

September 9, 2025

Ms. Anne Kato
State Controller's Office
Local Government Programs and
Services Division
3301 C Street, Suite 740
Sacramento, CA 95816

Mr. Fernando Lemus County of Los Angeles 500 West Temple Street, Room 603 Los Angeles, CA 90012

And Parties, Interested Parties, and Interested Persons (See Mailing List)

Re: Draft Proposed Decision and Parameters and Guidelines, Schedule for Comments, and Notice of Hearing

Elections: Ballot Label, 24-TC-01

Statutes 2022, Chapter 751, Section 5 (AB 1416); Elections Code Section 9051

County of Los Angeles, Claimant

Dear Ms. Kato and Mr. Lemus:

The Draft Proposed Decision and Proposed Parameters and Guidelines for the abovecaptioned matter is enclosed for your review and comment.

Written Comments: Written comments may be filed on the Draft Proposed Decision and Parameters and Guidelines no later than **5:00 pm on September 30, 2025**. Please note that all representations of fact submitted to the Commission must be signed under penalty of perjury by persons who are authorized and competent to do so and must be based upon the declarant's personal knowledge, information, or belief. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1187.5.) Hearsay evidence may be used for the purpose of supplementing or explaining other evidence but shall not be sufficient in itself to support a finding unless it would be admissible over an objection in civil actions. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1187.5.) The Commission's ultimate findings of fact must be supported by substantial evidence in the record.¹

You are advised that comments filed with the Commission are required to be electronically filed (e-filed) in an unlocked legible and searchable PDF file, using the Commission's Dropbox. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1181.3(c)(1).) Refer to https://www.csm.ca.gov/dropbox.shtml on the Commission's website for electronic filing instructions. If e-filing would cause the filer undue hardship or significant prejudice, filing may occur by first class mail, overnight delivery or personal service only upon approval of a written request to the executive director. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1181.3(c)(2).)

If you would like to request an extension of time to file comments, please refer to section 1187.9(a) of the Commission's regulations.

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¹ Government Code section 17559(b), which provides that a claimant or the state may commence a proceeding in accordance with the provisions of section 1094.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure to set aside a decision of the Commission on the ground that the Commission's decision is not supported by substantial evidence in the record.

Ms. Kato and Mr. Lemus September 9, 2025 Page 2

Hearing: This matter is set for hearing on **Friday, December 5, 2025**, at 10:00 a.m. The Proposed Decision and Parameters and Guidelines will be issued on or about November 21, 2025.

If you plan to address the Commission on this item, please notify the Commission office not later than the Tuesday prior to the hearing, **December 2, 2025**. Please also include the names of the people who will be speaking for inclusion on the witness list and the names and email addresses of the people who will be speaking both in person and remotely to receive a hearing panelist link in Zoom. When calling or emailing, please identify the item you want to testify on and the entity you represent. The Commission Chairperson reserves the right to impose time limits on presentations as may be necessary to complete the agenda.

If you would like to request postponement of the hearing, please refer to section 1187.9(b) of the Commission's regulations.

Very truly yours,

Juliana F. Gmur

Executive Director

Hearing Date: December 5, 2025

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ITEM ___

DRAFT PROPOSED DECISION AND PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES

Election Code Section 9051, As Amended by Statutes 2022, Chapter 751, Section 5 (AB 1416), Effective January 1, 2023

Elections: Ballot Label

24-TC-01

Period of reimbursement begins July 1, 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I. Summary of the Mandate

These Parameters and Guidelines address state-mandated activities arising from Elections Code section 9051 as amended by Statutes 2022, chapter 751, section 5. The test claim statute requires counties to print supporter and opponent lists in the ballot label for statewide measures, including in other languages when required by state or federal law and instructed to do so by the Secretary of State, following the Attorney General's condensed ballot title and summary.

On July 25, 2025, the Commission on State Mandates (Commission) adopted a Decision finding that the test claim statute imposes a reimbursable state-mandated program upon counties within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution and Government Code section 17514. The Commission approved the Test Claim for the following reimbursable activity:

- 1. Print the supporter and opponent lists in the ballot label for statewide ballot measures, including in other languages when required by state or federal law and instructed to do so by the Secretary of State, following the Attorney General's condensed ballot title and summary, as follows:
 - a. After the text "Supporters:" a listing of nonprofit organizations, businesses, or individuals taken from the signers or the text of the argument in favor of the ballot measure printed in the state voter information guide. The list of supporters shall not exceed 125 characters in length. Each supporter shall be separated by a semicolon. A nonprofit organization, business, or individual shall not be listed unless they support the ballot measure.²

¹ Exhibit A, Test Claim Decision, page 22, citing United States Code, title 52, sections 10503(b)(2)(A) and 10503(b)(4); Elections Code section 14201.

² Exhibit A, Test Claim Decision, page 22, citing Elections Code section 9051(c)(1)(A).

- b. After the text "Opponents:" a listing of nonprofit organizations, businesses, or individuals taken from the signers or the text of the argument against the ballot measure printed in the state voter information guide. The list of opponents shall not exceed 125 characters in length. Each opponent shall be separated by a semicolon. A nonprofit organization, business, or individual shall not be listed unless they oppose the ballot measure.³
- c. If no list of supporters is provided by the proponents or there are none that meet the requirements of this section, then "Supporters:" shall be followed by "None submitted." If no list of opponents is provided by the opponents or there are none that meet the requirements of this section, then "Opponents:" shall be followed by "None submitted."

II. Procedural History

On July 25, 2025, the Commission adopted the Test Claim Decision.⁵ On July 28, 2025, Commission staff issued the Draft Expedited Parameters and Guidelines.⁶ On August 18, 2025, the State Controller's Office filed comments on the Draft Expedited Parameters and Guidelines recommending no changes.⁷ No other comments were filed on the Draft Expedited Parameters and Guidelines.

Pursuant to section 1183.13 of the Commission's regulations, Commission staff is issuing a Draft Proposed Decision and Parameters and Guidelines due to substantive changes in Section V.B. Indirect Cost Rates.

