

Agenda Item 4A – Updated planks

TRIBAL GAMING COMPACTS & LAND USE

Principle	
Local Control	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County of Santa Barbara supports government-to-government relations that recognize the role and unique interests of tribes, states, counties, and other local governments to protect all members of their communities and to provide governmental services and infrastructure beneficial to all. In addition, the County recognizes and respects the tribal right of self-governance to provide for tribal members and to preserve traditional tribal culture and heritage. In similar fashion, the County recognizes and promotes self-governance by counties to provide for the health, safety, and general welfare of all members of our communities. In order to provide for full participation by all community members, the County supports the full involvement of local government agencies on issues and activities taking place on tribal fee or trust lands which may create impacts to public health, safety or the environment.

The County of Santa Barbara recognizes that gaming on tribal land in California is governed by a unique structure that combines federal, state, and tribal law. While the impacts of gaming fall primarily on local communities and governments, policy is largely directed and controlled at the state and federal level. However, consistent with the legislative platform adopted by the California Association of Counties (CSAC), many impacted counties find that the compacts as well as distribution of funds via the Special Distribution Fund (SDF) fail to adequately address these impacts and/or to provide meaningful and enforceable mechanisms to prevent or mitigate impacts.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: Funding Request Legislative Proposal Targeted Advocacy

Action:

Support the restoration of full funding of the county share as a direct contribution of the annual Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund with letters of support, as well as, the appearance and testimony of County lobbyists.

In the spirit of developing and continuing government-to-government relationships between federal, tribal, state, and local governments; the County of Santa Barbara will coordinate work with CSAC, NACo, and the legislative delegation to improve existing and future Compact language in the following areas:

1. A Tribal Government constructing or expanding a casino or other related businesses or development that impacts off-reservation land will seek review and approval of the local jurisdiction to construct off-reservation improvements consistent with state law and local ordinances including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
2. A Tribal Government operating a casino or other related businesses or development will mitigate all off-reservation impacts caused by project. In order to ensure consistent regulation, public participation, and maximum environmental protection, Tribes will promulgate and publish environmental protection laws that are at least as stringent as those of the surrounding local community and comply with CEQA.
3. A Tribal Government operating a casino or other related businesses or development will be subject to the authority of a local jurisdiction over health and safety issues including, but not limited to, water service, sewer service, fire inspection and protection, rescue/ambulance service, food inspection, and law enforcement, and reach written agreement on such points.
4. A Tribal Government operating a casino or other related businesses or development will pay to the local jurisdiction the Tribe's fair share of appropriate costs for local government services. These services include, but are not limited to, water, sewer, fire inspection and protection, rescue/ambulance, food inspection, health and social services, law enforcement, roads, transit, flood control, and other public infrastructure.

5. The Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund, created by Section 5 of the Tribal-State Compact will not be the exclusive source of mitigation, but will ensure that counties receive some funding to mitigate off-reservation impacts caused by tribal gaming.

The County of Santa Barbara continues to support the policy and platform positions of CSAC and NACo stating that judicially enforceable agreements between counties and tribal governments must be required in order to ensure that potential impacts resulting from projects are fully analyzed and mitigated to the satisfaction of the surrounding local governments. These agreements would fully mitigate local impacts from a tribal government's business and development activities and fully identify the governmental services to be provided by the county to that tribe. Furthermore, the County will continue to work in conjunction with the CSAC Indian Gaming Working Group to assist in the development of information and policy positions for consideration by CSAC.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Involvement of the local government, general public and technical consultants in matters pertaining to future land use and potential development is critical to the overall review of any project to ensure compliance with Community Plans and the County's General Plan. Failure to fully engage critical stakeholders in project development and review impairs the ability of a local government to seek appropriate mitigation and/or provide critical public services which may have long term impacts on a region as a whole.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The County of Santa Barbara previously enjoyed a distribution from the SDF of approximately \$1.4 million annually. Recent reports from the state Legislative Analysts Office and Controllers office indicate that funds are unlikely to be available for gaming impact mitigation grants. These funds were previously utilized to fund fire, law enforcement, and capital projects. In addition development which occurs on lands taken fee to trust are taken off property tax rolls thus critical revenue to address service and infrastructure related impacts are lost to a local government in perpetuity.

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ARTS COMMISSION

Principle	
Job Growth/Economic Vitality	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The role of Arts and Culture in the community is not appreciated as a force in developing economic vitality. Recent studies and arts-grant funding initiatives at the National and State level are helping to demonstrate the vital impact arts & culture have on the economy and on civic engagement. Art includes, but is not limited to literary, visual and performing arts, dance, drama, film and new media.

Arts as a tool for creating economic vitality and stimulating job growth.

Nationally, Creative Placemaking has proven to be invaluable as a tool in stimulating and creating economic development, job growth, neighborhood revitalization, greater vitality, while building safer communities and neighborhoods.

