

AGENDA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS STANDING COMMITTEE – LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER – 5th FLOOR CAO LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
1115 TRUXTUN AVE.
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

All agenda item supporting documentation is available for public review in the County Administrative Office, 1115 Truxtun Ave., 5th Floor, Bakersfield, 93301 during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, following the posting of the agenda. Any supporting documentation that relates to an agenda item for an open session of any regular meeting that is distributed after the agenda is posted and prior to the meeting will also be available for review at the same location.

March 9, 2026 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Please click the URL to join: [Microsoft Teams](#)

Meeting ID: 271 027 752 932 88

Passcode: cv7kU9ET

Remote participation options are provided as a convenience only. In the event of technical difficulties, the meeting will continue in person uninterrupted

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons desiring to address Committee Members on any matter not on this agenda, but under the jurisdiction of the Committee. Committee Members may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. They may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff for factual information or request staff to report back to the Committee at a later meeting. Also, the Committee may take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. **SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES. PLEASE STATE AND SPELL YOUR NAME BEFORE MAKING YOUR PRESENTATION**

4. Approve minutes from the February 9, 2026 meeting – APPROVE

5. Approve revised Legislative Program Committee meeting dates for calendar year 2026 – APPROVE

6. Update on Federal issues of interest to the County; direct staff to act as necessary – RECEIVE AND FILE; PROVIDE DIRECTION

7. Update on State issues of interest to the County; direct staff to act as necessary – RECEIVE AND FILE; PROVIDE DIRECTION

8. Direction for new committee business at future meetings – DISCUSS; PROVIDE DIRECTION

9. ADJOURNMENT

Americans with Disabilities Act (Government Code Section 54954.2)

Disabled individuals who need special assistance to attend or participate in a meeting of the Board of Supervisors Standing Committee may request assistance at the County Administrative Office, Fifth Floor, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, California or by calling (661) 868-3198. Every effort will be made to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities by making meeting material available in alternative formats. Requests for assistance should be made five (5) working days in advance of a meeting whenever possible.

DISCLOSURE OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Pursuant to Government Code section 84308, members of the Board of Supervisors are disqualified and not able to participate in any agenda item involving contracts (other than competitively bid, labor, or personal employment contracts), franchises, discretionary land use permits and other entitlements if the Board member received more than \$500 in campaign contributions from the applicant or contractor, an agent of the applicant or contractor, or any financially interested participant who actively supports or opposes the County's decision on the agenda item within the 12 months prior to the final decision; and for 12 months following the date of the final decision, members of the Board of Supervisors shall not accept, solicit, or direct a campaign contribution of \$500 or more from the applicant or contractor, their agent, or any financially interested participant. Members of the Board of Supervisors who have received, and applicants, contractors or their agents who have made, campaign contributions totaling more than \$500 to a Board member in the last 12 months, are required to disclose that fact for the official record of the subject proceeding. Disclosures must include the amount of the campaign contribution and identify the recipient Board member and may be made either in writing to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors prior to the subject hearing or by verbal disclosure at the time of the hearing.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS STANDING COMMITTEE – LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER – 5th FLOOR CAO LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
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1. CALL TO ORDER**2. ROLL CALL: JEFF FLORES AND PHILLIP PETERS PRESENT****3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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- NO ONE HEARD -

4. Approve minutes from the December 8, 2025 meeting – APPROVED; FLORES FIRST – PETERS SECOND**5. Response to January 6, 2026 referral regarding federal trade policy and impacts on U.S. Borax STAFF PRESENTED; CHARLES SCHINN HEARD; LPC MEMBERS DIRECTED STAFF TO PURSUE SUPPORT POSITION ON S.1272 WITH FULL BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; FLORES FIRST – PETERS SECOND****6. Update on Federal issues of interest to the County; direct staff to act as necessary**
BEN GOLDEEN, REPRESENTING TOWNSEND PUBLIC AFFAIRS GAVE PRESENTATION ON CURRENT EVENTS; CHARLES SHINN AND LISA K. POLLARD HEARD; RECEIVED AND

FILED; LPC MEMBERS DIRECTED LOBBYIST TO PURSUE EFFORTS WITH CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATES TO MAKE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS AS WELL AS CAPITAL PROJECTS.

7. Update on State issues of interest to the County; direct staff to act as necessary

DYLAN ELLIOTT REPRESENTING SHAW YODER ANTWHI SCHMELZER & LANGE GAVE PRESENTATION ON CURRENT EVENTS; DENNIS MCCLEAN HEARD; RECEIVED AND FILED; NO FURTHER DIRECTION PROVIDED.

8. Direction for new committee business at future meetings

STAFF DISCUSSED LPC SCHEDULE CHANGE DUE TO ANNUAL CSAC LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE. LPC MEMBERS DIRECTED STAFF TO PROPOSE NEW MEETING DATES AND PROVIDE AT THE MARCH 9TH, 2026 LPC MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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(Government Code Section 54954.2)**

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ITEM #5

March 9, 2026

Legislative Program Committee
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

REVISED 2026 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM COMMITTEE (LPC) MEETING DATES

As discussed at the February 2026 LPC meeting, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) annual legislative conference is shifting from its usual April timeframe. This item requests that the LPC review and approve the revised 2026 LPC meeting schedule as follows:

February 9, 2026 (met)
March 9, 2026 (met)
April 13, 2026
July 13, 2026
September 14, 2026
November 9, 2026

These changes accommodate the 2026 CSAC Legislative Conference taking place in May while keeping the overall meeting cadence equivalent to meeting every other month, as in 2025. Meetings will still be held on the 5th Floor of the County Administrative Center in the CAO Large Conference Room from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. and will also be available virtually via the Microsoft Teams platform.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that the LPC review and approve the revised 2026 LPC meeting dates.

Sincerely,



Nancy Anderson
County Administrative Officer

NA:TB Revised 2026 LPC Meeting Dates

cc: All County Department Heads
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange
Townsend Public Affairs

MEMORANDUM

To: Kern County Board of Supervisors Legislative Program Committee
Supervisor Phillip Peters, District 1
Supervisor Jeff Flores, District 3

From: Townsend Public Affairs
Ben Goldeen, Federal Advocacy Director
Spencer Street, Senior Associate
Christopher Townsend, President

Date: March 9, 2026

Subject: Legislative Program Committee Federal Affairs Report

February was a busy month in Washington, DC with Congress, the administration, and the federal judiciary acting on several Kern County priorities.

The long-awaited Supreme Court ruling was handed down invalidating the President's tariffs enacted through the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. New tariffs under a separate law were quickly enacted at 15 percent.

The House of Representatives voted to approve the SAVE America Act, a bill to require identification and proof of citizenship to vote in federal elections. The bill awaits further action in the Senate.

And additionally, Fiscal Year 2027 appropriations will be a major focus of Congress in March. We are submitting the following projects for consideration to Kern County's congressional delegation.

- Buena Vista Aquatic Recreation Area Pavement - \$3M
- California City Boulevard Extension - \$6.1M
- Emergency Communications Hazardous Weather Vehicle - \$500,000
- Emergency Operations Center Backup Power Equipment - \$1M

Further action on surface transportation reauthorization, the Farm Bill, and Water Resources Development Act will occur later in the spring.

Federal Legislative Update

Homeland Security Remains Shutdown, FY27 Appropriations Process Begins

Despite the ongoing partial government shutdown affecting the Department of Homeland Security and its non-immigration enforcement agencies, over reforms to the Administration's immigration

enforcement efforts, Congress formally began the next fiscal year's (FY27) appropriations process.

On February 25, the House Appropriations Committee [released](#) their guidance for Members of Congress to make Programmatic, Language, and Community Project Funding requests. The deadlines for Members to complete their internal office processes and submit to the Committee ranges from March 13 to March 20.

The President only made slight mention of the ongoing shutdown during his [State of the Union Address](#), effectively ending negotiations with Senate Democrats on how to make reforms to immigration agencies following multiple incidents in Minnesota.

This leaves the FY26 Homeland Security Funding bill without a clear path forward, though as impacts begin to ramp up for air travel via the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) a full-year continuing resolution (CR) is increasingly likely. Generally, by their own rules, appropriators are unable to formally consider the following fiscal year until they have passed all 12 of the prior fiscal year's funding bills.