Commission staff issued the Draft Proposed Decision and Parameters and Guidelines on September 9, 2025.8

III. Discussion

A. <u>Eligible Claimants (Section II. of the Parameters and Guidelines)</u>

Any county, or city and county subject to the taxing restrictions of article XIII A and XIII C, and the spending limits of article XIII B, of the California Constitution, whose costs for this program are paid for from proceeds of taxes and incurs increased costs as a result of this mandate, is eligible to claim reimbursement.

B. <u>Period of Reimbursement (Section III. of the Parameters and Guidelines)</u>

Government Code section 17557(e) states that a test claim shall be submitted on or before June 30 following a given fiscal year to establish eligibility for that fiscal year. The

³ Exhibit A, Test Claim Decision, page 22, citing Elections Code section 9051(c)(1)(B).

⁴ Exhibit A, Test Claim Decision, page 22, citing Elections Code section 9051(c)(1)(G).

⁵ Exhibit A, Test Claim Decision.

⁶ Exhibit B, Draft Expedited Parameters and Guidelines.

⁷ Exhibit C, Controller's Comments on the Draft Expedited Parameters and Guidelines.

⁸ Exhibit D, Draft Proposed Decision and Parameters and Guidelines.

claimant filed the Test Claim on September 23, 2024, establishing eligibility for reimbursement for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Therefore, costs incurred are reimbursable on or after July 1, 2023.

C. Reimbursable Activities (Section IV. of the Parameters and Guidelines)

Section IV. of the Parameters and Guidelines identifies the mandated activities approved by the Commission.

D. <u>Claim Preparation and Submission (Section V. of the Parameters and Guidelines)</u>

Section V. of the Parameters and Guidelines (Claim Preparation and Submission) identifies the direct and indirect costs that are eligible for reimbursement. Section V.B. addresses indirect costs and is considered "boilerplate language." Section V.B. allows a claimant to calculate indirect costs by either using the federal de minimis indirect cost rate identified in Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Guidelines, which are currently in title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Chapter I and Chapter II, Part 200 et seq., or by preparing an Indirect Cost Rate Proposal (ICRP) if the indirect cost rate claimed exceeds the federal de minimis rate. Until September 30, 2024, the federal de minimis indirect cost rate was ten percent. Effective October 1, 2024, the federal de minimis indirect cost rate increased to 15 percent.⁹ The Proposed Parameters and Guidelines edits the boilerplate language to delete references to ten percent and instead simply refers to the de minimis indirect cost rate percentage allowed by the OMB Guidelines, with a footnote indicating that the rate increased from ten percent to 15 percent, effective October 1, 2024.

Thus, for purposes of this program, claimants will have the option of using the de minimis indirect cost rate of ten percent for costs incurred from July 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024. Beginning October 1, 2024, that rate increases to 15 percent in accordance with OMB Guidelines.

E. Offsetting Revenues and Reimbursements (Section VII. of the Parameters and Guidelines)

Section VII. of the Parameters and Guidelines governs offsetting revenues (i.e., funds that are not a claimant's proceeds of taxes), which are required to be identified and deducted from the costs claimed.

F. Remaining Sections of the Parameters and Guidelines

The remaining sections of the Parameters and Guidelines contain standard boilerplate language.

⁹ Code of Federal Regulations, title 2, § 200.414(f) (89 FR 30046, 30092).

IV. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission adopt the Proposed Decision and Parameters and Guidelines and authorize staff to make any technical, non-substantive changes to the Proposed Decision and Parameters and Guidelines following the hearing.

BEFORE THE

COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES

Elections Code Section 9051, As Amended by Statutes 2022, Chapter 751 Section 5 (AB 1416)

The period of reimbursement begins July 1, 2023.

Case No.: 24-TC-01

Elections: Ballot Label

DECISION PURSUANT TO

GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 17500 ET SEQ.; CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2, DIVISION 2,

CHAPTER 2.5, ARTICLE 7.

(Adopted December 5, 2025)

DECISION

The Commission on State Mandates (Commission) heard and decided this Decision and Parameters and Guidelines during a regularly scheduled hearing on December 5, 2025. [Witness list will be included in the adopted Decision and Parameters and Guidelines.]

The law applicable to the Commission's determination of a reimbursable statemandated program is article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution, Government Code sections 17500 et seq., and related case law.

The Commission [adopted/modified/rejected] the Proposed Decision and Parameters and Guidelines by a vote of [vote will be included in the adopted Decision and Parameters and Guidelines], as follows:

Member	Vote
Lee Adams, County Supervisor	
Deborah Gallegos, Representative of the State Controller, Vice Chairperson	
Karen Green Ross, Public Member	
Renee Nash, School District Board Member	
William Pahland, Representative of the State Treasurer	
Michele Perrault, Representative of the Director of the Department of Finance, Chairperson	
Alexander Powell, Representative of the Director of the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation	

I. Summary of the Mandate

These Parameters and Guidelines address new state-mandated activities and costs resulting from Elections Code section 9051, as amended by Statutes 2022, chapter 751, section 5, also known as the "Ballot DISCLOSE Act, effective January 1, 2023.

On July 25, 2025, the Commission on State Mandates (Commission) adopted a Decision finding that the test claim statute imposes a reimbursable state-mandated program upon counties within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution and Government Code section 17514. The Commission approved this Test Claim for the following reimbursable activities:

- Print the supporter and opponent lists in the ballot label for statewide ballot measures, including in other languages when required by state or federal law and instructed to do so by the Secretary of State,¹⁰ following the Attorney General's condensed ballot title and summary, as follows:
 - a. After the text "Supporters:" a listing of nonprofit organizations, businesses, or individuals taken from the signers or the text of the argument in favor of the ballot measure printed in the state voter information guide. The list of supporters shall not exceed 125 characters in length. Each supporter shall be separated by a semicolon. A nonprofit organization, business, or individual shall not be listed unless they support the ballot measure.¹¹
 - b. After the text "Opponents:" a listing of nonprofit organizations, businesses, or individuals taken from the signers or the text of the argument against the ballot measure printed in the state voter information guide. The list of opponents shall not exceed 125 characters in length. Each opponent shall be separated by a semicolon. A nonprofit organization, business, or individual shall not be listed unless they oppose the ballot measure. 12
 - c. If no list of supporters is provided by the proponents or there are none that meet the requirements of this section, then "Supporters:" shall be followed by "None submitted." If no list of opponents is provided by the opponents or there are none that meet the requirements of this section, then "Opponents:" shall be followed by "None submitted." 13

¹⁰ Exhibit A, Test Claim Decision, page 22, citing United States Code, title 52, sections 10503(b)(2)(A) and 10503(b)(4); Elections Code section 14201.

