Report from Commission Staff
July 2025

1. Administrative Updates

Proposition 10 Tax Distributions

- Ventura County revenues for July 2024 – April 2025 total $2,556,386, plus $1,335,800 for the annual backfill from Proposition 56 and $38,003 in CECET (CA e-cigarette tax) funds for a total of $3,930,189.
    - These disbursements represent 77% of the budgeted revenues with 83% of year lapsed.
    - March distribution was reduced to account for the annual backfill to Prop 99 and Pro Rata (indirect costs charged to Prop 10 Fund for the State's central administrative services).
- After evenly applying the annual Prop 56 backfill and CECET funds, we are currently running 13.8% lower than last year – a decrease of $594,039 as of April.
- The delayed impact of the flavor ban and potential contributors to the higher-than-expected decline for FY 2024-25 are lower enforcement, tax evasion (i.e., purchasing from other states), and lower tobacco usage. https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/4966
- Last fiscal year, an 11.3% decrease in tobacco tax revenues was budgeted based on Department of Finance projections that considered the potential impact of the ban on flavored tobacco products.
    - The actual decrease realized was only 4.5%.
- The Commission's financial plan was updated in April and estimated a 10% annual rate of decline for FY 2024-25 tobacco tax revenues, based on the trend at that time.
- Month-to-month distributions vary substantially. With two months of distributions remaining, along with two quarters of CECET payments, it is possible to come in close to the forecast.
    - Monthly disbursements are closely monitored and staff will report back regularly.

FY 2025-26 Commission Budget

- As required per ordinance, F5VC submitted its proposed FY 2024-25 operating budget for review and comment to Board of Supervisors in May.
    - ED also presented F5VC highlights of accomplishments.
- Members of the Board were supportive of First 5's work and recognized the importance of the early years.

Commission's Fiscal Year 2024-25 Annual Audit Underway

- The audit will be conducted in two phases with interim work performed in May and final audit procedures in September.
    - The pre-audit meeting with the Administration/Finance Committee (established as the Commission's "Audit Committee") occurred June 6, 2025, where the auditors reviewed the audit procedures.
- The audit report will be presented first to the Administration/Finance Committee, and subsequently to the Commission at the October meetings.

All Staff Meeting on July 3rd

- On July 3rd, F5VC staff came together to celebrate accomplishments over the last fiscal year, received an update on strategic planning, completed mandatory annual trainings on workplace violence prevention, and reviewed breastfeeding and immigration guidelines.
- An external trainer led staff through a session on managing the many transitions our team is currently experiencing.

2. Updates on Commission Initiatives

Early Childhood Programs (Neighborhood for Learning, Help Me Grow, Welcome EVERY Baby)

- Parent And Child Together (PACT) classes
    - PACT Session 3 of this fiscal year concluded on June 18th, with over 300 families participating in classes.
    - PACT Session 1 of the new fiscal year started on July 7th.
- Parenting groups with a special focus were held, including Grown Ups Who Love us!, nutrition and health, oral health, and literacy at the library.
- Community Outreach and Collaboration
    - Several outreach events were conducted to promote early childhood and literacy programs.
    - Events included an interactive presentation at the Camarillo Library, the annual *Kindergarten Round Up* event with Santa Paula Unified School District, the *Student Behavioral Health and Wellness End of Year Celebration* hosted by GCHP, *Festival of Books* at Isbell Middle School, *HUD Family Resource Fair* at the Housing Authority of San Buenaventura, and *a Bilingual Family Event* at Saticoy Library.
- Fatherhood Initiative
    - Events focused on fathers and father-figures included a Paint and Play activity in Moorpark and a Little Ones and Leading Men's playgroup in El Rio.
- Training and Capacity Building
    - In alignment with the IMPACT grant coordinated by VCOE, NfL and WEB staff participated in Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) workshops. During these sessions, staff examined strategies for effectively promoting cognitive development concepts in their work with families.

- Help Me Grow (HMG)
    - Four members of the HMG team attended the HMG National Forum from July 14-16 in Hartford, CT.
    - The Director of Early Childhood Programs served on the event planning committee, contributing to the development of the agenda and facilitating sessions designed to support HMG systems in expanding and strengthening their programs
- Welcome EVERY Baby
    - The WEB team hosted events to support socialization and parent education for home visiting families including a *Baby and Me Book Club* at College Park in Oxnard and *a CPR/First Aid Demo* by the Oxnard Fire Department at the WEB office in Oxnard.

