

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
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**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 1/3/05  
**Department Name:** Board of Supervisors  
**Department No.:**  
**Agenda Date:** 1/11/05  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Salud Carbajal, 1<sup>st</sup> District Supervisor  
Brooks Firestone, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Supervisor

**STAFF CONTACT:** Michael F. Brown  
County Administrator, 568-3404

**SUBJECT:** Budget Review Committee

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## **Recommendations:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Create an ad hoc sub-committee on the creation of a Budget Review Committee.
2. Appoint Supervisor Salud Carbajal and Supervisor Brooks Firestone to the Committee.
3. Direct the County Administrator to provide such staff assistance as required by the Committee.
4. Direct the ad hoc sub-committee to report back to the Board by March 2005 with recommendations concerning the Budget Review Committee's size, scope of duties, recommended appointments and other detail which may be required.

## **Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal No. 1. An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community.

## **Executive Summary and Discussion:**

The County of Santa Barbara has a very well respected budget document and process. In fact, for the eighth year in a row, the County has received the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. This award is the highest form of recognition in local government budgeting. The County is also well regarded statewide and nationally for its use of performance measures linked to budgetary cost centers as well as for its use of higher level impact and outcome measures.

This notwithstanding, it is always healthy to step back and look at possible budget improvements as well as how performance measures and other parts of the system could be used better in the future. In fact, back in

1996 when the County began to establish its current budget system, a group of interested citizens as well as interested department heads worked to develop initial concepts.

A number of opportunities may exist to develop a structured improvement process which could go on into the future. Moreover there are many successful individuals within the Santa Barbara County community who have excelled in business, government, the non-profit world or in other complex organizational environments who could contribute to such a process.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

Such an entity is not mandated by state or local law or regulations.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

There would be no direct facilities impacts. Financial impacts would be minor as staff would expend time assisting the ad hoc committee and later the actual Budget Review Committee.