¹¹ Exhibit A, Test Claim Decision, page 22, citing Elections Code section 9051(c)(1)(A).

¹² Exhibit A, Test Claim Decision, page 22, citing Elections Code section 9051(c)(1)(B).

¹³ Exhibit A, Test Claim Decision, page 22, citing Elections Code section 9051(c)(1)(G).

II. Procedural History

On July 25, 2025, the Commission adopted the Test Claim Decision.¹⁴ On July 28, 2025, Commission staff issued the Draft Expedited Parameters and Guidelines.¹⁵ On August 18, 2025, the State Controller's Office filed comments on the Draft Expedited Parameters and Guidelines recommending no changes.¹⁶

Commission staff issued the Draft Proposed Decision and Parameters and Guidelines on September 9, 2025.¹⁷

III. Discussion

Consistent with the Test Claim Decision, the Parameters and Guidelines state the following:

A. <u>Eligible Claimants (Section II. of the Parameters and Guidelines)</u>

Any county, or city and county subject to the taxing restrictions of article XIII A and XIII C, and the spending limits of article XIII B, of the California Constitution, whose costs for this program are paid for from proceeds of taxes and incurs increased costs as a result of this mandate, is eligible to claim reimbursement.

B. <u>Period of Reimbursement (Section III. of the Parameters and</u> Guidelines)

Government Code section 17557(e) states that a test claim shall be submitted on or before June 30 following a given fiscal year to establish eligibility for that fiscal year. The claimant filed the Test Claim on September 23, 2024, establishing eligibility for reimbursement for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Therefore, costs incurred are reimbursable on or after July 1, 2023.

Reimbursement for state-mandated costs may be claimed as follows:

- 1. Actual costs for one fiscal year shall be included in each claim.
- 2. Pursuant to Government Code section 17561(d)(1)(A), all claims for reimbursement of initial fiscal year costs shall be submitted to the State Controller (Controller) within 120 days of the issuance date for the claiming instructions.
- 3. Pursuant to Government Code section 17560(a), a local agency may, by February 15 following the fiscal year in which costs were incurred, file an annual reimbursement claim that details the costs actually incurred for that fiscal year.
- 4. If revised claiming instructions are issued by the Controller pursuant to Government Code section 17558(c), between November 15 and February 15, a local agency filing an annual reimbursement claim shall have 120 days following

¹⁴ Exhibit A, Test Claim Decision.

¹⁵ Exhibit B, Draft Expedited Parameters and Guidelines.

¹⁶ Exhibit C, Controller's Comments on the Draft Expedited Parameters and Guidelines.

¹⁷ Exhibit D, Draft Proposed Decision and Parameters and Guidelines.

- the issuance date of the revised claiming instructions to file a claim. (Gov. Code §17560(b).)
- 5. If the total costs for a given fiscal year do not exceed \$1,000, no reimbursement shall be allowed except as otherwise allowed by Government Code section 17564(a).
- 6. There shall be no reimbursement for any period in which the Legislature has suspended the operation of a mandate pursuant to state law.

C. Reimbursable Activities (Section IV. of the Parameters and Guidelines)

Section IV. of the Parameters and Guidelines identifies the mandated activities approved by the Commission in the Decision on the Test Claim, beginning July 1, 2023.

D. <u>Claim Preparation and Submission (Section V. of the Parameters and Guidelines)</u>

Section V. of the Parameters and Guidelines (Claim Preparation and Submission) identifies the direct and indirect costs that are eligible for reimbursement.

Section V.B. addresses indirect costs and contains "boilerplate language." Section V.B. allows a claimant to calculate indirect costs by either using the federal de minimis indirect cost rate identified in Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Guidelines, which are currently in title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Chapter I and Chapter II, Part 200 et seq., or by preparing an Indirect Cost Rate Proposal (ICRP) if the indirect cost rate claimed exceeds the federal de minimis rate. Until September 30, 2024, the federal de minimis indirect cost rate was ten percent. Effective October 1, 2024, the federal de minimis indirect cost rate increased to 15 percent. The proposed Parameters and Guidelines edits the boilerplate language to delete references to ten percent and instead simply refers to the de minimis indirect cost rate percentage allowed by the OMB Guidelines, with a footnote indicating that the rate increased from ten percent to 15 percent, effective October 1, 2024, as follows:

B. Indirect Cost Rates

Indirect costs are costs that are incurred for a common or joint purpose, benefiting more than one program, and are not directly assignable to a particular department or program without efforts disproportionate to the result achieved. Indirect costs may include both: (1) overhead costs of the unit performing the mandate; and (2) the costs of the central government services distributed to the other departments based on a systematic and rational basis through a cost allocation plan.

Compensation for indirect costs is eligible for reimbursement in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget Circular 2 CFR, Chapter I and Chapter II, Part 200 et al. Claimants have the option of using the federal de minimis indirect cost rate percentage of direct labor

8

¹⁸ Code of Federal Regulations, title 2, § 200.414(f) (89 FR Exhibit 30046, 30092).

identified in the Office of Management and Budget Circular, at Code of Federal Regulations, title 2, section 200.414(f) 10 percent of direct labor, excluding fringe benefits, or preparing an Indirect Cost Rate Proposal (ICRP) if the indirect cost rate claimed exceeds the federal de minimis rate 10 percent. 19

If the claimant chooses to prepare an ICRP, both the direct costs (as defined and described in 2 CFR, Chapter I and Chapter II, Part 200 et al.) and the indirect costs shall exclude capital expenditures and unallowable costs (as defined and described in 2 CFR, Chapter I and Chapter II, Part 200 et al.). However, unallowable costs must be included in the direct costs if they represent activities to which indirect costs are properly allocable.

The distribution base may be: (1) total direct costs (excluding capital expenditures and other distorting items, such as pass-through funds, major subcontracts, etc.); (2) direct salaries and wages; or (3) another base which results in an equitable distribution.