<u>Home Visitation Coordination Grant</u>

- On June 30th, F5VC concluded a 13-month regional home visiting coordination grant from First 5 California.
    - This initiative, conducted in partnership with First 5 Santa Barbara and First 5 San Luis Obispo, supported system-level improvements across the home visitation landscape in Ventura County.
- New bilingual home visiting eligibility tools are available to assist care coordinators and families in identifying appropriate home visiting programs.
    - The resources are a first of their kind in Ventura County, addressing systematic barriers and increasing awareness of available services.
- The Ventura County Home Visiting Summit hosted over 110 home visitors and community partners and featured professional development on trauma-informed care, maternal mental health, and early childhood development.

<u>Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) MOU signed</u>

- This MOU between Ventura County Medi-Cal Managed Care Commission (Gold Coast Health Plan) and First 5 Ventura County establishes a framework for coordinating services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries, particularly those prenatal to age five.
    - The agreement outlines roles, responsibilities, and processes for ensuring effective care coordination and service delivery, with a term of two years starting from August 1, 2025.
- An MOU between F5VC and Kaiser is still under development.

<u>Parent Leadership</u>

- F5VC staff and Parent Leaders gathered for an annual picnic at Valle Lindo Park. Parents enjoyed spending time with one another and F5 Staff and expressed wanting do get together more often.
- 5 parents presented on the completion of the years' work developing the Parent Leader Handbook and upcoming new parent leader recruitment process.

Advocacy

- F5VC supported the following three United Way Calls for Action:
    - Strengthening the Child Tax Credit in the Tax Bill https://www.votervoice.net/UWW/Campaigns/121902/Respond
    - Preserve and Protect SNAP and Medicaid https://www.votervoice.net/UWW/Campaigns/122215/Respond
    - Protect Federal Investments in Head Start https://www.votervoice.net/UWW/Campaigns/125612/Respond
- Congressman Salud Carbajal and Senator Adam Schiff both sent letters in response to F5VCs advocacy efforts.
    - See attached

County, Regional, National Updates

Isabella Project Early Care Hub

- With the leadership of over 125 partners and input from hundreds of community members, the Isabella Project announced the location of a new early care hub, adjacent to undeveloped land on the Briggs Elementary School property in Santa Paula.
    - The mission of the Isabella Project is to ensure all children in Ventura County, starting in Santa Paula, have access to high-quality, full-time early care and education that meets their families' needs.
- In Santa Paula, there are more than 2,000 children under age 5, but only 881 formal early learning spaces. The early care hub will create approximately 200 more spaces for early childhood education, serving children ages 0 to 5, and will include a variety of wrap-around services to better serve young children, families and childcare professionals.
    - The F5VC Neighborhoods for Learning will be one of three anchor organizations, along with Child Development Resources and the Briggs Elementary School.

First 5 Association (F5AC)

- First 5 Association membership dues increased for the first time in 9 years, with Ventura's contribution increasing from $17,347 to $32,929.
    - The new formula attempts to be responsive to the feedback of all 58 county members and six regions in California, while supporting the stability and momentum of the Association.
    - Timing of the increased dues is not ideal as Prop 10 revenues continue to decline. However, the need for a strong First 5 network and urgency around sustainability and growth is at its peak.

Federal updates

- Budget reconciliation package HR1 – "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (OBBBA)
  - U.S. House of Representatives narrowly passed a final budget reconciliation Package, later signed by President Trump, advancing new and expiring tax cuts, investing hundreds of billions of dollars in border enforcement, rolling back clean energy initiatives, outlining new program requirements and eligibility, and making significant cuts to the safety net.
    - Initial analysis suggests that the measure would cut Medicaid spending by nearly $1 trillion over 10 years, which, combined with changes to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), will lead to nearly 12 million individuals losing their health insurance. Cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are projected to be roughly $186 billion over 10 years, with nearly 3 million individuals losing access to the program.
  - Because this legislation (OBBBA) is not paid for in its entirety, the Office of Management and Budget must, under a 2010 law, make commensurate sequestration cuts to eligible mandatory programs unless Congress acts to waive these requirements, which are referred to as "S-PAYGO."
    - Due to the size of the deficit increase enacted under the bill, if Congress does not waive PAYGO, Medicare may see $500 billion in cuts over 10 years. Additionally, sequestration cuts could end up eliminating the Social Services Block Grant, the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, and mandatory portion of the Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs through 2034.
    - OMB typically issues its PAYGO notice within 14 days of the end of a Congressional session. Thus, Congress will have several months to waive PAYGO requirements.

