



## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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### County of Sonoma

575 Administration Drive - Room 104A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403-2888

March 10, 2025

The Honorable Mike McGuire  
Senate President pro Tempore  
1021 O Street, Suite 8518  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear President pro Tempore McGuire:

As the Legislature deliberates the state budget, I wanted to take an opportunity to comment on behalf of the County of Sonoma. We recognize that these are challenging fiscal decisions, and I hope that our perspective at the local level might aid your considerations.

In its adoption of the 2025 Legislative Platform, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors approved a principle that advocates for the preservation of all state funding for programs administered and/or delivered by local jurisdictions on behalf of the state. In addition, I want to echo a few state budget priorities that I have heard from our Board and community. Those priorities are:

- Prop 4 General Obligation Bond Funding: Ensure that funding is used as approved and limit the backfilling of existing climate and natural resources related programs with Prop 4 funds. Of the funds made available pursuant to 92010 (b), advocate that not less than sixty percent of the \$85 Million available is awarded through the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program.
- Stabilizing Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Funding: Consider again backfilling the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) allocation to California to support the delivery of crucial services to crime victims. Such as outreach in underserved communities to create awareness of services and supporting victims to increase participation in prosecution.
- Renew Farmworker Resource Center Grant Funding: AB 941 (Bennett, Chapter 203) provided grant funding to aid farmworker resource centers. There are an estimated 5,336 farmworkers in Sonoma County contributing to the agriculture industry – a sector which represents \$2.16 billion (5.6%) of

our Gross Regional Product (GRP). As a third generation Northern Californian whose family farmed prunes and grapes in our county, you already know that Farmworkers are essential to our community's culture and economy, and all too often we learn that safety net services and emergency financial assistance do not reach them, or community members do not know public services exists and/or can be access by them and their families.

- Prop 36 Implementation: Our Public Defender's Office expects its felony workload to greatly increase with the implementation of Prop 36. Based on current Proposition 36 filings, the Public Defender's Office projects that felony case filings will increase by approximately 30% (500 cases) this year.

Finally, in a changing climate with more frequent and extreme natural disaster, our infrastructure has taken a beating. We are concerned about what the increased frequency of these disasters means for our infrastructure, and we know we will need be proactive in our approach. In SD-02, the total cost to repair Lakeville Highway is among the most significant faced by our Board. We are seeking fractional support from the state to further the overall rehabilitation of Lakeville Highway. As you are acutely aware in your travels to Sacramento, Lakeville Highway is a critical connector to Highway 37. Sonoma County Public Infrastructure looks forward to aligning improvements on Lakeville Highway with CalTrans' planned work on Highway 37 to enhance the conditions for our shared constituents and regional travelers.

**Request:** *The County of Sonoma is requesting \$5,000,000 for design and environmental services related to project development. The overall rehabilitation of Lakeville Highway is expected to cost upwards of \$35 million, but this initial funding request would fully complete a near term and critical milestone towards improving the safety of Lakeville Highway.*

**Background:** *Lakeville Highway in southern Sonoma County is a vital regional connector between Highways 101 and 37, serving over 19,000 vehicles daily, including commuters, freight, and emergency responders. This corridor has experienced multiple fatal head-on collisions due to the lack of a center median barrier, as well as ongoing settlement from underlying Bay Mud, which has caused pavement distress and frequent maintenance needs. Without intervention, continued roadway degradation threatens regional mobility, economic activity, and public safety. Additionally, its proximity to San Francisco Bay makes it vulnerable to future tidal flooding and climate change-related impacts, increasing the risk of long-term instability.*

*To address these critical safety and infrastructure concerns, we propose an initial project that would include Engineering Design, Environmental, Public Outreach, and Right of Way services for a project that when constructed would stabilize the road embankment and widening to accommodate a concrete median barrier, preventing cross-traffic collisions. The Sonoma Transportation Authority, California Highway Patrol, and local fire departments strongly support this project, recognizing its necessity for improving roadway safety and reliability. This project would support the state's transportation priorities as Lakeville Highway is a critical connector to Highway 37 where CalTrans is scheduled to make improvements between Sears Point and Mare Island.*

The uncertainty with the federal government has provided angst and confusion that I know colleagues across the state, the Legislature, and you are feeling as well. As always, our staff is ready to support your work with data and anecdotes from the lens of local government.

We thank your staff's responsiveness and your continued leadership in Sacramento and appreciate your consideration on the local perspectives presented in this letter and to our requests. We continuously feel thankful to have a representative that is attuned to the needs of Sonoma County—and especially in times like these.

With gratitude,



**M. Christina Rivera**  
**County Administrator, Sonoma County**

**o:** (707) 565-2431

**m:** (707) 565-3778

Christina.Rivera@sonoma-county.org