In calculating an ICRP, the claimant shall have the choice of one of the following methodologies:

- 1. The allocation of allowable indirect costs (as defined and described in 2 CFR, Chapter I and Chapter II, Part 200 et al.) shall be accomplished by: (1) classifying a department's total costs for the base period as either direct or indirect; and (2) dividing the total allowable indirect costs (net of applicable credits) by an equitable distribution base. The result of this process is an indirect cost rate which is used to distribute indirect costs to mandates. The rate should be expressed as a percentage that the total amount of allowable indirect costs bears to the base selected; or
- 2. The allocation of allowable indirect costs (as defined and described in 2 CFR, Chapter I and Chapter II, Part 200 et al.) shall be accomplished by: (1) separating a department into groups, such as divisions or sections, and then classifying the division's or section's total costs for the base period as either direct or indirect; and (2) dividing the total allowable indirect costs (net of applicable credits) by an equitable distribution base. The result of this process is an indirect cost rate that is used to distribute indirect costs to mandates. The rate should be expressed as a percentage which the total amount of allowable indirect costs bears to the base selected.

Thus, for purposes of this program, claimants will have the option of using the de minimis indirect cost rate of ten percent for costs incurred from July 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024. Beginning October 1, 2024, that rate increases to 15 percent in accordance with OMB Guidelines.

9

¹⁹ Effective October 1, 2024, the federal de minimis rate was raised from ten percent to 15 percent. (Code of Federal Regulations, title 2, § 200.414(f) (89 FR 30046, 30092.)

E. <u>Offsetting Revenues and Reimbursements (Section VII. Offsetting Revenues and Reimbursements)</u>

Section VII. of the Parameters and Guidelines governs offsetting revenues (i.e., funds that are not a claimant's proceeds of taxes), which are required to be identified and deducted from the costs claimed, including but not limited to, state and federal funds, any service charge, fee, or assessment authority to offset all or part of the costs of this program, and any other funds that are not the claimant's proceeds of taxes shall be identified and deducted from any claim submitted for reimbursement.

F. The Remaining Sections of the Parameters and Guidelines

The remaining sections the Parameters and Guidelines contain standard boilerplate language.

IV. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing analysis, the Commission hereby adopts the Proposed Decision and Parameters and Guidelines.

PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES²⁰

Election Code Section 9051, As Amended by Statutes 2022, Chapter 751, Section 5 (AB 1416), Effective January 1, 2023

Elections: Ballot Label 24-TC-01

Period of reimbursement begins July 1, 2023

I. SUMMARY OF THE MANDATE

These Parameters and Guidelines address new state-mandated activities and costs resulting from Elections Code section 9051, as amended by Statutes 2022, chapter 751, also known as the "Ballot DISCLOSE Act, effective January 1, 2023.

On July 25, 2025, the Commission on State Mandates (Commission) adopted a Decision finding that the test claim statute imposes a reimbursable state-mandated program upon counties within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution and Government Code section 17514. The Commission approved this Test Claim for the following reimbursable activities:

 Print the supporter and opponent lists in the ballot label for statewide ballot measures, including in other languages when required by state or federal law

10

²⁰ Please note that the Decision and Parameters and Guidelines is a single document and must be read as a whole. It is not intended to be separated and should be posted in its entirety.

and instructed to do so by the Secretary of State,²¹ following the Attorney General's condensed ballot title and summary, as follows:

- After the text "Supporters:" a listing of nonprofit organizations, businesses, or individuals taken from the signers or the text of the argument in favor of the ballot measure printed in the state voter information guide. The list of supporters shall not exceed 125 characters in length. Each supporter shall be separated by a semicolon. A nonprofit organization, business, or individual shall not be listed unless they support the ballot measure.²²
- After the text "Opponents:" a listing of nonprofit organizations, businesses, or individuals taken from the signers or the text of the argument against the ballot measure printed in the state voter information guide. The list of opponents shall not exceed 125 characters in length. Each opponent shall be separated by a semicolon. A nonprofit organization, business, or individual shall not be listed unless they oppose the ballot measure.²³
- o If no list of supporters is provided by the proponents or there are none that meet the requirements of this section, then "Supporters:" shall be followed by "None submitted." If no list of opponents is provided by the opponents or there are none that meet the requirements of this section, then "Opponents:" shall be followed by "None submitted."²⁴

II. ELIGIBLE CLAIMANTS

Any county, or city and county subject to the taxing restrictions of articles XIII A and XIII C, and the spending limits of article XIII B, of the California Constitution, whose costs for this program are paid from proceeds of taxes and that incurs increased costs as a result of this mandate, is eligible to claim reimbursement.

III. PERIOD OF REIMBURSEMENT

Government Code section 17557(e) states that a test claim shall be submitted on or before June 30 following a given fiscal year to establish eligibility for that fiscal year. The claimant filed the Test Claim on September 23, 2024, establishing eligibility for reimbursement for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Therefore, costs incurred are reimbursable on or after July 1, 2023.

Reimbursement for state-mandated costs may be claimed as follows:

- 1. Actual costs for one fiscal year shall be included in each claim.
- 2. Pursuant to Government Code section 17561(d)(1)(A), all claims for reimbursement of initial fiscal year costs shall be submitted to the State

²¹ United States Code, title 52, sections 10503(b)(2)(A) and 10503(b)(4); Elections Code section 14201.

²² Elections Code section 9051(c)(1)(A).

²³ Elections Code section 9051(c)(1)(B).

²⁴ Elections Code section 9051(c)(1)(G). Exhibit A, Test Claim Decision, page 22.

- Controller (Controller) within 120 days of the issuance date for the claiming instructions.
- 3. Pursuant to Government Code section 17560(a), a local agency may, by February 15 following the fiscal year in which costs were incurred, file an annual reimbursement claim that details the costs actually incurred for that fiscal year.
- 4. If revised claiming instructions are issued by the Controller pursuant to Government Code section 17558(c), between November 15 and February 15, a local agency filing an annual reimbursement claim shall have 120 days following the issuance date of the revised claiming instructions to file a claim. (Gov. Code §17560(b).)
- 5. If the total costs for a given fiscal year do not exceed \$1,000, no reimbursement shall be allowed except as otherwise allowed by Government Code section 17564(a).
- 6. There shall be no reimbursement for any period in which the Legislature has suspended the operation of a mandate pursuant to state law.

