



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY 2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

Highlights of Board of Supervisors' Policy Actions

Mission

The mission of Santa Barbara County is to provide **quality public services** to the people of Santa Barbara County in response to their need for a **healthy, safe, and prosperous environment**; and to establish and maintain a workforce which reflects the **diversity** of the community.

About the County Board of Supervisors

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors serves as the legislative and executive body of Santa Barbara County government. The Board generally convenes in regular session on three Tuesdays each month. Two of these meetings are held in Santa Barbara and one in Santa Maria. The Board sets policy for County departments, oversees the County budget, and adopts ordinances on local matters, as well as land use policies that affect unincorporated areas (areas outside of cities). County departments make recommendations to the Board and implement its actions. The Sheriff-Coroner, District Attorney, Clerk-Recorder-Assessor, Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator, and Auditor-Controller are independently elected offices. There were 41 Board of Supervisors meetings in 2015, and at each meeting dozens of items came to the Board for a vote. Below are a few highlights of the major policy decisions made by the Board of Supervisors during their regularly scheduled meetings and department achievements authorized by the Board of Supervisors, grouped by the County's general policy goals.



Efficient and Responsive Government

Maintain an efficient professionally managed government able to anticipate and to effectively respond to the needs of the people.

- Adopted a balanced budget for fiscal year 2015/2016 with fewer service reductions than in prior years and fulfilled the Strategic Reserve or County's General Fund savings target now at \$29.6 million.
- Hired several new department heads. Eric Peterson was appointed as Fire Chief, George Chapjian assumed the helm of the Community Services Department, Alice Gleghorn Ph.D. was brought on board to lead the Alcohol Drug Mental Health Services Department, Lori Gentles was retained to lead Human Resources and Lupe Rabago was selected by the Courts to provide leadership to the Probation Department.

- Approved the Countywide Information Technology Strategic Plan by General Services to set the foundation for system improvements moving forward.
- Appointed an ad-hoc subcommittee to discuss land use and financial issues and other matters of mutual concern with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians.

Health and Safety

Provide safe and healthy communities in which to live work and visit.

- Board Chair convened the County's Disaster Council to ensure coordinated response and preparation for El Nino storm season as well as review progress on declared local emergencies for the drought and Refugio Oil Spill.

- Completed Lower Mission Creek improvements from State Street to Yanonali Street in Santa Barbara.
- Responded in partnership with the State and Federal Agencies to the Refugio Oil Spill disaster, and ensured appropriate clean up and monitoring of all impacted areas and ensured ongoing updates on states of recovery efforts and County oversight of onshore oil operations countywide from P&D Energy Division.
- Expanded mental health services by establishing the first mental health crisis stabilization unit in South County, with second unit slated for in North County in 2016, and provided funding for 12 new residential beds to provide transition in care for individuals with mental illness.
- Amended the County Code to restrict smoking, use of tobacco products and the use of electronic smoking devices in public places and places of employment.



- Supported the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) oversight, evaluation and implementation of AB109 programs and strategies and received an update on the County's partnership with Pew Research Center's "Results First" to insure evidence based public safety programs reduce recidivism.
- Expanded capacity at Public Health Care Centers to accommodate over 8,000 new Medi-Cal members began patient access to electronic records through "My Medical Home." Portal and received Patient Centered Medical Home Certification for Franklin and Carpenteria Clinics.
- Directed the preparation of an ordinance to provide for the safe, sustainable and convenient disposal of household medications.
- Adopted a single use plastic bag ban to promote reusable bags in grocery stores in the unincorporated area in order to reduce litter and environmental impacts.
- Established inaugural oversight board and began process to implemented the new Federally mandate Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act designed to provide targeted employment development opportunities to counties to meet unique employments and training needs of jobseekers.

- Enhanced gender specific programming at Juvenile Hall to address high risk needs and behaviors and added focused Sexual Exploitation Units under the District Attorney's Office and the Alcohol Drug Mental Health Department to enhance response to such crimes.
- Enhanced overall public safety and promoted the protection of the Isla Vista community during "Deltopia" and Halloween through amendments to County codes, increased public engagement, signage, constructed sidewalks and installed 299 LED streetlights and funded the Isla Vista Community Center Project.
- Approved plans for the new Northern Branch County Jail with a capacity of 376 additional beds, housing inmates of all custody levels, and scheduled to open in July 2018.
- Fully implemented Proposition 47 passed by the voters in November 2014 to reclassify certain non-violent felonies to misdemeanors and directed regular report backs on impact of the law.
- Complete Low Mission Creek Reaches 1a and 1b
- Economic Vitality – Provide for a community that is economically vital and sustainable:
- Provided second year of funding to establish the Economic Vitality Task Force designed to enhance the economic vitality and foster cooperation on economic issues across of all regions throughout the County.
- Provided \$400,000 for feasibility study of alternative energy sources to focus on Community Choice Aggregation and potentially allow the County to purchase alternative and renewable energy in bulk.
- Increased "Welfare to Work Employment Program" from 43 to 130 individuals through expanded subsidized employment program and regional job developers.
- Continued to support the agriculture industry through the Agriculture Commissioner's coordination of a multi-agency effort to combat invasive pests and creation of California Dog Team to enhance inspection of package delivery companies.
- Approved the Santa Ynez Tourism Business Improvement District to enhance tourism opportunities in the Santa Ynez Valley.