Congress to Advance Consolidated Housing Policy Bill

As Republicans in both the House and Senate look towards the remainder of the year, politically shortened by the midterm elections in November, they are looking to advance a consolidated housing bill after the House passed [HR 6644](#), the Housing for the 21st Century Act, their answer to the Senate's [S 2651](#), the ROAD to Housing Act.

While both bills have significant [overlap](#), the ROAD to Housing Act increases funding amounts and expands program usage in ways that House Financial Services Chairman French Hill has said his members would oppose. It is likely the Senate will separately pass the ROAD to Housing Act, which was stripped from the 2026 National Defense Authorization Act, as a standalone measure and form a conference committee to resolve the differences between the two bills. On February 25, Senate Majority Leader John Thune said he was planning for a vote on the measure in early March.

Expected to complicate negotiations, the President in the State of the Union address [reiterated](#) his interest in banning institutional investors from purchasing more single family homes. The President signed an [Executive Order](#) on the subject on January 20, and [reportedly](#) was hoping Congress would introduce a ban on future purchases by investors with more than 100 homes. This idea has [faced](#) challenges in Congress.

The President Delivers State of the Union Address

On February 24, President Donald Trump [delivered](#) the first State of the Union (SOTU) address of his second term to a Joint Session of Congress. The President used the opportunity to celebrate and cement his agenda while actively demonstrating the contrast between Democrats and Republicans in Congress. While the SOTU was the longest in history, at 107 minutes, it did not include substantial policy proposals.

Among the policy topics included, the ongoing partial government shutdown affecting non-immigration enforcement agencies under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), a new War on Fraud to be led by Vice President JD Vance targeting federal spending in a number of states including California, advocating for passage of the [SAVE America Act](#) (Voter ID), opposing No-Cash-Bail, and legislating the President's [Executive Order](#) to ban institutional investors from

purchasing large numbers of single family homes. There was a brief mention of the ongoing partial government shutdown following the expiration of the Homeland Security bill's continuing resolution in mid-February. The mention accused Democrats of being unreasonable and likely ended negotiations between Senate Democrats and the White House.

Notably, the President also introduced the idea of allowing technology and artificial intelligence (AI) companies to build their own power plants to limit the effects of AI data centers on ratepayers and overall stable grid demand. The EPA's recent deregulation of carbon dioxide emissions could be useful in allowing these companies to construct liquified natural gas power stations adjacent to data centers.

The President also emphasized a previous [point](#) that [HR 1](#), the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, achieved the majority of his agenda, and that he does not feel strongly that he needs Congress to further legislate his agenda into law. The President also emphasized the tariffs [stricken down](#) by the Supreme Court have been [replaced](#) with an alternative legal basis, and that no further action is needed by Congress.

Supreme Court Strikes Down the President's Tariffs

On February 20, the Supreme Court issued a [ruling](#) disallowing the President's use of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA, [50 USC 35](#)) to impose tariffs.

The decision immediately repealed the vast majority of the President's tariffs, including the 10% baseline and reciprocal tariffs established last year reaching as high as 145%. It is currently unclear whether companies and individuals who paid these tariffs will be able to seek refunds; it is likely plaintiffs will seek that clarification from the US Court of Appeals and Court of International Trade. Refunds could [exceed](#) \$170 billion, more funding than the budgets for many cabinet-level agencies, and some large corporations previously connected themselves to the lawsuit in an attempt to get faster relief if they are issued.

Despite the ruling, the President retains National Security tariff-making authorities endowed by Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 ([19 USC § 1862](#)) among others. The Section 232 [process](#) takes roughly a year to complete and publicly [announces](#) tariff investigations by the Bureau of Industry and Security within the Department of Commerce. It also allows for review by Congress, which the Supreme Court affirmed as having the primary tariff-making authority.

Other [statutes](#) potentially endow the President with the authority to impose tariffs for more limited purposes, which generally must be justified by civil servants/agencies and provided to Congress on a timeline that generally allows for markets to adjust before the tariffs are implemented. These include Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962; Sections 122, 201, and 301 of the Trade Act of 1974; and Section 338 of the Tariff Act of 1930.

In response, the President [issued](#) a new 10% tariff under different authorities than IEEPA. It is unclear whether the immediate implementation would violate the alternative legal basis the Administration selected.

Treasury Seeks to Recollect Reporting Data for Emergency COVID Relief Funding

The Department of the Treasury (Treasury) published a [notice](#) in the Federal Register to create a new system of records for certain Treasury programs administered during the COVID-19 pandemic under the American Rescue Plan Act. These programs include State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA/ERO), and the Capital Projects

Funds Program, which together supported local jurisdictions with diminished tax revenue during the pandemic to maintain and improve services.

Due to restrictions on data integration in the Privacy Act of 1974, Treasury is looking to have funding recipients re-report all their Treasury grant data into an in-house system for additional auditing. If implemented, this would require recipients to re-report potentially duplicitous or overlapping data as ARPA funds were already subject to the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA).

Treasury previously published a [notice](#) in March, 2025 stating they would be vigorously monitoring final expenditures for the program. Some national organizations believe Treasury intends to retroactively request more information than was required under the emergency procedures used to administer the programs during the pandemic.

HUD Releases Proposed Rule on Mixed-Status Families in Federally Subsidized Housing

On February 19, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) submitted a proposal for publication in the Federal Register seeking to disallow mixed-status families from occupying federally subsidized housing. HUD Secretary Scott Turner also published an [op-ed](#) explaining the proposal.

Under the proposed rule, a family is not eligible for assistance unless every member of the family residing in the unit is determined to have eligible status. Entities responsible for administering housing programs, including public housing authorities, would be required to verify the citizenship or other eligibility of all occupants in a federally subsidized unit, and confirm that verification with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) via their [SAVE program](#). Currently, assistance can be provided on a decreased basis, calculated on the percentage of eligible family members. The rule allows a one-month transition window for affected families and a transition period for the responsible entity to verify status with DHS.

Estimates from HUD and other [reporting](#) indicate up to 24,000 individuals nationwide may be impacted, and the rule coincides with a different HUD deadline to re-verify the immigration status of all federally supported housing recipients. HUD is also [working](#) to change the definition of "federal public benefit" to align with these policy goals. The proposed rule will be subject to a 60-day comment period, likely ending on or around April 20.

The end effect of the rule, if implemented as written, will be increased demand on state resources to address a larger homeless population newly ineligible for any federal housing assistance. It is also likely the new interpretations of statute would result in lawsuits before final implementation.

EPA Finalizes Rule Rescinding Their Authority to Regulate Vehicle Emissions

On February 12, the President and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin [announced](#) the completion of a final rule repealing the [2009 Greenhouse Gas \(GHG\) Endangerment Finding](#) and all subsequent federal GHG emission standards not codified in legislation.

On February 18, the EPA published the [final rule](#), effective April 20, 2026. According to the EPA, the rule represents the largest deregulatory action in US history, and because of these changes, engine and vehicle manufacturers no longer have any future obligations for the measurement,

control, and reporting of GHG emissions for any highway engine and vehicle, including model years manufactured prior to the final rule.

The 2009 Endangerment Finding by the EPA, that carbon dioxide, methane, and other GHG emissions threaten public health and welfare, [expanded](#) the EPA's authority to regulate GHG emissions beyond the statutorily identified pollutants in Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), or [42 USC § 7521](#). EPA Administrator Zeldin argued the text of the CAA was misinterpreted and does not provide the EPA with the statutory authority to regulate the other pollutants, including carbon dioxide from tailpipe emissions.

In addition to being in line with the Administration's policy positions on environmental regulation, the move is being seen as [setting up](#) a new court challenge that could allow the Supreme Court to overturn a 2007 [ruling](#) allowing the EPA to regulate GHG emissions. The situation creates the possibility for the court to also overturn the federal preemption of state emissions standards in the CAA, which California has a presumptive waiver from. In the final rule, the EPA argued the preemption now applies to California given Congress' recent [disapproval](#) of the waivers. A [coalition](#) of environmental and health groups [sued](#) over the final rule on February 18.

