

February 11, 2020



**E-TRANSMITTAL/ U.S. REGULAR MAIL**

Ms. Stephanie Hernandez-Jarvis, President  
WCCUSD Board of Education Members  
West Contra Costa Unified School District  
1108 Bissell Avenue  
Richmond, CA 94801

**Re: WCCUSD BUDGET CONCERNS FOR FY 2020/21:  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING SCHEDULED FEBRUARY 12, 2020  
AGENDA #F., #2): Approve Non-Salary Reductions of \$6M and Site Allocation  
Reductions of \$2M As Defined in Staff Report**

Dear WCCUSD Board President Jarvis and Members:

On behalf of the City of San Pablo City Council, we are very concerned about the proposed \$8M in non-salary budget reductions being potentially discussed under the WCCUSD Board Agenda item noted above to potentially reduce certain non-essential contract services, which includes the City of San Pablo and WCCUSD joint funding agreements under consideration for FY 2020/21.

Over several years, our agencies have committed to a joint funding partnership which has been positive and productive in supporting non-academic contract services to eliminate or minimize many barriers and disparities to student academic achievement at local WCCUSD schools in San Pablo. In fact, the City of San Pablo expends a total of \$1.2M annually from its own City's General Fund Operating Budget to jointly fund a number of City-provided programs and services at local WCCUSD schools in San Pablo on an annual basis. This figure represents a significant contribution to assist and support WCCUSD schools within San Pablo, and exceeds any other funding support from any other West County City located within WCCUSD boundaries to date. However, the City of San Pablo is very aware and seriously concerned about the significant budget challenges faced by the WCCUSD Board on addressing a looming \$47.8M budget deficit for FY 2020/21.

**WCCUSD Annual Contract Services Funding**

Currently, the City of San Pablo values the following WCCUSD annual funding totaling \$240,000 for FY 2019/20 for the following non-essential contract services through our ongoing joint funding partnership:

13831 San Pablo Avenue, Building I • San Pablo, CA 94806  
Main: 510-215-3000 • Fax: 510-215-3011  
[www.SanPabloCA.gov](http://www.SanPabloCA.gov)

**FY 2019-20 WCCUSD FUNDED CONTRACT SERVICES  
TO THE CITY OF SAN PABLO AT WCCUSD SCHOOLS IN SAN PABLO:**

<b><u>Contract Program/Service:</u></b>	<b><u>Amount:</u></b>
1). School Resource Officer Funding	\$150,000 <i>(Funds 85% of 1 F/T SRO)</i>
2). FSCS/Beacon Schools Funding	\$ 90,000 <i>(Funds 25% of 6 F/T Beacon Directors)</i>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$240,000</b>

**School Resource Officer Funding**

The City of San Pablo (City) believes that the WCCUSD Board should take into consideration (as expressed in a number of previous budget correspondence from the City) that any drastic and immediate budget reductions in School Resource Officer (SRO) funding to local cities would **significantly undermine** our local public safety and community policing programs in San Pablo. Community-oriented youth policing programs build skills to encourage local students to stay away from at-risk behaviors, and significantly impacts the ongoing goals outlined in the joint San Pablo Beacon Community Schools Initiative (SPBCSI) established by the City of San Pablo and WCCUSD in local San Pablo schools, as follows: Dover Elementary; Bayview Elementary; Downer Elementary; Lake Elementary; Riverside Elementary; and especially Helms Middle School, the largest school in WCCUSD, which has a dedicated SRO through this agreement.

Additionally, annual SRO funding assistance to the City from the WCCUSD on an annual basis has been in effect since FY 2014/15, unlike the other West County cities who have received full SRO funding support from the District since 2006. For comparative purposes, the City expends a total of nearly \$450,000 annually from the City's General Fund (GF) Operating Budget toward our Police Department's Priority Oriented Policing (P.O.P) Unit which funds a total of two (2) SRO officers, and a portion of (1) Sergeant position for all local schools in San Pablo for FY 2019/20. Clearly, the City's annual budget contribution greatly exceeds the annual WCCUSD SRO funding contribution of nearly \$150,000 for FY 2019/20 (excluding Departmental equipment and training costs) for SRO financial support for a City FY 2019/20 net operating cost of \$300,000 annually. Any potential revision by the WCCUSD to reduce SRO funding will cause an undue financial burden to local cities, like San Pablo, who have been sustaining these programs for many years prior to FY 2014/15. Any SRO funding reductions going forward, especially in the wake of increased CalPERS sustainability costs state-wide, would dramatically shift this cost-share balance to result in a potential City budget deficit for FY 2020/21, and outlying years.

To reiterate, SRO programs are a foundation in the building of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Oriented Policing model in San Pablo which focuses on youth and building trust in our community with local law enforcement. Trust between law enforcement agencies and the people they protect and serve is essential in a democracy. It is key to the stability of our local

communities, the integrity of our local community policing programs, and the safe and effective delivery of policing services. Overall, the SRO program allows our community to engage and develop positive relationships and solutions that impact not only faculty and local students within the classroom, but our families at home as well.

### **San Pablo Beacon Initiative/Full Service Community Schools & Team for Youth Grant Funding**

In November 2011, the San Pablo City Council formally established a San Pablo Full Service Community School Initiative with the goal of eventually transforming all WCCUSD schools in San Pablo into Full Service Community Schools (FSCS). WCCUSD subsequently passed its FSCS resolution a year later (October 2012), bolstered by the community school work happening in San Pablo and Richmond schools.