IV. REIMBURSABLE ACTIVITIES

To be eligible for mandated cost reimbursement for any fiscal year, only actual costs may be claimed. Actual costs are those costs actually incurred to implement the mandated activities. Actual costs must be traceable and supported by source documents that show the validity of such costs, when they were incurred, and their relationship to the reimbursable activities. A source document is a document created at or near the same time the actual cost was incurred for the event, or activity in question. Source documents may include, but are not limited to, employee time records or time logs, sign-in sheets, invoices, and receipts.

Evidence corroborating the source documents may include, but is not limited to, worksheets, cost allocation reports (system generated), purchase orders, contracts, agendas, training packets, and declarations. Declarations must include a certification or declaration stating, "I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct," and must further comply with the requirements of Code of Civil Procedure section 2015.5. Evidence corroborating the source documents may include data relevant to the reimbursable activities otherwise in compliance with local, state, and federal government requirements. However, corroborating documents cannot be substituted for source documents.

The claimant is only allowed to claim and be reimbursed for increased costs for reimbursable activities identified below. Increased cost is limited to the cost of an activity that the claimant is required to incur as a result of the mandate.

For each eligible claimant that incurs increased costs, the following activities are reimbursable:

 Print the supporter and opponent lists in the ballot label for statewide ballot measures, including in other languages when required by state or federal law and instructed to do so by the Secretary of State,²⁵ following the Attorney General's condensed ballot title and summary, as follows:

- After the text "Supporters:" a listing of nonprofit organizations, businesses, or individuals taken from the signers or the text of the argument in favor of the ballot measure printed in the state voter information guide. The list of supporters shall not exceed 125 characters in length. Each supporter shall be separated by a semicolon. A nonprofit organization, business, or individual shall not be listed unless they support the ballot measure.²⁶
- After the text "Opponents:" a listing of nonprofit organizations, businesses, or individuals taken from the signers or the text of the argument against the ballot measure printed in the state voter information guide. The list of opponents shall not exceed 125 characters in length. Each opponent shall be separated by a semicolon. A nonprofit organization, business, or individual shall not be listed unless they oppose the ballot measure.²⁷
- o If no list of supporters is provided by the proponents or there are none that meet the requirements of this section, then "Supporters:" shall be followed by "None submitted." If no list of opponents is provided by the opponents or there are none that meet the requirements of this section, then "Opponents:" shall be followed by "None submitted."²⁸

V. CLAIM PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION

Each of the following cost elements must be identified for each reimbursable activity identified in Section IV., Reimbursable Activities, of this document. Each claimed reimbursable cost must be supported by source documentation as described in Section IV. Additionally, each reimbursement claim must be filed in a timely manner.

A. Direct Cost Reporting

Direct costs are those costs incurred specifically for the reimbursable activities. The following direct costs are eligible for reimbursement.

1. Salaries and Benefits

Report each employee implementing the reimbursable activities by name, job classification, and productive hourly rate (total wages and related benefits divided by productive hours). Describe the specific reimbursable activities performed and the hours devoted to each reimbursable activity performed.

2. Materials and Supplies

²⁵ United States Code, title 52, sections 10503(b)(2)(A) and 10503(b)(4); Elections Code section 14201.

²⁶ Elections Code section 9051(c)(1)(A).

²⁷ Elections Code section 9051(c)(1)(B).

²⁸ Elections Code section 9051(c)(1)(G).

Report the cost of materials and supplies that have been consumed or expended for the purpose of the reimbursable activities. Purchases shall be claimed at the actual price after deducting discounts, rebates, and allowances received by the claimant. Supplies that are withdrawn from inventory shall be charged on an appropriate and recognized method of costing, consistently applied.

3. Contracted Services

Report the name of the contractor and services performed to implement the reimbursable activities. If the contractor bills for time and materials, report the number of hours spent on the activities and all costs charged. If the contract is a fixed price, report the services that were performed during the period covered by the reimbursement claim. If the contract services are also used for purposes other than the reimbursable activities, only the pro-rata portion of the services used to implement the reimbursable activities can be claimed. Submit contract consultant and attorney invoices with the claim and a description of the contract scope of services.

4. Fixed Assets

Report the purchase price paid for fixed assets (including computers) necessary to implement the reimbursable activities. The purchase price includes taxes, delivery costs, and installation costs. If the fixed asset is also used for purposes other than the reimbursable activities, only the pro-rata portion of the purchase price used to implement the reimbursable activities can be claimed.

B. Indirect Cost Rates

Indirect costs are costs that are incurred for a common or joint purpose, benefiting more than one program, and are not directly assignable to a particular department or program without efforts disproportionate to the result achieved. Indirect costs may include both: (1) overhead costs of the unit performing the mandate; and (2) the costs of the central government services distributed to the other departments based on a systematic and rational basis through a cost allocation plan.

Compensation for indirect costs is eligible for reimbursement in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget Circular 2 CFR, Chapter I and Chapter II, Part 200 et al. Claimants have the option of using the federal de minimis indirect cost rate percentage of direct labor identified in the Office of Management and Budget Circular, at Code of Federal Regulations, title 2, section 200.414(f)10 percent of direct labor, excluding fringe benefits, or preparing an Indirect Cost Rate Proposal (ICRP) if the indirect cost rate claimed exceeds the de minimis rate10 percent.²⁹

If the claimant chooses to prepare an ICRP, both the direct costs (as defined and described in 2 CFR, Chapter I and Chapter II, Part 200 et al.) and the indirect costs shall exclude capital expenditures and unallowable costs (as defined and described in 2 CFR, Chapter I and Chapter II, Part 200 et al.). However, unallowable costs must be

²⁹ Effective October 1, 2024, the federal de minimis rate was raised from ten percent to 15 percent. (Code of Federal Regulations, title 2, § 200.414(f) (89 FR 30046, 30092.)

included in the direct costs if they represent activities to which indirect costs are properly allocable.

The distribution base may be: (1) total direct costs (excluding capital expenditures and other distorting items, such as pass-through funds, major subcontracts, etc.); (2) direct salaries and wages; or (3) another base which results in an equitable distribution.