DOT Proposes New EV Charger Build America Buy America Requirements

On February 10, the Department of Transportation (DOT) [announced](#) a [proposed modification](#) of the Waiver of Build America Buy America (BABA) requirements for certain grant programs used to construct electric vehicle (EV) charging stations using federal funding.

BABA waivers were issued for EV charging programs under the Biden Administration due to supply chain and domestic manufacturing constraints largely related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The potential rescission of the waiver would raise the cost threshold for domestically manufactured parts from 55% to 100% for federally subsidized charging stations under the Federal Highway Administration, effectively requiring the whole charger and associated equipment to be entirely manufactured in the United States.

The proposal will be open for public comment [here](#) for 30 days once a docket number is assigned and the notice is formally published in the Federal Register.

California Secures Preliminary Injunction Against Prior HHS Funding Freezes

California Attorney General (AG) Rob Bonta [announced](#) a [preliminary injunction](#) blocking the Administration from withholding \$10 billion in federal funding for childcare and family assistance programs under a new funding freeze [announced](#) in January by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The freeze was directed at five states with Democratic leadership and was reportedly connected to concerns about widespread fraud.

A series of temporary restraining orders initially prevented HHS from implementing the funding freeze, set to impact funding under the Child Care and Development Fund, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF/CalWORKS), and the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) programs. Those earlier restraining orders have now resulted in a full preliminary injunction until the case is fully resolved in court.

County Federal Legislative Positions

Bill Number	Bill Title	Sponsor	Position	Summary	Latest Major Action
H.R. 7296	SAVE America Act	Rep. Chip Roy	Support	A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require proof of United States citizenship to register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.	Passed the House as S.1383 by yeay-nay vote 218-213 2/11/2026
S.1272	Trade Review Act	Sen. Maria Cantwell	Support	A bill to provide for notification to, and review by, Congress with respect to the imposition of duties.	Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. 4/3/2025
H.R. 3944	Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act of 2026	Rep. John Carter	Support	A bill to fund the Department of Veterans Affairs and military construction projects for Fiscal Year 2026.	Became law (P.L. 119-37) as part of H.R. 5371 11/12/2025 Amended in the Senate, passed the Senate by Yea-Nay vote 81-15 8/1/2025 On passage passed the House by the Yeas and Nays: 218 – 206 6/25/2025

Bill Number	Bill Title	Sponsor	Position	Summary	Latest Major Action
H.R. 3132	CHOICE for Veterans Act of 2025	Rep. Jack Bergman	Oppose	To amend title 38, United States Code, to allow for certain fee agreements for services rendered in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of initial claims and supplemental claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.	Ordered to be Reported by the House Committee on Veterans Affairs by the Yeas and Nays: 12 - 11. 5/6/2025
H.R. 2499	To Codify Executive Order 14248	Rep. Abraham Hamadeh	Support	The bill would codify Executive Order 14248 entitled "Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections," giving it the full effect of law.	Introduced and referred to the Committees on House Administration, Judiciary, and Ways and Means. 3/31/2025

Bill Number	Bill Title	Sponsor	Position	Summary	Latest Major Action
S. 1240	Defending America's Future Elections Act	Sen. Alex Padilla	Oppose	S. 1240 seeks to repeal Executive Order 14248, entitled "Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections", and prohibit federal coordination and use of certain data sources to verify voter eligibility.	Introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration 4/1/2025
H.R. 22/S. 128	SAVE Act	Rep. Chip Roy/Sen. Mike Lee	Support	A bill to require documentary proof of US citizenship when registering to vote in federal elections.	H.R. 22 Received in the Senate 4/10/2025 House. On passage Passed by the Yeas and Nays: 220 - 208 (Roll no. 102) 4/10/2025
H.R. 471	Fix Our Forests Act	Rep. Bruce Westerman	Support	This bill establishes requirements for managing forests on federal land, including requirements concerning reducing wildfire threats, expediting the review of certain forest management projects, and implementing forest management projects and other activities.	Hearing Held, Senate Agriculture Committee 3/6/2025 Received in the Senate 1/28/2025 House, passed 279-141 1/23/2025

Bill Number	Bill Title	Sponsor	Position	Summary	Latest Major Action
S.1462	Fix Our Forests Act	Sen. John Curtis	Support	This bill establishes requirements for managing forests on federal land, including requirements concerning reducing wildfire threats, expediting the review of certain forest management projects, and implementing forest management projects and other activities.	Ordered to be favorably reported by Senate Agriculture Committee 10/21/2025 Hearing held, Senate Committee on Agriculture 5/6/2025
H.R. 3109	REFINER Act	Rep. Bob Latta	Support	This bill requires the Department of Energy to direct the National Petroleum Council to publish a report on petrochemical refineries located in the United States.	House. On passage Passed by the Yeas and Nays 230-176 (Roll no. 303) 11/20/2025

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SUPERVISORS

Phillip Peters District 1
Chris Parlier District 2
Jeff Flores District 3
David Couch District 4
Leticia Perez District 5



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

March 3, 2026

The Honorable Vince Fong
U.S. House of Representatives
243 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20003

RE: Support for ACCEL Center – Aerospace Workforce Training and Small Business Support Center, Mojave Air and Space Port, Mojave, CA | Requested Amount: \$2,479,000 | Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies | Community Development Fund – Economic Development Initiatives

Dear Representative Fong,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support for the ACCEL Center, the Aerospace Convergence, Collaboration, Experimentation and Learning Center, and urge your support for \$2,479,000 in Community Project Funding to support its development at Mojave Air and Space Port (MASP) in Mojave, California.

East Kern County is home to an extraordinary concentration of aerospace and defense innovation assets, including Edwards Air Force Base, NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center, Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division, and Mojave Air and Space Port, the world's first FAA-licensed commercial spaceport. Together, these installations represent decades of federal and commercial investment and a best-in-class platform for sustained regional economic growth. Yet East Kern has historically captured only a fraction of the economic potential these assets represent.

Multiple regional studies and employer surveys point to two consistent constraints: a shortage of locally trained workers prepared for mid- and high-skill aerospace careers, and a lack of affordable, equipped workspace to anchor the startups and early-stage companies that should be growing here. These are not distinct challenges. Communities that cannot train their own talent cannot retain the employers who access to talent. At the same time, employers without a place to grow cannot create the careers that make workforce investment worthwhile. ACCEL addresses both at once, at the physical and institutional crossroads where federal demand, private innovation, and local workforce development can finally connect.

The project itself is straightforward in the best sense: rehabilitate a deteriorating, unused building at MASP into a fabrication and prototyping lab alongside professional coworking and incubator space. But what ACCEL unlocks is unprecedented for east Kern.

On the workforce side, ACCEL gives K-12 districts and community colleges, including Kern County Superintendent of Schools, Mojave Unified School District, Muroc Joint Unified School District, Antelope Valley Union High School District, Cerro Coso Community College, and Antelope Valley College, access to the specialized tools and equipment that hands-on training in aerospace and advanced manufacturing actually requires. The long-term outcome is a region that develops more of its own talent: workers who are career-ready, locally rooted, and positioned for mid- and high-skill jobs that already exist nearby.

On the innovation side, ACCEL creates the infrastructure that small and non-traditional defense contractors and commercial space and aerospace companies have lacked: equipped, affordable workspace immediately adjacent to the test ranges where emerging technologies in hypersonics, propulsion, advanced materials, and unmanned systems are evaluated and proved. Placing prototyping capability at MASP compresses development timelines, lowers barriers to entry for companies that cannot afford to build their own facilities, and helps American-made technologies move faster from concept to operational use. Over time, the facility is designed to become a node in the regional innovation ecosystem, attracting companies to East Kern, encouraging them to hire locally, and generating the kind of sustained private investment and job creation that federal installations alone cannot produce.

This is precisely the kind of investment the Community Development Fund's Economic Development Initiative is designed to support: the rehabilitation of a deteriorated public facility to deliver measurable economic development benefit for a community that needs it. This combination—a uniquely positioned public site and contributions to the region's workforce training and small business supports needs—gives ACCEL a strong foundation for long-term impact and success.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your **SUPPORT** for the ACCEL Center and the full \$2,479,000 Community Project Funding request.

