

Section A



Transmittal Letter



County of Santa Barbara

Mona Miyasato

County Executive Officer

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May 22, 2020

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101-2065

Chair Hart and Board Members:

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 Recommended Budget for the County of Santa Barbara is submitted for your consideration, possible amendment, and adoption. The recommended budget represents participation from all departments and adherence to the budget development policies adopted by your Board on December 10, 2019, and input received at the budget workshop conducted on April 13, 2020. In compliance with California Government Code (Section 29062) and Santa Barbara County Code (Chapter 2, Article X, Section 2-71 k), the recommended FY 2020-21 operating and capital budgets are balanced and were developed in alignment with approved County policies and long-range plans through a thorough evaluation of departmental requests for expenditures, revenues, and fund balances.

As we continue to address the COVID-19 pandemic, which will impact our revenues, our expenditures, and the health and well-being of our communities, we do not know what the full impact will be, but we do know our resilience will be tested. After the emergency, we must continue, and invariably will be forced, to transform how we do our work, constantly learning to work differently. County employees are equipped to adapt to the present, prepare for tomorrow, and thrive in the future. When we have the benefit of looking back on the COVID-19 pandemic, we are optimistic that we will be proud of our collective strength and collaborations with our community partners to move all of us forward during an extremely difficult and uncertain time. With so many unknowns, the recommended budget reflects continued adherence to responsible fiscal practices in an effort to buffer the County's finances from COVID-19 impacts, as well as a possible recession.

Community members are welcome to participate in the discussions and decisions that affect the County's spending priorities. In addition to the April budget workshop, public hearings on the Recommended Budget are scheduled for June 9, 2020, and will continue, if necessary, on June 11, 2020. Due to uncertainty regarding how long the California Governor's Stay at Home Executive Order N-33-20, issued on March 19, 2020, will be in effect, in-person participation may not be available. Details about public participation will be made available in advance of the budget hearings.

I would like to thank your Board for its leadership and commitment to building and maintaining a fiscally responsible platform for our organization even in difficult times as we face today. I also would like to thank our department directors and their staff for their contributions throughout the budget process, as well as the County Executive Office and Auditor-Controller's Office staff for their efforts in preparing this document. Lastly, I'd like to express my gratitude to our employees. We are responding to an unprecedented pandemic, and our employees continue to demonstrate their dedication in serving our community, their commitment to our long-term success, and exhibiting excellence in public service every day.

Sincerely,



Mona Miyasato
County Executive Officer