

STAND WITH SAN MATEO COUNTY

DON'T MISS THE RALLY

Show state leaders that our community is united in protecting essential funding.

Join hundreds of San Mateo County leaders - including elected officials, labor leaders, public safety representatives, nonprofits, and business leaders—to highlight the real impacts of the VLF funding shortfall and support a lasting fix.

Protect Essential VLF Funding in San Mateo County

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Downtown Redwood City Fire Station,
755 Marshall Street, Redwood City

Please arrive no later than 9:45AM, event starts promptly at 10:00AM
Metered street parking and Marshall Street Garage

San Mateo County is being shorted more than **\$100 million annually** due to a broken state funding formula.

WHY THIS MATTERS

If not fixed, nearly **\$1 billion could be lost over the next decade**, putting essential services at risk, including:

- Public safety and emergency response
 - Health and mental health services
- Housing and homelessness programs

Please RSVP Right Away and Bring Your Colleagues and Staff!



tinyurl.com/VLFFundingNow



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.



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March 5, 2026

The Honorable State Senator Sasha Renée Pérez
Chair, Senate Education Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 6720
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT – SB 968 (Becker) – Making SMCCCD Free College Permanent

Dear Hon. Chair State Senator Pérez,

For seven decades, the San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA) has been a leading voice for the economic engine that is San Mateo County. SAMCEDA believes in the power of a strong economy driven by an appreciation of what that engine provides to our ecosystem on the Peninsula.

By working with employers of all sizes and industries, engaging with our public sector and our elected leadership, recognizing that we have 21 individual jurisdictions (20 cities and one county) and collaborating and communicating with the Chambers of Commerce, non-profit organizations and our educational institutions, SAMCEDA tackles the most difficult challenges through goal-oriented solutions.

On behalf of SAMCEDA, I am pleased to support *SB 968*, which would remove the sunset date and make permanent the successful *Free College* pilot program at the San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD).

Launched in 2023 under *SB 893* (Becker, 2022), the program allows the District to use existing local revenues to cover tuition and fees for San Mateo County residents. In just three years, *Free College* has helped more than 33,500 students attend Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College tuition-free.

The program is producing strong outcomes. Students participating in *Free College* are two to three times more likely to complete their degrees than non-participants, demonstrating that removing financial barriers improves both access and student success.

Importantly, this program operates without state General Fund dollars, demonstrating that locally funded strategies can expand access to higher education while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Free College has already helped thousands of local students pursue higher education and build pathways to careers in our region. *SB 968* will ensure students and families can continue to rely on this proven program into the future.

For these reasons, SAMCEDA respectfully encourages your support for *SB 968*.

Sincerely,



Rosanne Foust
President & CEO, SAMCEDA