

COUNTY OF SONOMA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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May 27, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Senate President pro Tempore
State Capitol Building, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Assembly Speaker
State Capitol Building, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Counties - Realignment

Dear Governor Newsom, Pro Tem Atkins and Speaker Rendon:

On behalf of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, thank you for your continued leadership as we continue our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sonoma County has been on the front lines leading our community through yet another disaster. Unfortunately, at a time when the state's safety net system is needed most and under tremendous strain given the public health crisis and economic recession, realigned services are at risk of extreme financial cuts.

Sonoma County has become all too familiar with disasters. In the last 32 months, we have encountered multiple disasters including two major wildfire events, floods, multiple utility power shut-off incidents and now the global pandemic. Still, as we continue our local disaster recovery efforts, we have responded without delay to the needs of our community in the face of this global pandemic impacting our health resources and devastating our economy.

Local safety net programs and public safety services are needed more than ever to support Californians to recover medically, mentally and economically in these uncertain times. The 1991 and 2011 Realignment designs could not have anticipated such steep declines in critical human services, public health, behavioral health and public safety programs administered on behalf of the state. The revenues to deliver these services through 1991 and 2011 Realignment are projected to decline by \$3.3 billion combined in 2019-20 and 2020-21. California counties need your help to preserve safety net services by backfilling Realignment funding for lost base revenue in both the current and budget years. There can be no economic recovery without a strong safety net.

Sonoma County remains committed to working with you on solutions to provide stability for our public health, human services, behavioral health and public safety programs and the children, families and seniors

who rely on them. It is a priority of the Sonoma County Legislative Platform to advocate for funds toward local resiliency efforts and to maintain adequate levels of realignment funding to support local services. We respectfully request your support to preserve 1991 and 2011 Realignment-funded programs and avoid massive cuts or service disruptions to critical services. We appreciate your continued efforts and leadership as we collectively work to recover from this pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Susan Gorin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Gorin
Chair, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

CC: Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Mike McGuire, California State Senate
The Honorable Bill Dodd, California State Senate
The Honorable Jim Wood, California State Assembly
The Honorable Marc Levine, California State Assembly
The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, California State Assembly
Paul Yoder & Karen Lange, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange, Inc.