



TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

SUBMITTED BY: JoAnne Plummer, Neighborhood Services Director

PREPARED BY: Chuck Flacks, Homelessness Services Coordinator

SUBJECT: Appointment of City Councilmember to the Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care Board of Directors

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. Appoint a City Councilmember to the Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care Board for a period of two years; and
- B. Consider appointing a delegate to the Continuum of Care Board.

BACKGROUND:

The CA-603 Santa Maria/Santa Barbara Continuum of Care (CoC), is a federal homelessness funding and policy local oversight group pursuant to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Homelessness Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act CoC Interim Rule, CFR § 578, as may be amended.

According to the CoC Governance Charter, the Role of the Coc is to:

- a. Promote community-wide planning and strategic use of resources and programs targeted to people experiencing homelessness;
- b. Improve data collection and performance measurement; and
- c. Allow each community to tailor its Program to the particular strengths and challenges within that community.

The CoC applies for all federal and state grants for Santa Barbara County. Once funding is received, the CoC determines how the funds are allocated in partnership with the Department of Community Services, Homeless Services Division of the County of Santa Barbara.

The CoC has a Board of Directors and has seats for each of the cities in Santa Barbara County as shown in Attachment 1.

On March 12, 2026, the CoC Board adopted changes to its Charter in accordance with HUD mandated changes regarding CoC Board membership that mandates that local government seats be occupied by elected officials. Until now, local government seats were appointed by City leadership.

DISCUSSION:

Since 2024, the City of Goleta's seat on the Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care Board (CoC Board) has been held by the City's Homelessness Services Coordinator, Chuck Flacks. Since 2025, Mr. Flacks has also served as Chair of the CoC Board.

CoC staff within the County of Santa Barbara Community Services Department have explained that the proposed change in Board representation is intended to ensure compliance with new federal requirements. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) periodically issues a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) through which communities compete nationally for funding to support housing and services for people experiencing homelessness. Santa Barbara County has participated in this funding process since the program's inception. The County's estimated Annual Renewal Demand for existing HUD-funded projects is \$5,966,016.

Because these funds are awarded through a competitive national process, there is no guarantee that Santa Barbara County will continue to receive its anticipated allocation. To align its governance structure with the new HUD requirements and preserve the County's eligibility for future funding competitions, the CoC amended its Charter on March 12, 2026.

Due to these recent Charter amendments on membership, staff recommend that the City Council appoint one of its members to serve on the CoC Board. Following that appointment, the City Council may also designate a delegate to serve in the Councilmember's place or as an alternate when the appointed Councilmember is unable to attend a CoC Board meeting. It is recommended that Council appoint one of the members of the current Homelessness Issues Standing Committee to serve on the board and if an alternate is desired, the other member could serve in that capacity.

Upon appointment of a Councilmember, staff will complete the designation form included as Attachment 2 and submit it to the CoC Lead Agency: the County of Santa Barbara Community Services Department, Housing and Community Development Division, Continuum of Care Unit of Homelessness Assistance Programs. The City Council may modify its appointment or delegate designation at any time.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council could choose to take no action and maintain the existing relationship with the CoC. However, doing so may result in a less competitive application to HUD for funding in current and future rounds.

LEGAL REVIEW BY: Isaac Rosen, City Attorney

APPROVED BY: Robert Nisbet, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. CoC Board Updates to Governance Charter, March and June 2026
2. CA-603 Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care ("CoC") CoC Board City Elected Officials Form

ATTACHMENT 1

CoC Board Updates to Governance Charter, March and June 2026

Adopted by CoC Board Action on [3/12/2026](#)

Update certain CoC Board membership seat titles and definitions, [Article IV.F.2.b. CoC Board Selection](#) to call for “An Elected Official of...” each represented jurisdiction; and to update the [CoC Board Seat Definitions \(PDF page 3\)](#) to allow delegates of those elected officials to be seated.

Updates to the CoC Charter and Seat Definitions from Governance Committee discussion and recommendation on [2/12/2026](#).

From CoC Governance [Charter](#). Edits in **red**:

CoC Board Selection

[...] b. [...] The stakeholders that are currently included on the Board are:

- Elected Representative of the City of Goleta
- Elected Representative of the City of Lompoc
- Elected Representative of the City of Santa Maria
- Elected Representative of the City of Santa Barbara

From CoC [Seat Definitions](#). Edits in **red**:

Seat	Definition
Elected Representative of the City of Goleta	An elected City of Goleta public office holder or their delegate.
Elected Representative of the City of Lompoc	An elected City of Lompoc public office holder or their delegate.
Elected Representative of the City of Santa Maria	An elected City of Santa Maria public office holder or their delegate.
Elected Representative of the City of Santa Barbara	An elected City of Santa Barbara public office holder or their delegate.

Adopted by CoC Board Action on [6/18/2026](#)

Update certain CoC Board membership seat titles and definitions,
[Article IV.F.2.b. CoC Board Selection](#) to:

- a) Create an additional seat, “Recovery Housing / Sober Living Representative”, to be filled in the upcoming CoC Board Elections in August, 2026;
- b) Re-define the Public Safety seat as the “Local Law Enforcement” seat (effective immediately); and
- c) Update the published [CoC Board Seat Definitions](#) accordingly.

From CoC Governance [Charter](#). Edits in **red**:

CoC Board Selection

[...] b. [...] The stakeholders that are currently included on the Board are:

- **Recovery Housing / Sober Living Representative** {Added}
- **Local Law Enforcement** {Changed from “Public Safety”}

From CoC [Seat Definitions](#). Edits in **red**:

Seat	Definition
{Proposed New Seat} Recovery Housing / Sober Living Representative	Senior staff member from a local homeless or social services agency or who serves as leadership of a program that provides for treatment- or recovery housing; and/or sober living.
Public Safety Local Law Enforcement	Seat. {There is no proposed change to operational representative seat definition}

ATTACHMENT 2

CA-603 Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care ("CoC") CoC Board City
Elected Officials Form

CA-603 Santa Maria / Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care (“CoC”) CoC Board City Elected Officials Form

Per CoC Board Action on [3/12/2026](#), certain CoC Board member seat titles and their definitions as stated in Governance Charter [Article IV.F.2.b. CoC Board Selection](#) now call for “An Elected Official of...” each represented city jurisdiction within the region’s geographic boundaries.

Board action also updated the [CoC Board Seat Definitions \(PDF page 3\)](#) to allow the public office holder representing each city to delegate their CoC Board representative.

Completing and filing of this form with the CoC Lead Agency – County of Santa Barbara, Community Services Department, Housing and Community Development Division, CoC Unit of Homelessness Assistance Programs, per below – affirms CoC Board representation as stipulated and may be changed at any time as indicated.

CoC Board - City Elected Officials Form

An Elected Representative of the City of _____

Elected City Office Holder, Full Name and Office:

Elected Official Contact Detail, Email and Phone:

Current Term End Date:

Delegate, if applicable - Full Name and Position:

Delegate Contact Detail, Email and Phone:

Elected Office Holders: To complete the process your name as it appears on this form (and your Delegate’s, if applicable) will be submitted as a “Nominee” for your city’s CoC Board Seat, and appear on the next CoC Board Election Ballot (currently scheduled for August, 2026).

To file this form, email the completed PDF to mrector@countyofsb.org and include as CC: all applicable parties. For example, if a Delegate is named and submits the form, the elected office holder must be included in the form filing email.

Questions should be directed to Matthew Rector, CoC Coordinator and Homeless Assistance Programs Specialist, Sr., at mrector@countyofsb.org.