

San Mateo County Vehicle License Fee Shortfall

SAMCEDA is supporting the County of San Mateo and every city and town in the county in raising awareness and support for a permanent fix to the failed vehicle license fee funding mechanism created in 2004.

Why this matters now

While 55 counties receive the full vehicle license fee funding they are owed, San Mateo County continues to be shortchanged. More than **\$119 million** in local revenue is at risk this year alone. When combined with funding still owed from the previous fiscal year, the State's total obligation now exceeds **\$157 million** to San Mateo County cities and the county itself.

Upcoming press conference
9:45 AM - Tuesday, April 7, 2026
In front of the downtown Redwood City Fire Station
Please attend and share this information with your boards and key committees.

What is at risk for local communities

- **Housing & Homelessness:** Nearly 3,000 people could lose shelter access, and more than 5,500 households could lose rental assistance, increasing the risk of homelessness.
- **Health & Public Safety:** Cuts could affect mental health care, crisis response, wildfire prevention, and the number of nurses, police officers, firefighters, and emergency responders available to serve residents.
- **Children & Families:** About 7,400 children could lose access to early literacy programs.
- **Core Local Services:** Communities could face reductions to libraries, parks, youth and senior programs, and delayed road repairs and infrastructure maintenance that drive up long-term costs.
- **Business impacts:** If this revenue is not restored, cities may be forced to consider new taxes, including increases that target businesses.

FY 2024-25 VLF shortfall by local community (as of 06/2025)

Local Community	Shortfall
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO	\$70,791,933
CITY OF ATHERTON	\$740,511
CITY OF BELMONT	\$1,822,923
CITY OF BRISBANE	\$282,431
CITY OF BURLINGAME	\$2,360,463
TOWN OF COLMA	\$69,476
CITY OF DALY CITY	\$6,508,613
CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO	\$2,461,332
CITY OF HALF MOON BAY	\$709,075
TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH	\$760,797
CITY OF MENLO PARK	\$2,890,107
CITY OF MILLBRAE	\$1,642,823
CITY OF PACIFICA	\$2,402,495
TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY	\$305,120
CITY OF REDWOOD CITY	\$5,380,190
CITY OF SAN BRUNO	\$2,961,313
CITY OF SAN CARLOS	\$2,328,964
CITY OF SAN MATEO	\$6,879,037
CITY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO	\$5,195,430
CITY OF WOODSIDE	\$405,070
CITY OF FOSTER CITY	\$2,340,648
Total Countywide VLF Shortfall	\$119,238,751

Key message: This is not an abstract accounting issue. It directly affects local housing, safety, early learning, infrastructure, and the business climate throughout San Mateo County.