- HHS bans illegal aliens from accessing programs
    - A new policy issued by Secretary Kennedy and HHS restricts programs, including Head Start and federally funded health clinics, from serving undocumented children as has been allowed for the past thirty years under exemptions for states to extend benefits to immigrants without legal status, including programs for public health and emergency services.
    - https://www.hhs.gov/press-room/prwora-hhs-bans-illegal-aliens-accessing-taxpayer-funded-programs.html

Upcoming Events

First 5 Committees
Administration / Finance Committee Meeting - Friday, August 1, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Committee on
Transportation
and Infrastructure
Coast Guard and Maritime
Transportation, Ranking
Member
Aviation
Highways and Transit

Committee on Armed
Services
Strategic Forces
Tactical Air and Land
Forces

Committee on Agriculture
Nutrition and Foreign
Agriculture

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carbajal.house.gov

Dear Ms. Arzu,

Thank you for contacting me regarding your thoughts on President Trump and his administration. As your Member of Congress, I appreciate hearing from you as it helps keep me informed of your priorities.

In his first months back in office, President Trump has unlawfully fired countless civil servants, law enforcement agents, and veterans while gutting key agencies like the Social Security Administration, HUD, and NOAA. There remains an ongoing legal battle in the courts regarding the reinstatement of thousands of these workers. I am committed to ensuring that these important federal agencies are able to perform their duties on behalf of our communities.

The administration has also targeted crucial federal agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the U.S. Forest Service, and others. I have spoken out against the gutting of the Department of Health and Human Services and the closure of several Head Start offices, in addition to cuts to AmeriCorps. Trump has been conducting this unlawful takeover through unelected billionaires like Elon Musk and the so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). He has even granted DOGE access to highly sensitive government systems. That's why I helped introduce legislation to push back against this power grab. These purges have deprived Americans of essential services and protections. President Trump remains determined to fire public health workers, educators, servicemembers, and other dedicated professionals.

Among the many agencies targeted is USAID. Alongside my colleagues, I have written to Secretary of State Marco Rubio to oppose the administration's unilateral efforts to dismantle this vital institution. This not only violates Congress's constitutional authority but also erodes our national security by emboldening our adversaries. On March 18th, a federal judge ruled that DOGE's efforts to dismantle the agency likely violated the Constitution and blocked any further shutdown attempts. These rulings are welcome steps. However, given Trump's repeated disregard of the law and his tendency to empower felons like himself, I remain committed to reining in this executive overreach.

The president has also sought to eliminate key agencies such as the United States Postal Service, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, while slashing key research funding for universities and medical centers. Additionally, President Trump's efforts to abolish the Department of Education (ED) are particularly abhorrent. I've signed onto legislation to protect public education and urge my colleagues to do the same. I have also joined my Democratic colleagues in opposing cuts to SNAP and other food assistance programs.

Since arriving in Congress, I've worked across the aisle whenever possible to craft policies that help our communities and strengthen our nation. Unfortunately, the current House leadership has taken a divisive and highly partisan approach. That's why, on May 22nd, I strongly opposed the budget reconciliation passed by House Republicans. This sweeping and reckless proposal would gut funding for Medicare, Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and SNAP, while handing massive tax breaks to billionaires. In my district, more than 236,000 people rely on Medicaid, including nearly 99,000 children and 24,000 seniors. Additionally, the 42,000 people who receive ACA coverage would see their premiums skyrocket by an average of $2,420 per year. Nearly 119,000 residents in our district use SNAP benefits to put food on the table, including hundreds of veterans.