Creating a workforce for the 21st Century- Support for Arts Education in Schools

Studies have proven that workforce needs are dramatically shifting. The Business Sector and companies are looking for employees with new skill sets that focus on “out of the box” thinking and solutions; and workers that do well as part of a team. Studies show that arts in schools help develop these skills and better prepare youth for the job market and new career paths. Studies show that students exposed to arts in school stay in school and are less likely to drop out.

Arts as a tool for addressing Social Service Issues:

A number of recent initiatives are employing arts to solve social issues. Examples are programs that engage veterans and their families in arts programs and arts in prison that are aimed to decrease recidivism.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: Funding Request Legislative Proposal Targeted Advocacy

Action: Support legislative efforts to increase funding support from the **National Endowment for the Arts** (NEA) and the **California Arts Council** (CAC) in particular. The NEA and CAC agencies are committed to supporting the Arts and increasing access to the arts for all. Programs for literary, visual and performing arts, as well as intra-disciplinary arts are included. A number of initiatives and grants focus on the arts as a tool for creating economic vitality. Additionally, each do Economic Impact Studies and research to indicate the economic impact of art and culture which have been powerful tools in shaping public opinion and policy.

Support legislative efforts to increase funding support for Arts Education in the Schools/Preparing next generation workforce.

Support for Public Art Programs and Creative Placemaking grant opportunities that link the public and private sectors, and programs that link Arts to addressing Social Services (i.e., Arts linked to veteran’s families, people with disabilities and, the incarcerated).

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

- Quality of life and lifelong learning
- Building alliances between the public and private sector
- Increased access to art results in community engagement
- Public spaces and parks activated through the arts /Increased public safety
- Preserving cultural assets and practices and increasing cross-cultural understanding
- Providing youth with opportunities and skills for careers to meet a changing workforce

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Grant funds from National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and California Arts Council (CAC) are used to attract private sector support and to leverage matching public sector funds. The Arts Commission's recently awarded \$43,500 California Creative Community Grant for the LightWorks Isla Vista Project in collaboration with the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB) Arts Department, and Isla Vista Recreation & Parks Department is an example.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Principle	
Community Sustainability	
Strategy	Target
Funding & Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The National Association of Homebuilders reported Santa Barbara County as the 5th least affordable small housing market in the nation. The elimination of redevelopment agency funding at the state level and reductions in federal affordable housing funds puts greater emphasis on finding other funding streams to help create and preserve both affordable rental and ownership housing. There is a need for improvement in community resources, services, and infrastructure to improve the economic, social and community well-being of the County. The impact of the lack of affordable housing, social services, and accessible employment was underscored by the County’s 2013 Poverty Study, which found an unacceptably high percentage of County residents living below the federal poverty threshold, including an increasing incidence of child poverty. Federal resources, such as the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) programs have continually been subject to appropriation reductions; since 2010, the County’s funding for these programs dropped 43%. Such reductions negatively impact our community as this funding provides an important resource to address County needs in the areas of capital infrastructure, public service, micro-economic development and affordable housing. Such funding is critical in maintaining a level of community sustainability that provides for a growing and vibrant economy. The County also supports creative strategies to preserve, build, and make affordable housing available for individual and family households countywide.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: Funding Request Legislative Proposal Targeted Advocacy

Action:

The County supports community development program efforts at the local, state, and national level to: 1) provide resources to address the housing needs of elderly persons, persons with disabilities (including developmental disabilities), low-moderate income households, workforce households, large families, farmworker households, single parent headed households, persons needing emergency shelter, transitional housing and supportive housing, and veteran households; and 2) create public-private partnerships to develop housing and services. At the state level, the County supports advocacy for housing finance bills in the Legislature to create a dedicated source of revenue to produce new housing. At the federal level, the County supports continued advocacy for affordable housing and community development programs including, but not limited to, CDBG, HOME, the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program and the new National Housing Trust Fund, which will begin in 2016. The County also supports full funding of HUD’s homeless assistance programs, such as the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and the Continuum of Care (CoC) programs.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The development of affordable housing at all income levels will not only help mitigate the County’s housing crisis, but will increase construction jobs and tax revenues. Federal and state efforts to develop creative funding strategies, such as a \$75 recordation fee on real estate transactions, the LIHTC Program, and the National Housing Trust Fund, among other federal and state programs, will help to address housing needs. The availability of housing and community services supports stronger communities, improved outcomes in schools, and work-ready community residents. Federal and state legislation in support of housing and community infrastructure would stimulate the construction industry, generating tax revenue and positive ripple effects throughout the economy.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The Federal CDBG and HOME programs provide up to 20% and 10%, respectively, of the annual grant amount to offset program administration costs to government. Advocates point out that for every \$1 in CDBG or HOME funds expended, the community leverages over \$4 from other sources. In terms of the cost benefit to government in providing funding to supportive housing for homeless persons, a 2010 study by the National Alliance to end Homelessness found that the use of permanent supportive housing was cost effective and reduced the use of shelter, ambulance, police/jails, health care, emergency room, behavioral health, and other service costs. Secondary positive impacts include improved outcomes for children and families, low/moderate income households, senior adults, disabled households, and veterans.