Sincerely,



Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Griffis Institute
 Mojave Air and Space Port
 Townsend Public Affairs

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SUPERVISORS

Phillip Peters District 1
Chris Parlier..... District 2
Jeff Flores..... District 3
David Couch District 4
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Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

February 18, 2026

The Honorable Chip Roy
U.S. House of Representatives
103 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 7296 – Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE America) Act - SUPPORT

Dear Congressman Roy,

On behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for H.R. 7296, the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE America) Act. Kern County remains committed to administering elections that are fair, secure, transparent, and conducted in accordance with federal and state law. We appreciate your leadership in advancing policies intended to strengthen public confidence in the integrity of federal elections and ensure that voter eligibility standards established by law are consistently applied.

The Board previously expressed its support for H.R. 22, the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act, recognizing the importance of strengthening verification processes to promote election integrity. H.R. 7296 builds upon those earlier efforts by providing more detailed implementation frameworks and verification mechanisms, and we view this legislation as a continuation of the policy goals the Board has supported in prior federal proposals.

As a county responsible for administering elections across a large and geographically diverse region of California, Kern County recognizes both the importance and complexity of implementing election integrity measures at the local level. The proposed requirement for documentary proof of United States citizenship for voter registration in federal elections represents a significant policy change that, if implemented effectively, may enhance public trust by reinforcing lawful eligibility standards.

We particularly note the bill's provisions to improve verification processes through coordination with federal agencies and databases, clarify procedures for maintaining accurate voter rolls, and establish clear standards regarding documentation of citizenship. Measures that promote accuracy and consistency in voter registration can support public confidence while strengthening the integrity of election administration.

At the same time, we respectfully emphasize that counties serve as the frontline administrators responsible for implementing federal election mandates. Successful implementation of H.R. 7296 will depend on ensuring that local election officials are provided with the tools, clarity, and

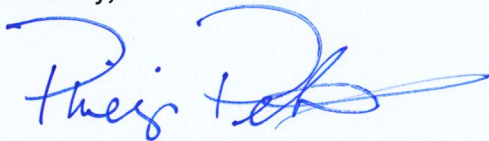
protections necessary to administer these requirements effectively. In that regard, we encourage consideration of the following implementation principles:

- Clear and timely federal guidance to assist states and counties in integrating new verification requirements into existing voter registration systems;
- Adequate federal resources and funding to address increased administrative workload, staffing needs, training, and technology upgrades associated with documentary verification and database coordination;
- Reasonable implementation timelines that account for state election law frameworks and operational realities facing local election offices;
- Safe harbor protections and clear standards for local election officials acting in good faith to comply with federal requirements, particularly where new documentation or verification procedures introduce legal or administrative complexity.

Kern County remains committed to conducting elections that uphold both security and accessibility while maintaining public trust in the electoral process. We believe that policies designed to strengthen verification of voter eligibility, when paired with clear guidance and support for local implementation, can contribute meaningfully to these shared goals.

Thank you for your continued leadership on this important issue. Please consider this letter an expression of support from the Kern County Board of Supervisors for the objectives outlined in H.R. 7296.

Sincerely,



Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Kern Congressional Delegation
Townsend Public Affairs

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Phillip Peters District 1
Chris Parlier District 2
Jeff Flores District 3
David Couch District 4
Leticia Perez District 5



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: S. 1272 Trade Review Act – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Padilla and Senator Schiff,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support for S.1272 the Trade Review Act. This bipartisan legislation represents a critical step toward restoring Congressional oversight in trade policy decisions, particularly concerning the imposition of tariffs that can significantly impact local economies like ours.

Kern County's economy is intertwined with international trade, encompassing agriculture, energy, and manufacturing sectors. Unilateral tariff actions can disrupt supply chains and increase costs for consumers and businesses. These disruptions threaten local jobs, hinder economic growth, and create uncertainty for industries that rely on stable and predictable trade policies.

The Trade Review Act ensures greater transparency and accountability in U.S. trade policy by requiring the President to notify Congress within 48 hours of imposing or raising tariffs, along with a detailed explanation and impact analysis. It also mandates that new or increased tariffs automatically expire after 60 days unless Congress approves them through a joint resolution. Additionally, the bill empowers Congress to terminate existing tariffs that may not align with the national interest, reinforcing legislative oversight over key economic decisions.

I strongly urge you and your colleagues to support S. 1272 and provide a more stable and predictable trade environment, benefiting Kern County and California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phillip Peters", is written over a horizontal line.

Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Kern House Delegation
Townsend Public Affairs

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Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

February 27, 2026

The Honorable Vince Fong
U.S. House of Representatives
243 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alex Padilla
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff
U.S. Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Buena Vista Aquatic Recreational Area pavement restoration funding request

Dear Representative Fong, Senator Padilla and Senator Schiff,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express strong support for the Buena Vista Aquatic Recreational Area Pavement Restoration Project and respectfully request your consideration of \$3,000,000 in federal community project funding and congressionally directed spending to advance this important, shovel ready investment in public access, safety, and community well-being.

Buena Vista Aquatic Recreational Area, located within a disadvantaged community in Kern County, encompasses more than 900 acres and serves as a vital recreational and environmental resource for residents and visitors alike. The park's internal roadway network connects the public to two recreational lakes and supports access to facilities used for swimming, boating, camping, fishing, and water skiing. Over time, these roads have deteriorated and now require restoration to ensure safe and reliable access throughout the park.

This project would provide pavement restoration for park roads across the recreational area, improving safety for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, and emergency responders. Reliable road access is essential for families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities who rely on these roads to enjoy the park's amenities. Improved pavement conditions will also support routine maintenance and emergency response activities within the park.

Facilities such as Buena Vista Aquatic Recreational Area play an important role in supporting physical and mental health through outdoor recreation. They also contribute to environmental stewardship by supporting local ecosystems and wildlife habitat, enhancing biodiversity, and preserving open space in the region. Investing in the basic infrastructure that allows the public to safely access these resources helps ensure their continued use and long-term sustainability.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to improving infrastructure and quality of life for communities throughout California. We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phillip Peters", with a stylized, flowing script.

Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Kern County General Services Division
Townsend Public Affairs

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Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

February 27, 2026

The Honorable Jay Obernolte
U.S. House of Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alex Padilla
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff
U.S. Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: California City Boulevard extension community project funding request

Dear Representative Obernolte, Senator Padilla and Senator Schiff,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express strong support for the California City Boulevard Extension Project and respectfully urge your consideration of \$6,133,000 in federal community project funding and congressionally directed spending to help advance this critical, shovel ready transportation and safety improvement.

This project would extend California City Boulevard to provide a safer and more direct connection between California City and State Route 58. The need for this project is underscored by recurring collisions at the existing Highway 58 and California City Boulevard intersection, which presents ongoing safety concerns for residents, commuters, and military personnel traveling to and from the area.

The Boulevard Extension Project is a collaborative effort involving Kern County, California City, Edwards Air Force Base, the Kern Council of Governments, and Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency. This partnership reflects broad regional support and demonstrates the project's importance to local transportation, economic development, and national defense readiness. The total project cost is approximately \$12.8 million, with local and state partners committing roughly \$6.7 million to begin the project. The Kern County Public Works Department will also be seeking an additional \$3.8 million in DCIP funding for the project on behalf of Edwards Air Force Base, which could reduce the remaining amount requested via the community project funding process.

However, since the DSIP funding is not guaranteed, we are respectfully requesting the full balance of \$6.13M in this request. In short, without additional federal funding the project cannot proceed to paving and full completion.

Federal investment would allow the roadway to be paved and brought into service, providing safe and reliable access to Edwards Air Force Base while reducing traffic congestion and improving overall roadway safety. This improved connection would also support regional mobility, emergency response, and long-term economic stability in eastern Kern County.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to infrastructure investment and public safety. We appreciate your consideration and your ongoing service to the residents of California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phillip Peters", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Kern County Public Works Department
Kern Council of Governments
City of California City
Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency
Edwards Air Force Base
Townsend Public Affairs

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Leticia Perez District 5



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

February 27, 2026

The Honorable David Valadao
U.S. House of Representatives
2465 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alex Padilla
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff
U.S. Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Emergency communications extreme conditions vehicle equipment community
project funding request**

Dear Representative Valadao, Senator Padilla and Senator Schiff,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express strong support for community project funding and congressionally directed spending for the First Responder Emergency Communications Extreme Conditions Vehicle Equipment project in Kern County. This request seeks \$500,000 to ensure that critical emergency communications infrastructure remains accessible and operational during severe winter conditions.

