PROPOSED 2017 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

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SANTA BARBARA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

PURPOSE

Established in 1991, the Legislative Program Committee is an advisory body to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors. A dynamic program of County sponsored legislative actions is developed and tracked by the Committee with the assistance of county departments and legislative advocates in Washington, DC and Sacramento. The Committee meets almost monthly and public comment is welcome. Committee membership includes: two members of the Board of Supervisors appointed by the Board, County Executive Officer, County Counsel, and the Auditor-Controller.

Each year, the Committee drafts a Legislative Platform of prioritized legislative principles, specific issues, projects and/or programs (priorities) that warrant targeted advocacy, funding requests and/or legislation. The proposed legislative Platform is recommended to the Board of Supervisors for subsequent review and approval. Once the Legislative Platform is adopted by the Board, various advocacy strategies are used to advance the identified principles and Legislative Platform Planks with regular reporting to the Legislative Program Committee. Pending legislation of interest to Santa Barbara County is tracked and updates of the status are provided continuously by legislative advocates to the Legislative Program Committee and the Board of Supervisors.

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Legislative Program for Santa Barbara County, in conjunction with its State and Federal advocates, successfully advanced the 2016 Platform Principles, including but not limited to the following:

Job Growth and Economic Vitality

-

Efficient Service Delivery and Operations

-

Fiscal Stability

-

Inter-Agency Collaboration

-

Local Control

-

Health and Human Services

DRAFT

-

Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection

-

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2017 LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

The Legislative Platform aligns with the County's legislative principles. These principles serve as a guide for the County in developing a position on any forthcoming federal and state legislation.

❖ **JOB GROWTH AND ECONOMIC VITALITY:** Continue to support the development of employment opportunities, and support efforts to promote local business and job growth in an endeavor to decrease the unemployment rate and heighten individual and community economic vitality. Foster interaction and dialogue with public, private, and nonprofit sectors, with a focus on the pursuit of and advocacy for economic vitality and innovation. Support necessary infrastructure development projects as a job creator and economic engine which increases economic vitality across multiple industries and markets.

❖ **EFFICIENT SERVICE DELIVERY AND OPERATIONS:** Striving to balance the diversity of needs countywide, support efforts to streamline processes and promote operational enhancements relevant to County departments' missions and core services by thoroughly evaluating legislation, and if warranted, consider opposition to legislation that creates undue fiscal and operation burdens on individual departments.

❖ **FISCAL STABILITY:** Support efforts to generate new intergovernmental revenue and/or enhance existing revenue/reimbursement levels and oppose the loss of, or redirecting of, existing revenue and/or the creation of additional unfunded mandates to the County. Such efforts also include supporting a majority state budget vote requirement and a timely adoption of the state budget before the new fiscal year begins.

❖ **INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION:** Partner with neighboring cities on infrastructure and other large-scale projects when possible. Support the advocacy efforts of such organizations as the: California State Association of Counties (CSAC), National Association of Counties (NACO), Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), First 5 Santa Barbara, and other local and regional agencies. Collaborate with other institutions and entities on mutually beneficial issues such as transportation, housing, protection of children, the elderly and other "at risk" populations while upholding the principles of efficient service delivery and operations, fiscal stability and local control.

❖ **LOCAL CONTROL:** Ensure local authority and control over governance issues, land use policies and the delivery of services, including flexibility and customization in designing and implementing policies and services that are responsive to the community's preferences. Secure where appropriate, direct distribution of federal funds to local governments rather than state pass-throughs. Support efforts to maximize local control to ensure safe and effective speed limits.

❖ **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES:** Support efforts to maintain and enhance "safety net" services that protect the most vulnerable within a community, including children, the elderly and other "at risk" populations. Such services in the area of health and human assistance include, but are not limited to, preventive and emergency health care to the uninsured and underinsured; HIV/AIDS programs; maternal and children health; adult protective services; dependent care; child welfare services; adoptions and foster care; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and unemployment assistance and workforce development. The County supports collaboration between the federal, state and local governments in the delivery and funding of such services. The County opposes the further erosion in federal and state funding of these vital services.