The Republican budget fails working families. While claiming fiscal responsibility, this plan would add trillions to our national debt and slash programs that serve seniors, children, and veterans. I voted no because our communities deserve better. It is especially telling that Trump is determined to strip essential programs from our communities while accepting luxury gifts from foreign governments. I will continue to fight back against this extreme and self-serving agenda.

This is yet another installment in the president's agenda to undermine working Americans. Since taking office, Trump has obstructed billions in Congressionally approved funds, stalling projects that support seniors, students, and critical infrastructure on the Central Coast. His executive order freezing funding from the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law—legislation I helped craft—is a direct violation of federal law. On March 6th, a district court judge blocked the administration from continuing to withhold these funds. I have heard directly from constituents about how this freeze has stalled critical projects, and I will not stand by as this blatant executive obstruction continues.

Meanwhile, Trump's reckless tariff policies threaten to raise prices on everyday goods and destabilize our economy. His erratic trade agenda included a blanket 10 percent tariff on all imports and sharp increases targeting specific countries. On May 28th, a federal court struck down key parts of the plan. Unfortunately, an appeals court has since temporarily reinstated these tariffs. I am

committed to continuing to oppose these disastrous economic policies and fight them through a range of different approaches.

Trump has also waged attacks against our immigrant and minority communities, universities, and the legal system. His insistence on illegally deporting residents against court orders demonstrates his disdain for the rule of law. I have also spoken out against his targeting of students and activists. I'm also concerned about his attacks on the press and national broadcasting. Congress must act as a check on this executive overreach. I will continue working to uphold the rule of law, protect federal investments in our communities, and lower prices for families across the Central Coast.

Again, I value the time you took to contact me on this issue. I hope that you will continue to reach out and share your viewpoint. Please keep in touch by visiting my website, following me on Facebook, Instagram, Blusky, Twitter, or signing up for my e-newsletter.

Sincerely,

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

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AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Dear Ms. Arzu:

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding H.Con.Res.14, the Republican budget resolution. I appreciate hearing from you and welcome the chance to respond.

As you may know, the Senate considered the Republican budget resolution, H.Con.Res.14, on April 5, 2025. Passing the budget resolution was Republicans' first step in a parliamentary procedure called "reconciliation." The reconciliation process allows Republicans to enact President Trump's policy priorities, like tax cuts for billionaires, with a simple majority in the Senate, rather than the 60-vote filibuster. This budget resolution directing Congressional committees to set spending levels, which will then be packaged into an omnibus reconciliation bill.

I voted against the Republican resolution because hard-working Californians deserve lower costs and a government that is working for them, not against them. And, as the cost of gas, groceries, and housing continue to rise, this budget will make matters much worse by potentially cutting $880 billion in Medicaid funding and $230 billion in funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). These cuts will allow Republicans to pass President Trump's tax plan, which will extend provisions of the *Tax Cut and Jobs Act* (TCJA). The TCJA drastically reduced taxes for the wealthiest Americans and corporations, and it did so in part by shifting the tax burden onto middle-income families, especially in states like California.

For Republicans, gutting assistance for working and middle-class families to pay for tax cuts for billionaires is a tradeoff they are eager to make. In fact, my Republican colleagues blocked amendments to the budget resolution which would have removed Trump's economy-destroying tariffs, protected disaster recovery and relief funds, secured Social Security and Medicaid funds, and preserved federal lands.

As the Senate proceeds with the budget reconciliation process, I will continue working to lower costs, address the housing crisis, and improve access to health care for Californians, not giving tax cuts to billionaires. Please be assured that I will keep your views in mind when the Senate considers this issue.

Transparency has been a goal of mine throughout my time in Congress. You can find detailed information on every bill introduced in the Senate on Congress.gov, including the summary and full text of the legislation, which Senators have co-sponsored it, and the most recent action taken by Congress.

An ongoing job of a Senator is to help constituents solve problems with federal agencies, access services, and get their questions answered promptly. On my website, I offer a guide to the services my office can provide, as well as a contact form where you can share your priorities with me. You can also connect with me online via Facebook or Twitter, and you can always reach my office by phone at (202) 224-3841.

Thank you again for your thoughts. I hope you will continue to share your views and ideas with me.

Sincerely,

Adam B. Schiff
UNITED STATES SENATOR