Kern County's public safety radio system relies on 28 remote mountaintop communications towers that serve first responders across a vast and often rugged geography. During extreme winter weather, heavy snowfall can block access to these sites, preventing emergency communications technicians from performing necessary repairs and maintenance. When these towers are unreachable, first responders may lose reliable radio communications at the very moment they are needed most.

The requested funding would support the purchase of specialized equipment capable of clearing snow and allowing technicians to safely reach these remote locations during extreme conditions. This capability is essential to maintaining uninterrupted radio communications for law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, and other public safety personnel who protect lives and property throughout the region.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to public safety and emergency preparedness. We respectfully urge your support for this important project and appreciate your consideration of this request on behalf of the residents of Kern County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phillip Peters", with a stylized, flowing script.

Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Kern County General Services Division
Townsend Public Affairs

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Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
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February 27, 2026

The Honorable Vince Fong
U.S. House of Representatives
243 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alex Padilla
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff
U.S. Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Emergency Operations Center community project funding request

Dear Representative Fong, Senator Padilla and Senator Schiff,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express strong support for funding the Kern County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) backup generator project and respectfully request \$1,000,000 in community project funding and congressionally directed spending to modernize and strengthen the County's emergency power infrastructure for our emergency operations.

The EOC is currently supported by a backup generator that is more than 40 years old and well beyond its expected service life. This aging equipment is increasingly vulnerable to failure during prolonged power outages, precisely when it is most needed. A generator failure would directly compromise the County's ability to coordinate first responder services during wildfires, earthquakes, severe weather, or other large-scale incidents, placing public safety at significant risk.

This project would replace the outdated generator at the EOC and add a 200-kilowatt portable diesel generator to support emergency response capabilities. The portable unit would provide critical redundancy during major incidents, planned maintenance, or unanticipated system failures, ensuring operations remain functional even if a primary system is compromised.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to emergency preparedness and public safety. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phillip Peters", with a stylized, flowing script.

Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Kern County Fire Department
Kern County General Services Division
Townsend Public Affairs



MEMORANDUM

To: Kern County Board of Supervisors Legislative Program Committee
Supervisor Phillip Peters, District 1
Supervisor Jeff Flores, District 3

From: Paul Yoder, Partner, SYASL
Dylan Elliott, Advocate, SYASL

Date: March 9, 2026

Subject: Legislative Program Committee State Affairs Report

Committee Hearings Begin

February 20th marked the official deadline for new bills to be introduced by legislators in both houses for the 2025-26 Legislative Session. At the beginning of this session, legislative leadership agreed to reduce the total amount of bills that can be introduced to 35 per legislator, down from 40 in the Senate and 50 in the Assembly. As a result, this is the lowest number of total bills in the past two decades. However, we will not have a full picture of all the bills introduced until next week as many of the bills introduced are in spot/intent form and lack substantive language at present. The deadline for legislators to amend their spot bills is March 16th. SYASL reviews the amended bills daily and will continue to keep Kern County apprised of all bills of interest as this process unfolds.

In the meantime, standing policy committees have begun calendaring bills to be heard. We anticipate – as is traditionally the case – that bills heard will be specific to those newly introduced in their respective Houses of Origin. That is not to say that any two-year/carry-over bills will not be heard, but those are typically slated for later in the year after the House of Origin deadline in the final days of May. This includes two-year bills referenced in our previous report that were dealt with in January. Of course, there are always exceptions to these rules/norms, and we remain vigilant for any such action.

With respect to some brief housekeeping items and upcoming deadlines, on March 26th, the Legislature will briefly adjourn for Spring Recess and return on April 6th. April will be a very busy month of legislative business as all bills with a fiscal impact to the state must be heard and referred to the Appropriations Committee by April 24th while those with no fiscal impact or a negligible one must be heard in policy committee by May 1st.

With respect to the State Budget, the Budget Committees have begun extensive informational hearings to assess and consider the state and local impacts of H.R. 1. There remains no explicit plan from the Governor or the Legislature on how the state intends to respond. However, and while frustrating for counties as they build their own budgets, this was to be expected based on the Governor's "placeholder" budget presented in January. Myriad groups have organized and begun to present their needs to the Legislature, something that some county affiliate groups have joined in doing. In some productive and positive budget news, the Legislative Analyst's Office has increased its state revenue estimates, effectively lowering deficit projections by \$2.5 billion. Budget hearings will continue prior to the Governor's presentation of his Revised Budget in May.

Newly Proposed State Legislation of Note

Wildfire Insurance

[AB 1680 \(Calderon\): Make It Fair Act](#) – Would enact broad reform and expansion of the California FAIR Plan. Specifically, the bill would expand coverage to water damage and on-property liability, direct the Department of Insurance to hire more FAIR Plan dedicated staff, expanding public access to the Governing Committee, develop a capital and liquidity management plan, among other reform.

SYASL Recommendation: Monitor

[SB 982 \(Wiener\): Affordable Insurance and Recovery Act](#) – Would authorize the Attorney General to bring a civil action against a party responsible for climate-attributable damage to recover losses suffered by the California FAIR Plan Association, funds borrowed from the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank, or costs to insurance policyholders arising from a past climate disaster.

Note: The Kern County Board of Supervisors opposes SB 982.

[SB 876 \(Padilla\)](#) – Aims to implement broad reform in the insurance claim and payout process. Specifically, this bill would require a Department of Insurance approved disaster recovery plan for insurers, increasing penalties on insurers for violations during declared emergencies, expanding upfront payments, requiring increased updates to policyholders from insurers to address adjustment delays, among other things.

SYASL Recommendation: Monitor

[AB 1795 \(Gipson\)](#) – States the intent of the Legislature to set forth standards and protocols to ensure the health and safety of residents and for the proper handling of smoke damaged residential property insurance claims caused by wildfires.

SYASL Recommendation: Monitor

[SB 1301 \(Allen\)](#) – Requires property insurers to provide a notice of nonrenewal six months in advance and detail specific reasons for nonrenewal along with granting the policyholder the opportunity to make necessary repairs or adjustments to their property in order to maintain coverage.

SYASL Recommendation: Monitor

Oil and Gas Bonding

[AB 2716 \(Avila Farias\)](#) – Would repeal the prohibition on self-insurance or corporate guarantee as an acceptable form of financial assurance by a well operator. Additionally, it would exempt those who purchase a well solely for the purpose of plugging and abandoning from bonding and financial assurance requirements.

Note: County staff are currently coordinating with the Kern County Assessor and outside counsel to better understand the impacts of this bill before presenting the BOS with a preferred position.

[AB 2461 \(Hart\)](#) – Expands existing bonding requirements to a person who acquires, or intends to acquire, the right to control a well or production facility. This includes, but is not limited to, the direct or indirect sale or exchange in a single or series of related transactions by the stockholders of the operator of more than 50% of the voting stock of the operator and a liquidation or dissolution of the operator, among other transactions. Additionally, the bill would eliminate the existing production level exemption of bonding requirements.

Note: County staff are currently coordinating with the Kern County Assessor and outside counsel to better understand the impacts of this bill before presenting the BOS with a preferred position.

Healthcare

[AB 1547 \(Bains\)](#) – Would require the University of California, on or before January 1, 2028, to complete a feasibility study, and reasonably attempt to consult with local stakeholders, to determine the steps necessary to establish a branch campus of an existing University of California medical school in the County of Kern.

Note: The Kern County Board of Supervisors supports AB 1547.

[AB 1852 \(Bains\)](#) – Creates a secondary pathway to establish a medical school in Kern County if the University of California does not take formal steps to do so by July 1, 2027. Specifically, this bill authorizes California State University, Bakersfield and the Kern Community College District to form the Kern Medical Education Authority, a local public entity empowered to operate a medical school, hire staff, issue bonds, and grant MD degrees upon accreditation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education.

SYASL Recommendation: Support

Human Resources/Employment

[AB 1564 \(Ahrens\)](#) - Would prohibit a public employer from questioning a public employee or their representative (as specified) regarding communications made in confidence between an employee and an employee representative within the scope of the recognized employee organization's representation.