❖ **COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:** Support efforts to foster communitywide sustainability by promoting economic stability and environmental protection and stewardship through participation in the growing green economy. Continue to engage in federal and state deliberations to ensure that local government receives the economic and financial benefits associated with new policies. Support efforts to catalyze community renewal, redevelopment and reinvestment, incubate and support innovative businesses, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and incentivize energy efficiency, water conservation, and the use of renewable energy. Recognize the need to promote mutually beneficial partnerships with public, private, and nonprofit sectors to maintain and protect agricultural and rural resources, housing, coastal areas, and bio-diversity. Support actions to secure sustainable water supplies throughout the region through ensuring both reliable quality and quantity, and promoting best practices for water conservation measures. Encourage actions to address climate change, reduce pollution, and protect the environment. These collective efforts aim to engender healthy communities by balancing social well-being, economic prosperity, and environmental responsibility.

2017
LEGISLATIVE PLANKS

DRAFT

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Principle	
Job Growth and Economic Vitality	
Strategy	**Target**
Funding & Legislative	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

We can be successful in improving the opportunities women and girls in Santa Barbara County have by supporting public policies that aim to bolster: women's access to equitable health care, affordable and quality child care, economic and workplace advancement opportunities to close the gender-wage gap, and to better support survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking.

In California, women earn $0.84 for every dollar their male counterparts earn. For the average working woman that amounts to an annual wage gap of $8,053 according to the National Partnership for Women and Families. Women with children are more likely than their male counterparts to live in poverty, almost 500,000 statewide. And while cases of domestic violence and human trafficking are lower in Santa Barbara County than across the state, much can be done to better aid survivors and punish the perpetrators of violence against women.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support funding and legislation for programs and services that improve the lives of women and girls in the following areas:

- Women, Poverty and Economic Empowerment Opportunities
- Women, Working Families and the Workplace
- Women's Access to Health Care
- Addressing Human Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Girls

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Supporting women and girls is essential. Economic inequality and increased risk of poverty has negative impacts across multiple generations. It has been proven that women make special and unique contributions to organizations (public, private and not-for-profit), and they offer perspectives often overlooked. The more opportunities women and girls are afforded full and equal access to opportunities compensation and support, the more our society will benefit.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

No direct cost at this time. Any financial cost will be more than recovered when women can equally meet their full economic capacity. Economic empowerment, legislation that helps working families, access to health care and addressing human trafficking and violence will, increase the productivity of women and increase their access to higher paying work and success. In turn, they will be earning and spending more money and expand their tax contribution.

CONTACT

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ARTS & CULTURE

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The role of Arts and Culture in the community can be a force in developing economic vitality. Recent studies of 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 brings together public, private, non-profit and community members to strategically influence the physical and social character of communities through arts and cultural activities. It 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 private sector companies are looking for employees with new skill sets that focus on creative 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 as well as encouraging them to stay in school.

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 reduce recidivism.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Advocate for increased funding of art and culture initiatives from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the California Arts Council (CAC). Support 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). Advocate for economic impact research to determine the economic impact of art and culture. Support legislative efforts to increase funding for school-based arts education and for preparing the next generation workforce.

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. As an example, 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.

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COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Principle	
Job Growth and Economic Vitality	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The challenges associated with our nation's broken immigration system has been an ongoing issue that has impacted all levels of our government, multiple sectors of the economy, wage-earners, taxpayers and families across the country. In many communities across the nation, including Santa Barbara County, we have seen the impacts of a broken immigration system on local communities, especially the agricultural industry that makes up a major part of the local economy. Various proposals for immigration reform have been discussed in recent years but have not resulted in the adoption of any legislation. The need for a bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform solution has created the opportunity for advocacy.

REQUESTED ACTION

Advocate for Congress and the President to enact comprehensive immigration reform that:

- Secures the borders of the United States;
- Includes a national strategy for coordination among federal, state local and tribal authorities;
- Establishes a sensible and orderly guest worker program;
- Imposes no unfunded mandates on state and local governments;
- Includes no mandates on counties to enforce immigration laws;
- Preserves the eligibility of legal non-citizens for federal-funded health benefits and provides sustainable funding streams to counties for their cost of providing health services to legal non-citizens who are denied federal-funded health benefits;
- Establishes an earned path to citizenship that includes registering, background checks, demonstrating employment, learning English and civics, paying back taxes and fees that may be required;
- Improves and simplifies the current legal immigration system, and
- Provides green cards for science, technology, engineering and mathematics students who have received a graduate degree from American universities.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Legal immigrants, refugees, undocumented individuals and others enter and remain in this country as a result federal action or inaction. Our current immigration system is confusing and complicated. Communities would benefit economically from comprehensive immigration reform based on the framework identified above.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

While immigration is a federal responsibility, counties are directly affected by the costs associated with the current immigration policies. Counties provide health, education and public safety to all residents, regardless of immigration status. Immigrants and their families, regardless of whether they are authorized or unauthorized to be in this country, contribute to the local economy. As an employer, the County may be impacted by the backlog of employer visas.

