, San Diego, San Diego County, Northstar, Placer County): <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2013/12/21/welk-resorts-surges-ahead-carefully/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Welk_Resort_Group

Most of the following were born in California:

| | |
|---|--|
| Anacani: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anacani | (Born in Mexico, later lived in Escondido, San Diego County) |
| Norma Zimmer: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norma_Zimmer | (Born in Idaho, later lived and died in Brea, Orange County) |
| The Lennon Sisters: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lennon_Sisters | (Venice, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County) |
| Arthur Duncan: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Duncan | (Pasadena, Los Angeles County) |
| Bobby Burgess: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bobby_Burgess | (Long Beach, Los Angeles County) |
| Barbara Boylan: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_Boylan | (Long Beach, Los Angeles County) |
| Tanya Falan Welk-Roberts: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tanya_Falan_Welk-Roberts | (Glendale, Los Angeles County) |
| Sandi Griffiths: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandi_Griffiths | (San Fernando Valley, Los Angeles County) |
| Ron Anderson: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ron_Anderson_(singer) | (San Francisco) |
| Steve Smith: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steve_Smith_(American_singer) | (San Francisco) |

Richard Maloof: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Maloof
from San Juan High School Citrus Heights, Sacramento County)

(Graduated

Jo Ann Castle: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jo_Ann_Castle
Kern County)

(Bakersfield,

Draft Letter of Support

The Santa Barbara County, California Board of Supervisors is happy to support your efforts in California and nationwide to raise awareness of and celebrate the 70th Anniversary of "The Lawrence Welk Show"'s national debut; and the positive contributions to American culture and television of Lawrence Welk, Myron Floren, and the cast and staff of the "Lawrence Welk Show" from across America who made positive contributions, and believe these contributions are worthy of recognition by way of a resolution by both houses of the United States Congress.

The stories of both men, each sons of farmers are examples of what someone from anywhere in America can achieve with perseverance.

"The Lawrence Welk Show" played a variety of genres including Country, Jazz, Polka, and Patriotic, included tap and other dancing, and sought to be family friendly entertainment. It's original run including syndication was more than a quarter century (1955-1982), and repeats are still regularly aired across much of America.

We respect Lawrence Welk and "The Lawrence Welk Show", and recognize its long lasting contribution to American music and culture, hope it and his memory will continue to be treasured and handed down to future generations, and that he and the show will be a source of unity and inspiration for Californians and other Americans.

Sincerely,

Here is the draft text of my proclamation proposal, of course it can be modified.

Whereas, July 2nd, 2025 marked the beginning of the 70th Anniversary of the national debut of "The Lawrence Welk Show" on television; a show which aimed at family friendly variety in acts and music which spanned numerous genres such as Country, Jazz, Pop, Polka, and Patriotic.

Whereas, Lawrence Welk, a native of Strasburg, North Dakota took to the national stage values and love for music that started like crops in North Dakota soil and the harvest benefited generations of Americans during times of war and peace, prosperity and difficulty allowing an opportunity for Americans across regions and backgrounds to come together for an hour for a common shared experience..

Whereas, Lawrence Welk and Myron Floren were each the sons of farmers, and as first generation Americans with sincere gratitude and love of country, took advantage of the opportunities America

offers and in so doing have made it a better place through sharing their gifts. The success stories of Lawrence Welk and Myron Floren are among the examples of how far Americans from anywhere in America can go with hard work and perseverance.

Whereas, repeats of "The Lawrence Welk Show" are still aired regularly across America in a number of states.

Whereas, his aim at family friendly entertainment is an example of a worthy goal in any generation as is the idea of bringing together quality from the past and present.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, the Santa Barbara County, California Board of Supervisors do hereby extend congratulations on the 70th Anniversary of "The Lawrence Welk Show"'s national debut, as we celebrate our country's 250 year history, we support keeping this legacy alive for future generations to enjoy, including raising awareness of the 70th Anniversary, the positive contributions to American culture of Lawrence Welk, Myron Floren, and the cast and staff of "The Lawrence Welk Show" who made positive contributions, including the goal of congressional (House and Senate) resolutions to this effect.