SYASL Recommendation: Oppose

Carrier of Last Resort (COLR)

[AB 2443 \(McKinnor\)](#) – Would require the PUC to develop a reasonable process for a carrier of last resort to be relieved by January 1, 2029, of that status in areas where customers have other options for voice service.

Note that this bill is very similar to **AB 470 (McKinnor)** which was opposed by the Kern Board of Supervisors and was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee. There is a pending rulemaking process before the PUC, and the author has indicated a desire to let that play out with this bill serving as a vehicle depending on that outcome.

SYASL Recommendation: Monitor

Two-Year Bills of Note

Meadows Field Airport – SB 661 (Hurtado)

SB 661 would, instead of directing sales tax revenue on jet fuel sales to the State's General Fund, would redirect revenue to the Aeronautics Account for airport and aviation purposes. The bill would allocate redirected funding to specific types of airports based on their size and passenger boarding numbers. The formula contained in the bill would be advantageous to Meadows Field in Bakersfield. SB 661 made it out of the Senate, but the author decided to make it a two-year bill to be heard next year in the Assembly.

Note: The Kern County Board of Supervisors supports SB 661.

AB 283 (Haney): In-Home Supportive Services Employer-Employee Relations Act

AB 283 would expand the definition of "public employer," to include an employer who is subject to the In-Home Supportive Services Employer-Employee Relations Act, which the bill would create. Additionally, it would establish a method for resolving disputes regarding wages, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment between the state and recognized employee organizations representing individual providers. Although this bill is far along in the process, it stalled last year and was placed on the Senate Inactive File.

Note: The Kern County Board of Supervisors changed its position from "Oppose" to "Support if Amended".

Before moving the bill to the Inactive File, the author amended the bill to require that the state will assume full responsibility for the nonfederal share of cost increases resulting from statewide bargaining agreements, something explicitly asked for in the Board of Supervisors.

[AB 1383 \(McKinnor\): Public Employees' Retirement Benefits](#)

This bill modifies the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA) to increase pensionable compensation, defined benefit retirement formulas, and contribution cost sharing. *Kern County staff have estimated that the fiscal impact of this bill could result in \$13 million in costs annually.*

Note: The Kern County Board of Supervisors opposes AB 1383.

Earmarks

SYASL continues to work on the County's new list of funding requests for FY 2026-27. Although it will be another tough year fiscally, we will always look for every opportunity to advocate for and advance the County's earmark requests. This year's priority asks include:

1. Firefighter Turnout Gear - \$4M
2. Type 6 Fire Patrol Vehicles - \$2M
3. Portable Fire Helicopter Dip Sites - \$50,000
4. Animal Services Clinic Equipment and Mobile Habitats - \$600,000
5. First Responder Radio Equipment - \$1.5M

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Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

February 11, 2026

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker of the Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable David Tangipa
Vice Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget
1021 O Street, Suite 4310
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Concerns with the Governor's 2026-27 Budget Proposal

Dear Speaker Rivas, Assemblymember Gabriel, and Assemblymember Tangipa,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our deep concerns with the Governor's proposed 2026-27 state budget. California's counties are the backbone of the state's safety net. Today, Kern County stands at a critical juncture; without decisive action from Sacramento, essential services that protect millions of Californians will unravel. The Governor's proposed 2026-27 budget acknowledges fiscal uncertainty driven by federal actions and the implementation of H.R. 1, yet it fails to provide counties with the resources needed to withstand unprecedented cost shifts now upon us.

While the state works to minimize its deficit, counties like ours are left to absorb billions in new Medi-Cal, CalFresh, and indigent care costs without any funding source. Kern County cannot absorb these costs alone. If the state does not act, the safety net will fail, and our communities will suffer devastating consequences.

To illustrate the depth of these challenges, Kern County offers the following key concerns with the Governor's proposal:

Health and Human Services – H.R. 1 (One Big Beautiful Bill Act) Impacts

H.R. 1 has fundamentally shifted fiscal responsibility for safety-net programs from the federal government to states and counties. While the Governor's proposal includes funding for state-level impacts, it provides nothing for counties. Kern County faces a massive new fiscal burden that could cripple our ability to serve vulnerable families, children, and older adults. The loss of public assistance benefits imposes severe economic strain on families, and research consistently shows that poverty heightens the risk of child abuse

and neglect. These dynamics not only endanger vulnerable children but also place additional, unsustainable pressure on already overburdened child welfare systems.

Current estimates indicate a revenue shortfall of **\$6.5 million to \$19.4 million in FY 2026–27**, expected to grow each year through FY 2029–30. The most substantial impact arises from new state matching fund requirements, which fundamentally alter the cost structure for programs historically funded by the federal government. At the same time, demand for County services continues to rise. Key pressures include:

- Increased administrative workload
- Higher utilization of emergency systems
- Growth in the uninsured population and reliance on indigent care programs
- Escalating food insecurity
- Local economic strain
- Increased vulnerability to child abuse and neglect driven by mounting family stress, deepening economic hardship, and diminished access to critical preventive services

Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program

Beyond health and human services, homelessness remains a pressing crisis that demands sustained investment. Kern County appreciates the continued \$500 million commitment for HHAP in 2026–27, but this is not enough. We urge **full funding of \$1 billion for Round 7**, with timely distribution by **September 1, 2026**. Without this, Kern’s progress in reducing homelessness will stall, and public safety risks will escalate.

Across all five HHAP rounds, the County, City of Bakersfield, and local Continuum of Care (CoC) collectively received **\$36.6 million** in HHAP dollars. These funds support emergency, interim, and permanent supportive housing, integrated case management, and data-driven systems that track progress (CES and HMIS). Most of these services will be jeopardized if HHAP funding is not sustained, as local budgets cannot absorb state cuts.

Compounding the issue, a recent federal HUD announcement proposed capping funding for permanent supportive housing at 30 percent, reducing housing vouchers and putting as many as **700 local families at risk of homelessness**. HHAP dollars were intended to offset these reductions. Without full Round 7 funding, local jurisdictions will struggle to meet needs, exacerbating an already dire situation.

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

Similarly, proposed changes to IHSS threaten to destabilize care for thousands of vulnerable residents. We strongly oppose the proposal to remove the state’s share of IHSS growth costs. This cost shift, estimated to save the state \$233.6 million in FY 2027–28, will devastate county budgets, as IHSS costs already outpace Realignment revenues.

Kern County serves approximately **18,000 active IHSS recipients**, a substantial number that underscores the critical importance of sustained support for this program. If the full cost of just one hour per case shifts to the county, expenses would increase by **\$3.6 million annually**, falling squarely on Kern’s General Fund. This change could delay assessments, impact service delivery, and strain staff already operating at maximum capacity.

Medi-Cal Mobile Crisis Services

Behavioral health services face equal jeopardy under the proposed Medi-Cal Mobile Crisis revisions. Making these services optional will push tens of millions of dollars in costs onto counties and reverse hard-won progress in behavioral health.

Since January 1, 2025, Kern BHRS has staffed and supplied the Mobile Evaluation Team to comply with the state mandate, nearly doubling staff levels and requiring significant capital investments. The Governor's proposed change will leave counties unable to sustain expanded services without state support, causing a decrease in mobile crisis response for Kern County residents.

Proposition 36

Finally, Proposition 36 implementation underscores the need for consistent funding to uphold voter intent. Despite voter approval and a one-time allocation of \$50 million in the State's 2025 budget, counties have yet to receive full-scope funding. Kern urgently requests sustained funding to meet increased caseloads across probation, behavioral health, indigent defense, district attorneys, and sheriff's offices.

Conclusion

California's strength lies in its communities. At this critical juncture, the State must craft a budget that protects core services and prevents catastrophic harm. If counties are forced to backfill indigent care costs, rural hospitals will close. Cuts to IHSS will pull caregivers out of the workforce. Delays in homelessness and Proposition 36 funding will drive up public safety risks and circumvent the will of California's voters.

Kern County stands ready to partner with the Legislature and Administration to safeguard health care, social services, and public safety for all Californians. The time to act is now.