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REGIONAL COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECTS – FEDERAL AUTHORITY FOR CALIFORNIA

Principle	
Community Sustainability	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Our coast provides enormous recreational and economic benefits and houses an immense range of ecological resources. However, the California Coast is under severe threat from:

- Coastal erosion
- Storm damage
- Coastal environmental impacts
- Sea level rise

These threats not only impact the ecological, recreational and economic threats to the coast, but the ability to maintain navigation channels as well. Regional Sediment Management solutions to these threats include:

- Recognizing coastal sediment as a natural resource
- Maintaining and enhancing the natural sand (sediment) supply on the coast
- Ensuring regular small-harbor dredging and improving the beneficial reuse of sediment (i.e., use of dredged sand from harbors)
- Linking coastal sand needs with availability
- Undertaking beach nourishment projects and considering other innovative technologies to maintain our coastal beaches

With the exception of harbor dredging, there are no specific Federal Authorities in place designed to fund Regional Sediment Management Projects that can result in a systems approach to a sustainable and resilient California Coast. Over the past eight years, nine separate regions along the California Coast have prepared or are preparing Regional Sediment Management Plans that define appropriate projects and policies to address regional challenges. As a result, California is ready to act.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: Funding Request Legislative Proposal Targeted Advocacy

Action:

Establish Federal Authority that is consistent with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) mission of coastal risk reduction, ecosystem restoration and navigation, and that will fund Regional Sediment Management projects on the California Coast. The purpose of the Federal Authority will be to:

- Implement coastal projects that restore, maintain, and enhance the natural flow of sediments to the coast
- Ensure regular small-harbor dredging
- Improve beneficial use of sediment from dredging operations
- Link coastal sand needs with availability
- Implement beach nourishment and consider the use of innovative technologies to maintain California's coastal beaches
- Implement coastal wetland and coastal dune restoration projects.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The 1,100 mile California Coast is one of the most prized natural resources in the nation. It provides enormous recreational and economic benefits and includes an extensive array of ecological resources. However, this vital resource is under constant threat from upland and coastal development, ocean pollution, rising sea-levels, increasingly frequent intense coastal storms, and a reduction in the natural sediment supply. To address these threats, Coastal Regional Sediment Management Plans funded through the USACE and cost shared with the State have resulted in a comprehensive and integrated approach for resolving coastal issues in California.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The total projected cost to implement the BEACON Plan is \$175M over 20 to 30 years.

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ENERGY AND CLIMATE ACTION

Principle	
Community Sustainability	
Strategy	Target
Funding, Legislative, & Advocacy	Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

In March 2009, the County of Santa Barbara instituted taking immediate, cost-effective and coordinated steps to reduce the County’s collective Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. The County has since accelerated existing or established new sustainability initiatives, including making clean energy and building efficiency improvements to public facilities, and helping residents and businesses do the same. The County recently produced an Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP) to lower GHG emissions 15% below baseline levels (2007) by 2020. The ECAP includes fifty emission reduction measures encompassed in the following 11 categories:

Community Choice Energy	Industrial Energy Efficiency
Sustainable Communities Strategy	Waste Reduction
Land Use Design	Agriculture
Transportation	Water Efficiency
Built Environment	Governmental Operations
Renewable Energy	

While some of the emission reduction measures in the ECAP are already in existence, others require funding for further development. The ability to fully develop the ECAP measures and make sustainable energy programs more robust is integral for countywide reduction of energy consumption in order to meet climate and sustainability goals.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: Funding Request Legislative Proposal Targeted Advocacy

Action:

The County supports advocacy for sustainability initiatives and seeks funding to implement emission reduction and sustainability measures; for example, 41% of the emission reductions in the County’s ECAP are anticipated to come from voluntary building efficiency initiatives. Executive, regulatory or legislative items that could impact the local climate action planning and implementation efforts are policies related to Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing, net zero or high performance buildings, Community Choice Energy, distributed clean energy, and alternative transportation. Potential funding sources include, but are not limited to grants, rate-payer funded contracts, and revenue generation opportunities.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Co-benefits of climate action implementation and achieving the ECAP goal of lowering GHG emissions 15% below baseline levels by 2020 include:

- Reduced energy usage
- Support of the local economy
- Improved mobility
- Informed public
- Improved public health
- Reduction in water use
- Monetary savings
- Conservation of natural resources

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Specific emission reduction measures not already in existence will vary in cost; costs for development and implementation of most are anticipated to be good candidates for external funding, while others may require County investment.

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