



County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors

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Clerk of the Board
168 West Alisal St. 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901
831 755 5066
cob@co.monterey.ca.us

May 13, 2024

Honorable Mike McGuire
Senate President Pro Temp
California State Senate
State Capitol, Sacramento CA

Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker of the Assembly
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Sacramento CA

Re: Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia's \$10 Million Budget Request for the 17 California Rural Legal Assistance Rural Justice Centers

Dear Senate President McGuire and Speaker Rivas,

I am writing on behalf of the County of Monterey to respectfully request that you support Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia's \$10 Million Budget Request for California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. (CRLA) Rural Justice Centers program.

For over 50 years, CRLA has been at the forefront providing free civil legal services to low-income residents of California's rural counties. CRLA fights against growing incidents of worker exploitation, wage theft, housing discrimination and abuse, and environmental injustice. CRLA clients include agricultural workers, people with disabilities, immigrants, LGBTQ+ people, public school students and families, seniors, veterans, and people with limited English proficiency.

CRLA's 17 Rural Justice Centers not only serve as law offices to advise and represent residents of disadvantaged communities, but also as community centers to train and empower rural Californians. An investment in CRLA's Network of Rural Justice Centers ensures the stability of legal services for marginalized communities throughout rural California and amplifies their voices in addressing critical issues that will shape California's future.

CRLA has a unique and unparalleled record of serving farmworkers and low-income Californians and their families, who are the backbone of California's economy and our State's economic prosperity.

The County of Monterey is excited to support CRLA in the establishment and modernization of 17 Rural Justice Centers throughout rural California and applauds Assemblymember Garcia and Members of the State Legislature that have signed on to Assemblymember Garcia's 2024 State Budget Request for this historic endeavor. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Monterey County's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

Glenn Church, Chair
Board of Supervisors



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cc: The Honorable Eduardo Garcia, Author, 13th Assembly District
The Honorable Scott Weiner, Chair of Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
The Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair of Assembly Budget Committee
The Honorable Anna Caballero, 14th Senate District
The Honorable John Laird, 17th Senate District
The Honorable Robert Rivas, 29th Assembly District
The Honorable Dawn Addis, 30th Assembly District
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)