Respectfully,



Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Committee
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Jason Sisney, Budget Director, Office of Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas
Katie Kolitosos, Policy Consultant, Office of Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Joe Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus
Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office
Carolyn Chu, Chief Deputy Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office
California State Association of Counties
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange

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Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
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Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

February 11, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Concerns with the Proposed 2026-27 State Budget

Dear Governor Newsom,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our deep concerns with your proposed 2026-27 state budget. California's counties are the backbone of the state's safety net. Today, Kern County stands at a critical juncture; without decisive action from Sacramento, essential services that protect millions of Californians will unravel. Your proposed 2026-27 budget acknowledges fiscal uncertainty driven by federal actions and the implementation of H.R. 1, yet it fails to provide counties with the resources needed to withstand unprecedented cost shifts now upon us.

While the state works to minimize its deficit, counties like ours are left to absorb billions in new Medi-Cal, CalFresh, and indigent care costs without any funding source. Kern County cannot absorb these costs alone. If the state does not act, the safety net will fail, and our communities will suffer devastating consequences.

To illustrate the depth of these challenges, Kern County offers the following key concerns with the 2026-27 proposal:

Health and Human Services – H.R. 1 (One Big Beautiful Bill Act) Impacts

H.R. 1 has fundamentally shifted fiscal responsibility for safety-net programs from the federal government to states and counties. While the 2026-27 proposal includes funding for state-level impacts, it provides nothing for counties. Kern County faces a massive new fiscal burden that could cripple our ability to serve vulnerable families, children, and older adults. The loss of public assistance benefits imposes severe economic strain on families, and research consistently shows that poverty heightens the risk of child abuse and neglect. These dynamics not only endanger vulnerable children but also place additional, unsustainable pressure on already overburdened child welfare systems.

Current estimates indicate a revenue shortfall of **\$6.5 million to \$19.4 million in FY 2026-27**, expected to grow each year through FY 2029-30. The most substantial impact arises from new state matching fund

requirements, which fundamentally alter the cost structure for programs historically funded by the federal government. At the same time, demand for County services continues to rise. Key pressures include:

- Increased administrative workload
- Higher utilization of emergency systems
- Growth in the uninsured population and reliance on indigent care programs
- Escalating food insecurity
- Local economic strain
- Increased vulnerability to child abuse and neglect driven by mounting family stress, deepening economic hardship, and diminished access to critical preventive services

Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program

Beyond health and human services, homelessness remains a pressing crisis that demands sustained investment. Kern County appreciates the continued \$500 million commitment for HHAP in 2026–27, but this is not enough. We urge **full funding of \$1 billion for Round 7**, with timely distribution by **September 1, 2026**. Without this, Kern’s progress in reducing homelessness will stall, and public safety risks will escalate.

Across all five HHAP rounds, the County, City of Bakersfield, and local Continuum of Care (CoC) collectively received **\$36.6 million** in HHAP dollars. These funds support emergency, interim, and permanent supportive housing, integrated case management, and data-driven systems that track progress (CES and HMIS). Most of these services will be jeopardized if HHAP funding is not sustained, as local budgets cannot absorb state cuts.

Compounding the issue, a recent federal HUD announcement proposed capping funding for permanent supportive housing at 30 percent, reducing housing vouchers and putting as many as **700 local families at risk of homelessness**. HHAP dollars were intended to offset these reductions. Without full Round 7 funding, local jurisdictions will struggle to meet needs, exacerbating an already dire situation.

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

Similarly, proposed changes to IHSS threaten to destabilize care for thousands of vulnerable residents. We strongly oppose the proposal to remove the state’s share of IHSS growth costs. This cost shift, estimated to save the state \$233.6 million in FY 2027–28, will devastate county budgets, as IHSS costs already outpace Realignment revenues.

Kern County serves approximately **18,000 active IHSS recipients**, a substantial number that underscores the critical importance of sustained support for this program. If the full cost of just one hour per case shifts to the county, expenses would increase by **\$3.6 million annually**, falling squarely on Kern’s General Fund. This change could delay assessments, impact service delivery, and strain staff already operating at maximum capacity.

Medi-Cal Mobile Crisis Services

Behavioral health services face equal jeopardy under the proposed Medi-Cal Mobile Crisis revisions. Making these services optional will push tens of millions of dollars in costs onto counties and reverse hard-won progress in behavioral health.

February 11, 2026

Page 3 of 3

Since January 1, 2025, Kern BHRS has staffed and supplied the Mobile Evaluation Team to comply with the state mandate, nearly doubling staff levels and requiring significant capital investments. The Governor's proposed change will leave counties unable to sustain expanded services without state support, causing a decrease in mobile crisis response for Kern County residents.

Proposition 36

Finally, Proposition 36 implementation underscores the need for consistent funding to uphold voter intent. Despite voter approval and a one-time allocation of \$50 million in the State's 2025 budget, counties have yet to receive full-scope funding. Kern urgently requests sustained funding to meet increased caseloads across probation, behavioral health, indigent defense, district attorneys, and sheriff's offices.

Conclusion

California's strength lies in its communities. At this critical juncture, the State must craft a budget that protects core services and prevents catastrophic harm. If counties are forced to backfill indigent care costs, rural hospitals will close. Cuts to IHSS will pull caregivers out of the workforce. Delays in homelessness and Proposition 36 funding will drive up public safety risks and circumvent the will of California's voters.

Kern County stands ready to partner with the Legislature and Administration to safeguard health care, social services, and public safety for all Californians. The time to act is now.

Respectfully,



Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Nathan Barankin, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Jamie Callahan, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Christine Aurre, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor
Nani Coloretti, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor
Joe Stepenshaw, Director, California Department of Finance
Erika Li, Chief Deputy Director, Budgets, California Department of Finance
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
California State Association of Counties
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange

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1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

February 11, 2026

The Honorable Monique Limón
Senate President Pro Tempore
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable John Laird
Chair, Senate Committee on Budget & Fiscal Review
1021 O Street, Suite 8720
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Roger Niello
Vice Chair, Senate Comm. on Budget & Fiscal Review
1021 O Street, Suite 7110
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Concerns with the Governor's 2026-27 Budget Proposal

Dear President pro Tempore Limón, Senator Laird, and Senator Niello,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our deep concerns with the Governor's proposed 2026-27 state budget. California's counties are the backbone of the state's safety net. Today, Kern County stands at a critical juncture; without decisive action from Sacramento, essential services that protect millions of Californians will unravel. The Governor's proposed 2026-27 budget acknowledges fiscal uncertainty driven by federal actions and the implementation of H.R. 1, yet it fails to provide counties with the resources needed to withstand unprecedented cost shifts now upon us.

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Kern County stands ready to partner with the Legislature and Administration to safeguard health care, social services, and public safety for all Californians. The time to act is now.

Respectfully,



Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Committee on Budget & Fiscal Review
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Christopher Woods, Chief Fiscal Adviser, Office of Senate pro Tempore Monique Limón
Misa Lennox, Policy Director, Office of Senate pro Tempore Monique Limón
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
Kirk Feely, Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office
Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office
Carolyn Chu, Chief Deputy Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office
California State Association of Counties
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange

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February 24, 2026

The Honorable Caroline Menjivar
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
1021 O Street, Suite 6630
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dawn Addis
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
1021 O Street, Suite 4120
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: 4260 – Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Budget Items: CCS County Administration Funding Request

Dear Senator Menjivar and Assemblymember Addis,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to request that the Legislature provide adequate funding to counties to administer the California Children's Services (CCS) Program in accordance with DHCS staffing standards.

California local health departments administer the CCS Program on behalf of DHCS, serving some of the state's most medically complex and vulnerable children and youth. County CCS allocations to Kern County support core program responsibilities, including eligibility determination, care coordination and case management, medical therapy services, and services to assist in the transition to the adult system of care.

Over the past decade, the CCS Program has faced persistent budgetary and fiscal challenges due to chronic underfunding that does not reflect DHCS's own staffing standards. Statewide, current CCS allocations fall approximately \$109 million below funding levels required to meet DHCS staffing standards for the program. In Kern County, the DHCS staffing standard would provide an allocation of \$16,725,136, yet DHCS only provides \$6,764,097.

