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Subject: Public comment for agenda item #29 - May 5, 2026
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May 5, 2026

To the Board of Supervisors:

I recognize that the county is facing extraordinary fiscal challenges and that many difficult decisions will have to be made not just in this year but in the next couple of years. However, it is disheartening to see that a number of the proposed budget cuts are for filled frontline and support positions. The people who hold these positions have given years of faithful service to the county and work every single day with county residents, including the poorest and most disenfranchised.

While laying off these employees and eliminating their positions may save some money, the county loses out in every other respect. The quality and reliability of important services will be lessened, an increased burden will be placed on remaining staff, institutional knowledge will be lost, and the trust and carefully cultivated relationships between the county and its residents will be damaged. Understaffed departments will be run by overworked and overwhelmed employees who are likely to burn out faster and make more mistakes, which may very well cost the county more in the long run. These things are harder to quantify than the salaries and benefits of those employees whose jobs and livelihoods are on the line, but they are no less important.

Ultimately, the cost of these projected cost savings will be passed on to county residents. They will be paid for by the conservatee whose conservator has an unmanageable caseload, by the homeless person waiting in a long line at the Clerk-Recorder's office trying to get their birth certificate, and by the foster child whose exhausted and demoralized social worker has no support staff to rely on for help. A more measured and careful approach to balancing the budget could save some heartbreak both now and down the road. I would ask you to consider options other layoffs such as furloughs, remote work, or shorter work weeks. Let's reduce the impact on the people who strive every day to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our residents, and ensure continued levels and quality of service for everyone who calls Yolo County home. They deserve nothing less.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service to the county.

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