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To: [Clerkoftheboard](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Agenda Item #6
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To the Board of Supervisors:

As a proud county employee, member of Local 39, and resident of District 4, I am writing in regards to Agenda Item #6, the 2026-2027 Recommended Budget. As part of the agenda item, the six pillars from the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan are referenced: Thriving Residents, Collaborative Communities, Sustainable Environment, Flourishing Agriculture, Robust Economy, and Operational Excellence. It is important to recognize that these pillars and their related goals are only made possible by *people*. More than anything, *the people who work for the county are the county's greatest asset*. This is true from department heads down to the Social Services Assistants, Office Support Specialists, Permit Counter Technicians, and all others whose jobs and livelihoods are on the line. Our government is no more than a ghost town without its workers.

Laying off the people that have dedicated themselves in so many ways to serving and improving the lives of our residents does not only harm the employees that are laid off. It harms the remaining employees, who will take on heavier workloads and face increased burnout and turnover. It damages the county's relationship with the wider community by reducing the quality of services that residents have come to rely on. It diminishes the ability of the county to fulfill its goals. For instance, how can we "assist persons with mental health and substance use disorders to get the help they need" or "reinvigorate a spirit of internal operational excellence through inquiry and interdepartmental collaboration" without experienced, knowledgeable, and dedicated staff to carry them out?

I recognize the significant economic challenges the county is currently facing. However, efforts to address this should not come at the expense of its workers. In the short term, the Board should consider options like furloughs, golden handshakes, and remote work options. In the long term, the Board should take a serious look at raising property and/or sales taxes for a sustainable source of funds. In the meantime, let's avoid layoffs and support the employees that have done so much to support the county.

Thank you,

Rachel Poutasse
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