Kern County is already understaffed in accordance with DHCS staffing standards. This results in a delay in eligibility determination, which at times results in a delay in CCS patients receiving care. Additionally, this delays reimbursement to the healthcare agencies providing services to CCS patients. Furthermore, due to a lack of staffing in our Medical Therapy Units, we currently have a waitlist of 62 patients awaiting initiation of their prescribed therapy services.

February 24, 2026

Page 2 of 2

In addition to these ongoing funding shortfalls, counties anticipate increased costs associated with CCS clients who may lose Medi-Cal coverage as the result of the implementation of H.R. 1 and/or recent state policy changes. Importantly, these increased costs are not reflected in the Governor's January budget proposal.

Kern County Public Health remains committed to serving our county's most medically complex and vulnerable children and youth. However, counties require adequate and stable funding to maintain the infrastructure and staffing necessary to serve this highly vulnerable population. We respectfully request the Legislature fund county CCS programs in accordance with DHCS staffing standards.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request. Should you have any questions, please contact our Public Health Director Brynn Carrigan at brynn@kerncounty.com or by phone at (661)868-0299.

Respectfully,



Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Marjorie Swartz, Consultant, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Monique Limón
Rosielyn Pulmano, Consultant, Office of Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Scott Ogus, Deputy Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Patrick Le, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Anthony Archie, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus
Eric Dietz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Joe Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, California Department of Finance (DOF)
Richard Figueroa, Deputy Cabinet Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Paula Villescaz, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Kim Johnson, Secretary, California Health & Human Services (CalHHS) Agency
Michelle Baass, Director, California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
Michelle Gibbons, Executive Director, County Health Executives Association of California
Jason Constantouros, Principal Fiscal & Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office
Kern County Public Health Department
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange

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February 19, 2026

The Honorable Sasha Renée Pérez
Chair, Senate Education Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 6740
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 892 (Grove), Postsecondary education priority registration for veterans - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Pérez,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support for SB 892 (Grove), which strengthens access to priority registration for veterans and State Guard members pursuing higher education in California.

Veterans and State Guard members face unique challenges as they transition from military service to civilian life, including employment demands, family responsibilities, medical needs, and reintegration. SB 892 recognizes these realities by ensuring that priority registration is available whenever a veteran or State Guard member is ready to return to school, rather than forcing them into a rigid timeline.

By aligning state policy with the federal Forever GI Bill, SB 892 guarantees eligible veterans four academic years of priority registration they may use at any point in their lives or careers. This clarity benefits both students and campuses and affirms California's commitment to supporting those who have served.

For all the reasons stated above, the Kern County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support this measure and respectfully asks your Committee to vote **YES on SB 892**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phillip Peters", is written over a blue circular stamp.

Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Honorable Members, Senate Education Committee
Honorable Members, Kern legislative delegation
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange

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1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

February 18, 2026

The Honorable Steve Padilla
Chair, Senate Insurance Committee
1020 N Street, Room 258
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 982 (Wiener), Climate Disaster Civil Actions – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Padilla,

On behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully express our opposition to SB 982 (Wiener). While we recognize and share the Legislature's concern regarding the increasing impacts of natural disasters and the instability of California's property insurance market, we remain concerned that the litigation-based framework proposed in SB 982 would create significant legal uncertainty, economic disruption, and unintended consequences for local governments and communities without addressing the underlying structural drivers of these challenges.

Kern County is uniquely positioned within California's economy as a major energy-producing region and as a local government responsible for disaster response, public safety, infrastructure maintenance, and supporting economic stability for working families. Policies that introduce broad and retroactive liability structures affecting key sectors of the economy must be carefully evaluated to ensure they do not unintentionally undermine affordability, employment opportunities, or the fiscal stability of local jurisdictions.

SB 982 represents a significant shift from prior legislative proposals by centralizing enforcement authority within the Office of the Attorney General and establishing a statutory strict liability framework for designated "responsible parties." While the bill narrows enforcement mechanisms by removing certain private causes of action, it simultaneously expands state enforcement authority and lowers traditional legal thresholds by imposing strict liability for broadly defined "climate-attributable damage." From a public policy perspective, this approach raises concerns regarding fairness, predictability, and the role of courts in resolving complex global issues traditionally addressed through legislative and regulatory processes.

The bill's focus on insurance market impacts reflects an important policy discussion; however, we are concerned that the proposed liability framework oversimplifies the causes of California's insurance challenges. Insurance instability is driven by multiple interconnected factors, including wildfire risk

management, land use policies, regulatory structures, construction costs, and global reinsurance markets. Assigning statutory strict liability to a single sector of the economy risks creating additional uncertainty without necessarily improving market stability or affordability for policyholders.

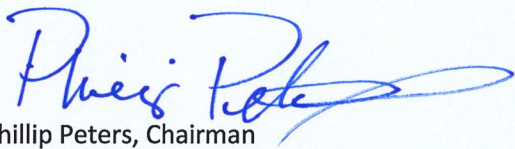
Additionally, SB 982 establishes the Attorney General Climate Disaster Fund, directing monetary recoveries into a dedicated enforcement account. While intended to support investigations and enforcement activities, this structure may unintentionally incentivize prolonged litigation rather than collaborative or preventative approaches focused on mitigation, resilience investments, and long-term risk reduction strategies.

We also note that the bill's reliance on retroactive liability concepts and expansive statutory definitions may raise ongoing legal and constitutional questions, potentially resulting in prolonged litigation that delays meaningful relief for Californians affected by natural disasters. Such outcomes could delay policy certainty while imposing costs on communities, employers, and local governments that rely on stable economic conditions.

Kern County remains committed to supporting balanced, forward-looking policies that enhance resilience, improve insurance market stability, and maintain a predictable legal framework for California residents and businesses. We respectfully urge the Committee to carefully evaluate whether the statutory strict liability model proposed in SB 982 represents the most effective or legally sustainable approach to addressing natural disasters and insurance challenges facing our state.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors respectfully **opposes SB 982**.

Sincerely,



Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Insurance Committee
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange

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Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

February 18, 2026

The Honorable Thomas Umberg
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3240
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 982 (Wiener), Climate Disaster Civil Actions – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Umberg,

On behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully express our opposition to SB 982 (Wiener). While we recognize and share the Legislature's concern regarding the increasing impacts of natural disasters and the instability of California's property insurance market, we remain concerned that the litigation-based framework proposed in SB 982 would create significant legal uncertainty, economic disruption, and unintended consequences for local governments and communities without addressing the underlying structural drivers of these challenges.

Kern County is uniquely positioned within California's economy as a major energy-producing region and as a local government responsible for disaster response, public safety, infrastructure maintenance, and supporting economic stability for working families. Policies that introduce broad and retroactive liability structures affecting key sectors of the economy must be carefully evaluated to ensure they do not unintentionally undermine affordability, employment opportunities, or the fiscal stability of local jurisdictions.

SB 982 represents a significant shift from prior legislative proposals by centralizing enforcement authority within the Office of the Attorney General and establishing a statutory strict liability framework for designated "responsible parties." While the bill narrows enforcement mechanisms by removing certain private causes of action, it simultaneously expands state enforcement authority and lowers traditional legal thresholds by imposing strict liability for broadly defined "climate-attributable damage." From a public policy perspective, this approach raises concerns regarding fairness, predictability, and the role of courts in resolving complex global issues traditionally addressed through legislative and regulatory processes.

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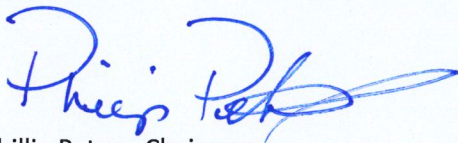
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We also note that the bill's reliance on retroactive liability concepts and expansive statutory definitions may raise ongoing legal and constitutional questions, potentially resulting in prolonged litigation that delays meaningful relief for Californians affected by natural disasters. Such outcomes could delay policy certainty while imposing costs on communities, employers, and local governments that rely on stable economic conditions.

Kern County remains committed to supporting balanced, forward-looking policies that enhance resilience, improve insurance market stability, and maintain a predictable legal framework for California residents and businesses. We respectfully urge the Committee to carefully evaluate whether the statutory strict liability model proposed in SB 982 represents the most effective or legally sustainable approach to addressing natural disasters and insurance challenges facing our state.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors respectfully **opposes SB 982**.

Sincerely,



Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Judiciary Committee
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange