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May 25, 2023

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May 25, 2023
Commission on
State Mandates

### VIA DROPBOX

Heather Halsey
Executive Director
Commission on State Mandates
980 Ninth Street, Suit3 300
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Re: Claimant Reply-Comments - Test Claim 22-TC-02, Resentencing to Remove Sentencing Enhancements

Claimant, County of San Diego, submits this response to the April 28, 2023 comment letter submitted in this matter by the Department of Finance ("Department").

The Department recognizes that the Mandated Activities described in Section V of the Narrative Statement are state mandated new programs or higher levels of service. Without any explanation, the Department asserts that Senate Bill 483 as a whole relates directly to the enforcement of the crime or infraction and is, therefore, not a reimbursable state mandate under Government Code section 17556(g). This position, however, is not consistent with the exception in Government Code section 17556(g) ("Section 17556(g)") or this Commission's prior determinations.

Section 17556(g) is intended to implement the provisions of Section 6(a)(2) of Article XIII B of the California Constitution ("Section 6(a)(2)") and must be read consistently with that provision. Section 6(a)(2) reads, in relevant part:

the Legislature may, but need not, provide a subvention of funds for the following mandates: ... Legislation defining a new crime or changing an existing definition of a crime."

Section 17556(g) reads, in relevant part (emphasis added):

The commission shall not find costs mandated by the state, ... if, after a hearing, the commission finds any one of the following: ... The statute created a new crime or infraction, eliminated a crime or infraction, or changed the penalty for a crime or infraction, *but only* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Department Letter at p. 1 ("SB 483 created a new process ..."), citing Gov. Code, § 17556, subd. (g).

# for that portion of the statute relating directly to the enforcement of the crime or infraction.

Exceptions to the subvention requirement must be narrowly construed to give effect to voter intent for Section 6.<sup>2</sup> As a result, to the extent Section 17556(g) added the exception for statutes that "changed the penalty for a crime or infraction" and then limited that exception to "only ... that portion of the statute relating directly the enforcement of a crime or infraction," the exception must be narrowly construed and the limitation on that exception must be broadly construed under *Long Beach Unified School District*. To construe exceptions and limitations otherwise is contrary to the constitution.

To the extent Senate Bill 483 changed the penalty for a crime, only sections 2(a) and 3(a) affected that change in penalty, by declaring "[a]ny sentence enhancement that was imposed .... legally invalid." This test claim does not seek reimbursement for sections 2(a) or 3(a) of Senate Bill 483.<sup>4</sup>

This test claim seeks reimbursement for costs incurred to comply with sections 2(b)-(e) and 3(b)-(e) of Senate Bill 483.<sup>5</sup> These sections go beyond changing the penalty for a crime and require Claimant to undertake additional non-enforcement related activities, including: (1) identifying and reviewing incarcerated individuals' records after a sentence has been invalidated; (2) acting as appointed counsel for individuals after a sentence has been invalidated; and (3) representing individuals and the State of California regarding the applicability of post-conviction changes in law and all "post-conviction factors" (the "Mandated Activities").

This Commission has previously determined that the same types of activities as the Mandated Activities do not directly relate to enforcement of a crime.<sup>6</sup> The Mandated Activities involve evidence gathering and presentation activities and activities to assess a defendant's future probability of committing a crime which this Commission determined did not "directly penalize a defendant" or "relate directly to the enforcement of a crime" for purposes of Section 6(a)(2).<sup>7</sup> The codification of these requirements in Part 2 of the Penal Code – "Of Criminal Procedure," further demonstrates that the Test Claim Statutes do not relate "directly to the enforcement of the crime or infraction."

Finally, to the extent there is any uncertainty regarding whether the Mandated Activities relate directly to the enforcement of a crime, *Long Beach Unified School District* requires Section

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Long Beach Unified School Dist. v. State of California (1990) 225 Cal.App.3d 155, 175.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Codified at Penal Code §§ 1172.7(a), 1172.75(a).

 $<sup>^4</sup>$  Id

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Codified at Penal Code §§ 1172.7(b)-(e), 1172.75(b)-(e).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See Domestic Violence Treatment Services – Authorization and Case Management, Statement of Decision, (April 23, 1998) CSM File No. CSM-9628101 ("DVTS-ACM"); see also State Authorized Risk Assessment Tool for Sex Offenders, Statement of Decision, (Jan. 24, 2014) 08-TC-03 ("SARATSO").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> SARATSO, *supra*, at pp. 29-30; see also DVTS-ACM, *supra*, at p. 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Gov. Code, § 17556, subd. (g).

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17556(g) to be applied in a constitutional manner – that is, by honoring voter intent to limit exceptions to the State's subvention obligation.

Under this Commission's previous rulings and the requirement to construe subvention exceptions narrowly, Government Code section 17556(g) provides no basis for excepting the State from its subvention obligation.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Andrews

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## **DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY EMAIL**

I, the undersigned, declare as follows:

I am a resident of the County of Sacramento and I am over the age of 18 years, and not a party to the within action. My place of employment is 980 Ninth Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, California 95814.

On May 25, 2023, I served the:

Claimant's Rebuttal Comments filed May 25, 2023

Resentencing to Remove Sentencing Enhancements, 22-TC-02 Statutes 2021, Chapter 728 (SB 483); Penal Code Sections 1171 and 1171.1 (now codified at Penal Code sections 1172.7 and 1172.75); effective January 1, 2022 County of San Diego, Claimant

by making it available on the Commission's website and providing notice of how to locate it to the email addresses provided on the attached mailing list.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on May 25, 2023 at Sacramento, California.

Jill L. Magee

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# **COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES**

## **Mailing List**

Last Updated: 5/17/23 Claim Number: 22-TC-02

Matter: Resentencing to Remove Sentencing Enhancements

Claimant: County of San Diego

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