In calculating an ICRP, the claimant shall have the choice of one of the following methodologies:

- 1. The allocation of allowable indirect costs (as defined and described in 2 CFR, Chapter I and Chapter II, Part 200 et al.) shall be accomplished by: (1) classifying a department's total costs for the base period as either direct or indirect; and (2) dividing the total allowable indirect costs (net of applicable credits) by an equitable distribution base. The result of this process is an indirect cost rate which is used to distribute indirect costs to mandates. The rate should be expressed as a percentage that the total amount of allowable indirect costs bears to the base selected; or
- 2. The allocation of allowable indirect costs (as defined and described in 2 CFR, Chapter I and Chapter II, Part 200 et al.) shall be accomplished by: (1) separating a department into groups, such as divisions or sections, and then classifying the division's or section's total costs for the base period as either direct or indirect; and (2) dividing the total allowable indirect costs (net of applicable credits) by an equitable distribution base. The result of this process is an indirect cost rate that is used to distribute indirect costs to mandates. The rate should be expressed as a percentage which the total amount of allowable indirect costs bears to the base selected.

VI. RECORD RETENTION

Pursuant to Government Code section 17558.5(a), a reimbursement claim for actual costs filed pursuant to this chapter³⁰ is subject to the initiation of an audit by the Controller no later than three years after the date that the actual reimbursement claim is filed or last amended, whichever is later. However, if no funds are appropriated or no payment is made to a claimant for the program for the fiscal year for which the claim is filed, the time for the Controller to initiate an audit shall commence to run from the date of initial payment of the claim. In any case, an audit shall be completed not later than two years after the date that the audit is commenced. All documents used to support the reimbursable activities, as described in Section IV., must be retained during the period subject to audit. If an audit has been initiated by the Controller during the period subject to audit, the retention period is extended until the ultimate resolution of any audit findings.

VII. OFFSETTING REVENUES AND REIMBURSEMENTS

Any offsetting revenue the claimant experiences in the same program as a result of the same statutes or executive orders found to contain the mandate shall be deducted from

³⁰ This refers to title 2, division 4, part 7, chapter 4 of the Government Code.

the costs claimed. In addition, reimbursement for this mandate from any source, including but not limited to, state and federal funds, any service charge, fee, or assessment authority to offset all or part of the costs of this program, and any other funds that are not the claimant's proceeds of taxes shall be identified and deducted from any claim submitted for reimbursement.

VIII. STATE CONTROLLER'S CLAIMING INSTRUCTIONS

Pursuant to Government Code section 17558(b), the Controller shall issue claiming instructions for each mandate that requires state reimbursement not later than 90 days after receiving the adopted parameters and guidelines from the Commission, to assist local governments in claiming costs to be reimbursed. The claiming instructions shall be derived from these parameters and guidelines and the decisions on the test claim and parameters and guidelines adopted by the Commission.

Pursuant to Government Code section 17561(d)(1), issuance of the claiming instructions shall constitute a notice of the right of the eligible claimants to file reimbursement claims, based upon parameters and guidelines adopted by the Commission.

IX. REMEDIES BEFORE THE COMMISSION

Upon request of an eligible claimant, the Commission shall review the claiming instructions issued by the Controller or any other authorized state agency for reimbursement of mandated costs pursuant to Government Code section 17571. If the Commission determines that the claiming instructions do not conform to the parameters and guidelines, the Commission shall direct the Controller to modify the claiming instructions and the Controller shall modify the claiming instructions to conform to the parameters and guidelines as directed by the Commission.

In addition, requests may be made to amend parameters and guidelines pursuant to Government Code section 17557(d), and California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 1183.17.

X. LEGAL AND FACTUAL BASIS FOR THE PARAMETERS AND GUIDELINES

The decisions adopted for the test claim and parameters and guidelines are legally binding on all parties and interested parties and provide the legal and factual basis for the parameters and guidelines. The support for the legal and factual findings is found in the administrative record. The administrative record is on file with the Commission.

DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY EMAIL

I, the undersigned, declare as follows:

I am a resident of the County of Sacramento and I am over the age of 18 years, and not a party to the within action. My place of employment is 980 Ninth Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, California 95814.

On September 9, 2025, I served the:

- Current Mailing List dated September 4, 2025
- Draft Proposed Decision and Parameters and Guidelines, Schedule for Comments, and Notice of Hearing issued September 9, 2025

Elections: Ballot Label, 24-TC-01 Statutes 2022, Chapter 751, Section 5 (AB 1416); Elections Code Section 9051 County of Los Angeles, Claimant

by making it available on the Commission's website and providing notice of how to locate it to the email addresses provided on the attached mailing list.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on September 9, 2025 at Sacramento, California.

Jill Magee

Commission on State Mandates 980 Ninth Street, Suite 300 Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 323-3562

COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES

Mailing List

Last Updated: 9/4/25 Claim Number: 24-TC-01

Matter: Elections: Ballot Label
Claimant: County of Los Angeles

TO ALL PARTIES, INTERESTED PARTIES, AND INTERESTED PERSONS:

Each commission mailing list is continuously updated as requests are received to include or remove any party or person on the mailing list. A current mailing list is provided with commission correspondence, and a copy of the current mailing list is available upon request at any time. Except as provided otherwise by commission rule, when a party or interested party files any written material with the commission concerning a claim, it shall simultaneously serve a copy of the written material on the parties and interested parties to the claim identified on the mailing list provided by the commission. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1181.3.)

