

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN THE MATTER OF EXPRESSING
INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN A
VIABILITY STUDY FOR A CENTRAL
COAST PUBLIC BANK**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 857, passed by both houses of the State Legislature and signed into law by California’s Governor in 2019, creates a process for local agencies to create a public bank, defined as a corporation organized for the purpose of engaging in commercial banking business or industrial banking business, that is wholly owned by a local agency, local agencies, or a joint powers authority; and

WHEREAS, none of the public agencies in the Central Coast of California are large enough by themselves to easily create a public bank, and collaboration with other agencies will achieve an economy of scale that improves feasibility and benefits the entire region; and

WHEREAS, a public bank can efficiently deliver funds to local governments impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, other disasters, and needed economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, public banks can increase funding to address infrastructure needs, homelessness, affordable housing, climate change, solar energy production, education, public safety, health care and other public needs, without raising taxes, cutting public services, or selling off parks, water systems, roads, public lands, or other publicly owned assets; and

WHEREAS, capitalizing a public bank can leverage a city, county, or state’s existing funds to a much greater degree, and furthermore, in partnership with community banks and credit unions, public banks will be best suited to address our community’s specific needs; and

WHEREAS, a public bank can purchase or broker municipal bonds issued by cities and counties to pay for emergency lending and direct subsidy programs, thus funding preventive measures for resiliency in future crises; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors is taking the lead on developing funding for a viability study for a Central Coast Public Bank and is seeking expressions of interest from public agencies in the Central Coast in participating in such a study; and

WHEREAS, once the interest of various Central Coast agencies in participating in a viability study of a public bank can be determined, a financial plan to fund the viability study with equitable contributions from involved agencies can be developed to be considered by the potential participants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara hereby is interested in participating in a viability study with other Central Coast public agencies to determine the viability of a Central Coast Public Bank.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California 4th day of May, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

BOB NELSON, CHAIR
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:
MONA MIYASATO
CLERK OF THE BOARD

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
MICHAEL C. GHIZZONI
COUNTY COUNSEL