Today, the City's FSCS Initiative, now evolved into the Beacon Community School Initiative, which works to ensure San Pablo children and families have the tools and supports they need to be successful in school and in life. San Pablo's Initiative facilitates a collaborative, integrated, and comprehensive continuum of supports and services to ensure San Pablo children and families thrive. The keys strategic areas of the Initiative are: (1) coordination of community schools; (2) family engagement; (3) out-of-school time/transitions; (4) violence prevention and intervention; and (5) youth leadership and development.

Since the launch of San Pablo's Initiative in 2012, the City has invested over \$3 million in direct and indirect services related to the Community School work to the six (6) WCCUSD schools in San Pablo – Bayview, Dover, Downer, Lake, Riverside, and Helms Middle School. There is now a full-time Beacon Community School Director at each site, targeted funds for family engagement, socio-emotional/mental health services and youth leadership at select schools, and summer/transition programs for all elementary and middle school youth across the City.

Through this robust partnership, the City is able to leverage a total of \$667,000 net annually in FY 2019/20 City General Fund Operating Budget contributions and additional non-monetized in-kind services at all designated school sites. These services include, but are not limited to, the following: intensive coaching from City staff to Beacon Directors and school site teams, free recess support by City Recreation staff at all five elementary school sites; clothes, school supplies, and backpack distribution to all schools at the beginning of the school year; holiday gift giving for the neediest families; funding for and coordination of literacy events at all schools in the Spring semester each year.

### **Childhood Obesity Prevention Grant Program**

In July 2018, the San Pablo City Council adopted an official Childhood Obesity Prevention Advisory Group (COPAG) and authorized a Request for Proposal process over the subsequent three (3) fiscal year periods (FY 2018-2021) to grant \$300,000 each year (for a total of \$900,000) from the City's General Fund Operating Budget for services and activities to prevent and combat childhood obesity through selected local grantees. One of the key funding priorities

of this annual grant program is to “improve nutrition and physical activity in schools” which has a correlation and impact on San Pablo student achievement.

Since FY 2018-2019, the City has approved contracts for services funded on an annual basis benefiting WCCUSD schools in San Pablo with a variety of services including: physical activities for youth during and after school; nutrition education and cooking classes for youth and families; teacher professional development around incorporating nutrition and science in daily curriculum; whole-school outreach, and events focused on health and nutrition.

<b>CITY OF SAN PABLO TEAM FOR YOUTH &amp; CHILDHOOD OBESITY PREVENTION  GRANT PROGRAMS</b>		
<b>Funding Allocation Plan for FY 2019-21</b>		
<b>Contractor/Grantee/Lead Agency</b>	<b>Approved FY 2019/20</b>	<b>Approved FY 20/21</b>
<b>Bay Area Community Resources</b> (Community Schools: Dover, Downer, Riverside, Helms)	\$484,500	\$484,500
<b>YMCA of the East Bay</b> (Community Schools: Bayview, Lake)	\$222,500	\$222,500
<b>Catholic Charities</b> (Violence Prevention & Intervention: Richmond HS)	\$35,000	\$35,000
<b>Familias Unidas (Proyecto Bienestar)</b> (Violence Prevention & Intervention: Richmond HS)	\$15,000	\$15,000
<b>Grand Total:</b>	\$757,000	\$757,000
WCCUSD Matching Funds (Beacon/FSCS Contract)	(\$90,000)	(\$90,000)
<b>Bay Area Community Resources</b> (Helms, Dover, Downer, Riverside)	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>Annual Grant Program  FY 20/21 Grantees – TBD</b>
<b>Fresh Approach</b> (Dover & Community Based)	<b>\$85,000</b>	
<b>WCCUSD</b> (Lake)	<b>\$50,000</b>	
<b>Urban Tilth: San Pablo Rides</b> (Richmond HS, Bayview, Downer, Riverside, Helms)	<b>\$50,000</b>	
<b>YMCA</b> (Downer)	<b>\$7,500</b>	
<b>Girls Inc. of West Contra Costa</b> (Bayview & Richmond HS)	<b>\$7,500</b>	
<b>Childhood Obesity Prevention Grants      Grand Total:</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>
<b>Total Direct City Budget Appropriation (FY 2019-2021):</b>	<b>\$967,000</b>	<b>\$967,000</b>

In closing, the City sincerely understands that WCCUSD Board has difficult decisions to make to eliminate a \$47.8M budget deficit by June 2020. As you discuss and review potential non-salary reductions at your scheduled WCCUSD Board meeting on February 12, 2020, the City sincerely hopes that the WCCUSD Board continues to see the value in the ongoing joint

funding and partnership opportunities that the City of San Pablo provides to support WCCUSD schools in San Pablo. Moreover, the City is committed to our continued long-term partnership in eliminating barriers and disparities to local students to enhance academic achievement, and provide critical resources for students' families in the San Pablo community.

We sincerely hope the WCCUSD Board feels the same, and balances the need for these critical contract services in WCCUSD schools within San Pablo, with appropriate non-salary budget reductions that do not materialize in a reversal of great progress made to date.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Matt Rodriguez, City Manager at (510) 215-3016 or via email at: [mattr@sanpabloca.gov](mailto:mattr@sanpabloca.gov).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Arturo Cruz, Mayor  
City of San Pablo

cc: San Pablo City Councilmembers  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
Assistant City Manager  
Chief of Police  
Community Services Director  
WCCUSD Superintendent  
Associate superintendent, Business Services