Adaoha Agu, County of San Diego Auditor & Controller Department

Projects, Revenue and Grants Accounting, 5530 Overland Avenue, Ste. 410, MS:O-53, San Diego,

CA 92123

Phone: (858) 694-2129 Adaoha.Agu@sdcounty.ca.gov

Rachelle Anema, Division Chief, County of Los Angeles

Accounting Division, 500 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: (213) 974-8321

RANEMA@auditor.lacounty.gov

Lili Apgar, Specialist, State Controller's Office

Local Reimbursements Section, 3301 C Street, Suite 740, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 324-0254 lapgar@sco.ca.gov

Socorro Aquino, State Controller's Office

Division of Audits, 3301 C Street, Suite 700, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 322-7522 SAquino@sco.ca.gov

Aaron Avery, Legislative Representative, California Special Districts Association

1112 I Street Bridge, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 442-7887 Aarona@csda.net

David Bass, Vice Mayor, *CIty of Rocklin* 3970 Rocklin Road, Rocklin, CA 95677

Phone: (916) 663-8504 David.Bass@rocklin.ca.us

Ginni Bella Navarre, Deputy Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office

925 L Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 319-8342 Ginni.Bella@lao.ca.gov

Guy Burdick, Consultant, MGT Consulting

2251 Harvard Street, Suite 134, Sacramento, CA 95815

Phone: (916) 833-7775 gburdick@mgtconsulting.com

Allan Burdick,

7525 Myrtle Vista Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95831

Phone: (916) 203-3608 allanburdick@gmail.com

Rica Mae Cabigas, Chief Accountant, Auditor-Controller

Accounting Division, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: (213) 974-8309 rcabigas@auditor.lacounty.gov

Evelyn Calderon-Yee, Bureau Chief, State Controller's Office

Local Government Programs and Services Division, Bureau of Payments, 3301 C Street, Suite 740,

Sacramento, CA 95816 Phone: (916) 324-5919 ECalderonYee@sco.ca.gov

Steven Carda, California Secretary of State's Office

Elections Division, 1500 11th Street, 5th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 657-2166 scarda@sos.ca.gov

Julissa Ceja Cardenas, California State Association of Counties

1100 K Street, Suite 101, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 327-7500 jcejacardenas@counties.org

Annette Chinn, Cost Recovery Systems, Inc.

705-2 East Bidwell Street, #294, Folsom, CA 95630

Phone: (916) 939-7901 achinners@aol.com

Carolyn Chu, Senior Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office

925 L Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 319-8326 Carolyn.Chu@lao.ca.gov

Adam Cripps, Interim Finance Manager, Town of Apple Valley

14955 Dale Evans Parkway, Apple Valley, CA 92307

Phone: (760) 240-7000 acripps@applevalley.org

Thomas Deak, Senior Deputy, County of San Diego

Office of County Counsel, 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 355, San Diego, CA 92101

Phone: (619) 531-4810

Thomas.Deak@sdcounty.ca.gov

Laura Dougherty, Attorney, Commission on State Mandates

980 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 323-3562 Laura.Dougherty@csm.ca.gov

Kevin Fisher, Assistant City Attorney, City of San Jose

Environmental Services, 200 East Santa Clara Street, 16th Floor, San Jose, CA 95113

Phone: (408) 535-1987 kevin.fisher@sanjoseca.gov

Tim Flanagan, Office Coordinator, Solano County

Register of Voters, 678 Texas Street, Suite 2600, Fairfield, CA 94533

Phone: (707) 784-3359 Elections@solanocounty.com

Justin Garrett, Acting Chief Policy Officer, California State Association of Counties (CSAC)

1100 K Street, Ste 101, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 327-7500 jgarrett@counties.org

Juliana Gmur, Executive Director, Commission on State Mandates

980 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 323-3562 juliana.gmur@csm.ca.gov

Andrew Hamilton, Auditor-Controller, County of Orange

1770 North Broadway, Santa Ana, CA 92706

Phone: (714) 834-2450

Andrew.Hamilton@ac.ocgov.com

Chris Hill, Principal Program Budget Analyst, Department of Finance

Local Government Unit, 915 L Street, 8th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 445-3274 Chris.Hill@dof.ca.gov

Tiffany Hoang, Associate Accounting Analyst, State Controller's Office

Local Government Programs and Services Division, Bureau of Payments, 3301 C Street, Suite 740,

Sacramento, CA 95816 Phone: (916) 323-1127 THoang@sco.ca.gov

Ken Howell, Senior Management Auditor, State Controller's Office

Audits, Compliance Audits Bureau, 3301 C Street, Suite 725A, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 323-2368 KHowell@sco.ca.gov

Catherine Ingram-Kelly, California Secretary of State's Office

Elections Division, 1500 11th Street, 5th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 657-2166 ckelly@sos.ca.gov

Jason Jennings, Director, Maximus Consulting

Financial Services, 808 Moorefield Park Drive, Suite 205, Richmond, VA 23236

Phone: (804) 323-3535 SB90@maximus.com

Angelo Joseph, Supervisor, State Controller's Office

Local Government Programs and Services Division, Bureau of Payments, 3301 C Street, Suite 740,

Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 323-0706 AJoseph@sco.ca.gov

Jordan Kaku, California Secretary of State's Office

Elections Division, 1500 11th Street, 5th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 695-1581 vmb@sos.ca.gov

Jessica Kan, Revenue Manager, *City of Newport Beach* 100 Civic Center Drive, Bay 1A, Newport Beach, CA 92660

Phone: (949) 644-3153 JKan@newportbeachca.gov

Anne Kato, Acting Chief, State Controller's Office

Local Government Programs and Services Division, 3301 C Street, Suite 740, Sacramento, CA

95816

Phone: (916) 322-9891 akato@sco.ca.gov

Paige Kent, Voter Education and Outreach, California Secretary of State's Office

1500 11th Street, 5th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 657-2166 MyVote@sos.ca.gov

Anita Kerezsi, AK & Company

2425 Golden Hill Road, Suite 106, Paso Robles, CA 93446

Phone: (805) 239-7994 akcompanysb90@gmail.com

Joanne Kessler, Fiscal Specialist, City of Newport Beach

Revenue Division, 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 90266

Phone: (949) 644-3199 jkessler@newportbeachca.gov

Lisa Kurokawa, Bureau Chief for Audits, State Controller's Office

Compliance Audits Bureau, 3301 C Street, Suite 700, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 327-3138 lkurokawa@sco.ca.gov

Kirsten Larsen, California Secretary of State's Office

Elections Division, 1500 11th Street, 5th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 657-2166 KLarsen@sos.ca.gov

Government Law Intake, Department of Justice

Attorney General's Office, 1300 I Street, Suite 125, PO Box 944255, Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

Phone: (916) 210-6046

governmentlawintake@doj.ca.gov

Eric Lawyer, Legislative Advocate, California State Association of Counties (CSAC)

Government Finance and Administration, 1100 K Street, Suite 101, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 650-8112 elawyer@counties.org