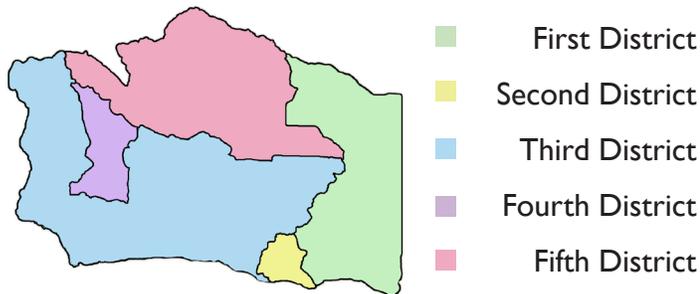




Quality of Life

Provide a high quality of life for all residents.

- Adopted the Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan following significant study, community planning and stakeholder engagement.
- Adopted changes to pet ownership ordinance and clarifying definitions for “restricted” and “vicious” dogs and directed County staff to work to find a rescue partner or foster placement for animals under eight weeks old that are separated from their mothers.
- Initiated Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan to comply with the State of California legislated Groundwater Regulations.
- Approved update to the Housing Element of the County Comprehensive Plan to include goals, policies, and programs for the development of affordable and special needs housing.
- Secured protection of Goleta Beach County Park recreational amenities and environmental resources through effective project planning, community engagement and Coastal Commission approval.
- Adopted the Land Use Element update to address disadvantaged communities; the Safety Element to address Fire hazards; The Los Alamos Pedestrian Circulation and Parking Plan; and The Energy Climate and Action Plan.
- Approved the Mission Park to Mission Canyon Multimodal Improvements Plan, and directed County staff to work collaboratively with City of Santa Barbara staff to pursue funding opportunities to implement the plan.
- Completed Pescadero Lofts affordable housing project with 33 units for formerly homeless persons in Isla Vista.
- Adopted the retooled Human Services Commission Grant Process to “grant for impact” by utilizing best practices and identifying priority needs Countywide.
- Monitored drought situation, received long-term water supply options report and directed staff to work collaboratively with all water purveyors to achieve water conservation goals and discuss long-term solutions.
- Implemented Board policy on maintenance funding and addressed critical projects in 2015 including park restrooms, ADA improvements and facility upgrades including fire stations, courts, public areas and parking lot repairs.
- Requested a complete review of jail medical and mental health services including a the development of a new request for proposal, and added a grievance coordinator to address concerns about delivery of inmate services.
- Approved the financing mechanism to publicly fund for the Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project.



(from left to right) First District Supervisor Salud Carbajal, Fourth District Supervisor Peter Adam, Second District Supervisor and Chair Janet Wolf, Third District Supervisor Doreen Farr, Fifth District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino.

- Completed over \$33 million in capital projects County wide including the courthouse elevator, crisis stabilization center, Lompoc Clinic rehabilitation, sidewalk construction, pavement preservation, Cathedral Oaks Bridge replacement, Arroyo Burro restroom improvements, Lake Cachuma facilities enhancements, play structures in various parks and multiple other projects countywide.
- Adopted the Local Agency Management Plan (LAMP) for onsite wastewater treatment systems in order to comply with State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regulations.

Citizen Involvement

Ensure that County government is accessible open and citizen friendly.

- Approved the first County Strategic Communications Plan and established a Communications Manager /Public Information Officer position to provide increased communications enhance information sharing and spearhead engagement with County residents on a daily basis and in an emergency.
- In partnership with UC Santa Barbara, expanded public access to government records and preserved an extensive survey of local history, by continuing to digitize and archive 127 years' worth of legislative records. Once restored and digitized, historic books will reside in the UCSB Library's Special Research Collections.
- Directed redesign and launched a County internet site for enhanced mobile device support.
- Conducted budget workshops in April to receive public input and provide the Board of Supervisors and public with an early opportunity to review and discuss proposed budgets, special issues, and staffing plans. Adopted Budget in June 2015 which included items discussed in workshops and additional public comments received during June Budget Hearings.
- Directed improvements to the Board and Commissions website, at the recommendation of the Commission on Women, for easier access and use.

Families and Children

Establish a community that fosters the safety and wellbeing of families and children.

- Executed an agreement to provide health (medical, dental, vision) insurance to children residing in Santa Barbara County with family incomes under 300% of the federal poverty level, who do not have access to affordable healthcare nor qualify for publicly-subsidized health insurance programs.
- Increased the number of nationally accredited preschool and child care providers thought the County to 32% far exceeding national average of 6%.

- Recognized as a "Top 10 County" and ranked as #7 in the State as a result of meeting or exceeding state and federal goals in paternity establishment, establishing orders for payment for child support, and collection of past due child support.
- Established regional Adult Protective Services Teams on self-neglect to address the needs of the elderly.
- Received update regarding the County 's ongoing efforts to address findings of the "Poverty Report" including enhancements to programs and services targeted to have a tangible and sustained impact on communities, individuals and poverty.
- Supported and reported on Veteran's Stand Down in Santa Maria which was attended by 527 veterans, their families, supporters and pets.



Contact Your Supervisor

If you have questions about how to participate in a Board of Supervisors' meeting, how the meetings are conducted, or how to contact your Supervisor, visit <http://countyofsb.org/bos>.

Learn More and Connect with Us

For a directory of County departments, email and phone numbers, please go to <http://countyofsb.org/deptlist.sbc>

We're on social media! To connect with us, please visit <http://countyofsb.org/socialmedia.sbc>.



We look forward to a productive and successful 2016!