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August 24, 2021

Measure X Oversight Committee

Contra Costa County Phone: (925) 655-2047

c/o Ms. Lisa Driscoll, Committee Staff Email: lisa.driscoll@cao.cccounty.us

Dear Chair Mariana Moore, Vice Chair BK Williams, and Oversight Committee Members Kimberly Aceves-Iniquez, Peter Benson; Steven Bliss, Geneveva Calloway; Jim Cervantes, Kathryn Chiverton, Gigi Crowder, David Cruise, Ruth Fernandez, Cathy Hanville, Dr. Michelle Hernandez; Diana Honig, Sharon Quezada Jenkins, Melissa Stafford Jones, Susun Kim, Lindy Lavender, Odessa LeFrancois, Edith Pastrano, Ali Saidi, Jerry Short, Michelle Stewart, Debbie Toth, Sandro Trujillo, Pello Walker, and Sandra Wall:

We are writing to commend your service on the Measure X Oversight Committee and to urge you to recommend allocating at least \$80,000 for a Family Navigator to coordinate existing resources to support families at DeJean Middle School in Richmond. This request is consistent with the Whole Family Living Resources Case Management concept for which \$800,000 has been requested. Both proposals focus on addressing the needs of a family instead of forcing low-income households to piece together benefits from siloed programs. Moreover, Contra Costa County pioneered the concept of Integrated Services Teams with a "family navigator" function in early 1990s when I was on the Board of Supervisors and Pilot Projects in North Richmond and West Pittsburg were successful in demonstrating improved results in helping families become self-sufficient and get out of poverty. These Pilot Projects were made possible by the support and experience from front-line workers represented by Local 1, SEIU, AFSCME, CNN, and the Deputy Sheriff's Association. Although Contra Costa County never has been able to scale up the Pilot Projects to help all families with this more effective approach, Measure X now provides the essential catalyst funding to align existing resources and integrate services by designating Family Navigators for greater impact.

Fortunately, the Neighborhood Transformation Partnership Agreement spearheaded by Supervisor John Gioia and signed by West Contra Costa Unified School District, City of Richmond, and the California Emerging Technology Fund in addition to Contra Costa County provides the institutional commitments and framework for implementation to build upon the lessons learned from the Pilot Projects and other Employment and Human Services Department initiatives to get more families out of poverty. The key at this moment in time is Measure X funding for the Family Navigator in the DeJean attendance area. We respectfully request your support for this Measure X funding.

Sincerely.

Sunne Wright McPeak, President and CEO

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Former Contra Costa County Supervisor, 1979-1994