Kim-Anh Le, Deputy Controller, County of San Mateo

555 County Center, 4th Floor, Redwood City, CA 94063

Phone: (650) 599-1104 kle@smcgov.org

Jana Lean, California Secretary of State's Office

Elections Division, 1500 11th Street, 5th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 657-2166 jlean@sos.ca.gov

Fernando Lemus, Principal Accountant - Auditor, County of Los Angeles

Claimant Representative

Auditor-Controller's Office, 500 West Temple Street, Room 603, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: (213) 974-0324 flemus@auditor.lacounty.gov

Erika Li, Chief Deputy Director, Department of Finance

915 L Street, 10th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 445-3274 erika.li@dof.ca.gov

Kenneth Louie, Chief Counsel, Department of Finance

1021 O. Street, Suite 3110, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 322-0971 Kenny.Louie@dof.ca.gov

Everett Luc, Accounting Administrator I, Specialist, State Controller's Office

3301 C Street, Suite 740, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 323-0766 ELuc@sco.ca.gov

Jill Magee, Program Analyst, Commission on State Mandates

980 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 323-3562 Jill.Magee@csm.ca.gov

Darryl Mar, Manager, State Controller's Office

3301 C Street, Suite 740, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 323-0706 DMar@sco.ca.gov

Tina McKendell, County of Los Angeles

Auditor-Controller's Office, 500 West Temple Street, Room 603, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: (213) 974-0324

tmckendell@auditor.lacounty.gov

Michelle Mendoza, MAXIMUS

17310 Red Hill Avenue, Suite 340, Irvine, CA 95403

Phone: (949) 440-0845

michellemendoza@maximus.com

Marilyn Munoz, Senior Staff Counsel, Department of Finance

915 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 445-8918 Marilyn.Munoz@dof.ca.gov

Andy Nichols, Nichols Consulting

1857 44th Street, Sacramento, CA 95819

Phone: (916) 455-3939 andy@nichols-consulting.com

Patricia Pacot, Accountant Auditor I, County of Colusa

Office of Auditor-Controller, 546 Jay Street, Suite #202, Colusa, CA 95932

Phone: (530) 458-0424 ppacot@countyofcolusa.org

Arthur Palkowitz, Law Offices of Arthur M. Palkowitz

12807 Calle de la Siena, San Diego, CA 92130

Phone: (858) 259-1055 law@artpalk.onmicrosoft.com

Kirsten Pangilinan, Specialist, State Controller's Office

Local Reimbursements Section, 3301 C Street, Suite 740, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone: (916) 322-2446 KPangilinan@sco.ca.gov

Trevor Power, Accounting Manager, City of Newport Beach

100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660

Phone: (949) 644-3085 tpower@newportbeachca.gov

Jonathan Quan, Associate Accountant, County of San Diego

Projects, Revenue, and Grants Accounting, 5530 Overland Ave, Suite 410, San Diego, CA 92123

Phone: 6198768518

Jonathan.Quan@sdcounty.ca.gov

Roberta Raper, Director of Finance, City of West Sacramento

1110 West Capitol Ave, West Sacramento, CA 95691

Phone: (916) 617-4509

robertar@cityofwestsacramento.org

Jessica Sankus, Senior Legislative Analyst, *California State Association of Counties (CSAC)* Government Finance and Administration, 1100 K Street, Suite 101, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 327-7500 jsankus@counties.org

Cindy Sconce, Director, Government Consulting Partners

5016 Brower Court, Granite Bay, CA 95746

Phone: (916) 276-8807 cindysconcegcp@gmail.com

Carla Shelton, Senior Legal Analyst, Commission on State Mandates

980 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 323-3562 carla.shelton@csm.ca.gov

Camille Shelton, Chief Legal Counsel, Commission on State Mandates

980 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 323-3562 camille.shelton@csm.ca.gov

Joanna Southard, California Secretary of State's Office

Elections Division, 1500 11th Street, 5th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 657-2166 jsouthar@sos.ca.gov

Paul Steenhausen, Principal Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office

925 L Street, Suite 1000, , Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 319-8303 Paul.Steenhausen@lao.ca.gov

Jolene Tollenaar, MGT Consulting Group

2251 Harvard Street, Suite 134, Sacramento, CA 95815

Phone: (916) 243-8913 jolenetollenaar@gmail.com

Thomas Toller, County Clerk/Registrar of Voters, County of Shasta

1450 Court Street, Suite 108, Redding, CA 96001

Phone: (530) 225-5730 countyclerk@shastacounty.gov

Jessica Uzarski, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee

1020 N Street, Room 502, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 651-4103 Jessica.Uzarski@sen.ca.gov

Oscar Valdez, Interim Auditor-Controller, County of Los Angeles

Claimant Contact

Auditor-Controller's Office, 500 West Temple Street, Room 525, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: (213) 974-0729 ovaldez@auditor.lacounty.gov

Alejandra Villalobos, Management Services Manager, County of San Bernardino

Office of Auditor-Controller, 222 West Hospitality Lane, 4th Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415

Phone: (909) 382-3191

alejandra.villalobos@sbcountyatc.gov

Michael Vu, Registrar of Voters, County of San Diego

5600 Overland Ave, San Diego, CA 92123

Phone: (858) 505-7201 Michael.Vu@sdcounty.ca.gov

Renee Wellhouse, David Wellhouse & Associates, Inc.

3609 Bradshaw Road, H-382, Sacramento, CA 95927

Phone: (916) 797-4883 dwa-renee@surewest.net

Adam Whelen, Director of Public Works, City of Anderson

1887 Howard St., Anderson, CA 96007

Phone: (530) 378-6640 awhelen@ci.anderson.ca.us

Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee

California State Senate, State Capitol Room 5019, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 651-4103 elisa.wynne@sen.ca.gov

Kaily Yap, Budget Analyst, Department of Finance

Local Government Unit, 915 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 445-3274 Kaily.Yap@dof.ca.gov

Siew-Chin Yeong, Director of Public Works, City of Pleasonton

3333 Busch Road, Pleasonton, CA 94566

Phone: (925) 931-5506

syeong@cityofpleas anton ca.gov

Helmholst Zinser-Watkins, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, *State Controller's Office* Local Government Programs and Services Division, Bureau of Payments, 3301 C Street, Suite 700,

Sacramento, CA 95816 Phone: (916) 324-7876 HZinser-watkins@sco.ca.gov