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## MIKE SCHAEFER

MEMBER, FOURTH DISTRICT
CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

## **MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** May 15, 2024

**To:** Sally Lieber, Chair Ted Gaines, Vice Chair

Antonio Vazquez, Third District Malia M. Cohen, State Controller

Re: Discussion and possible action on pursuing legislation and/or a constitutional

amendment that would provide for property tax relief when a sexually violent

predator is conditionally released into a specified area.

Honorable Members, I provide the following recommendation for your consideration:

Individuals found by the State of California to be sexually violent predators are transferred at the end of their prison term to the jurisdiction of the California Department of State Hospitals (DSH). If, as the result of treatment, the Superior Court concurs with DSH's determination that the individual is no longer an SVP, they are unconditionally released. If, however, DSH finds that the individual would benefit from release with additional support and monitoring, they can be placed through California's Sexually Violent Predator Conditional Release Program (CONREP) (established in 1986 under California Code, Welfare and Institutions Code WIC § 4360, subdivisions (a) & (b), and subsequently modified per - WIC § 6600, 6604.9, 6605, 6607, 6608, & 6609), currently contracted with Liberty Healthcare Corporation.

These judicial placements under SVP CONREP are adjudicated in public hearing and often accompanied by substantial public concern and opposition. Placements under CONREP have increased over the last couple of years, with a substantial reported spike of pending releases in 2023-2024. Sexually Violent Predators have been released in San Diego County in the communities of Borrego Springs, Campo, and Jacumba Hot Springs (with an additional release hearing this month for the latter community).

Many communities are understandably concerned for the welfare of their residents, particularly their children, and the risk that SVPs will re-offend. Property owners are also concerned that placements may adversely affect their property values. Some communities, like Borrego Springs and Jacumba Hot Springs in San Diego, have had multiple SVPs released into their small towns.

I recommend we discuss and potentially pursue legislative and/or other measures to assess the potential property value impacts of (sometimes multiple) releases into communities and provide

Honorable Members May 15, 2024

property owners with property tax relief commensurate with the detrimental impact of placements on values.

I look forward to discussing this proposal with the Board.

MIKE SCHAEFER, MEMBER

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Board of Equalization, Fourth District

cc: Mr. Douglas Winslow, Chief Deputy, Office of Chair Sally J. Lieber

Mr. Matt Cox, Chief Deputy, Office of Vice Chair Ted Gaines

Ms. Deborah Bautista-Zavala, Chief Deputy, Office of Antonio Vazquez Mr. Cody Petterson, Chief Deputy, Office of Member Mike Schaefer

Mr. Hasib Emran, Deputy State Controller

Ms. Yvette Stowers, Executive Director