CONTACT

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ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT/REVENUE DIVERSIFICATION

Principle	
Job Growth and Economic Vitality	
Strategy	**Target**
Funding & Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Economic enhancement offers local government, the private sector, the nonprofit sectors and residents the opportunity to work together to improve local economy. It aims to enhance competitiveness and thus encourage sustainable economic growth given the priorities for a specific area.

REQUESTED ACTION

Advocate for enhanced funding and streamlined processes that will encourage the diversification, development, incubation, and growth of business determined to be of priority to California counties in general and Santa Barbara County specifically. Support for funding and process improvements should include, but not be limited to, County's access to:

- Establishing or expanding revolving economic development loan funds,
- Small business loans,
- Community Reinvestment Act Community Development loans and investments, and
- Equity capital and tax relief for startup businesses.

This funding will enhance opportunities to increase economic vitality and diversify the county's revenue base. In addition, the County supports efforts to secure, where appropriate, direct distribution of federal funds to local governments rather than state pass-throughs. Priority focus areas for Santa Barbra County include but are not limited to:

- Film and tourism
- Agriculture
- Wine Industry
- Green technology and manufacturing
- Education
- Aerospace
- Entrepreneurial development
- Developing hard and soft infrastructure to support economic growth
- Technology infrastructure improvements
- University/Governmental Research
- Clean energy

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Facilitating local job growth, economic enhancement and revenue diversification of local revenues, based on community priorities, creates an environmentally sustainable economy that improves the community's ability to generate and retain local revenues, address priority needs, create jobs, and weather the swings in the economy.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

In the long term, costs to government are reduced as the private and nonprofit sectors expand and diversify.

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LOWER MISSION CREEK PROJECT

Principle	
Job Growth/Economic Vitality	
Strategy	**Target**
Funding & Legislative	Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Lower Mission Creek Project was initiated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to study the flood threat to the City of Santa Barbara. Through a series of feasibility studies, a final project was developed in the 1990's that optimized the costs and environmental features of the project that would provide additional flood protection with a project that was locally acceptable.

The EIS/EIR was completed and certified in 2001 and since that time the permit process was completed and some design work started by the Corps. Today, the project is stalled because the new cost estimate from the recent design work puts the project below the required Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR).

The City and County of Santa Barbara have worked to forward the project starting at the lower end and are implementing elements up to U.S. 101. We desire the Corps to find a way to fund the remainder of the work. This project has seen significant investments by the Corps and local agencies and as such we need to finish the project. The Lower Mission Creek: County Funding Table, below, shows the amount of money that has been locally invested including a one-time contribution from the State.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support legislative language in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) to keep Lower Mission Creek a viable project.

Support funding for the Corps of Engineers to complete the design of the Lower Mission Creek Project and continue into construction. Both the Corps and local agencies have spent decades developing the current project and each has spent significant dollars on getting to a viable project.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Lower Mission Creek bisects the City of Santa Barbara. Past flood events, most notably the 1995 flood events have shown the devastating impact these floods have on the community. The 1995 events showed that aside from the obvious devastating impacts to home owners and business owners, there is a serious impact to the transportation system, including U.S. 101 (a major North – South Transportation corridor), the railroad, and local streets. In addition, damages to public and private infrastructure results.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Previous costs estimates put the project costs at about $80 million which would leave approximately $40 million local share. Local funding for this project would take decades without federal assistance.

Local costs could be further mitigated by subventions of the federal project with state funding.

LOWER MISSION CREEK: COUNTY FUNDING TABLE*

Fund 2610 -- So Coast Flood Zone 2 SC8042 LOWER MISSION CREEK CIP		Expenditures
FISCAL YEAR		
1997-98	$	390,300
1998-99	$	145,000
1999-00	$	4,600
2000-01	$	47,700
2001-02	$	6,200
2002-03	$	203,200
2003-04	$	95,200
2004-05	$	142,300
2005-06	$	25,000
2006-07	$	61,800
2007-08	$	359,300
2008-09	$	2,013,000
2009-10	$	517,500
2010-11	$	539,300
2011-12	$	3,700,000
2012-13	$	3,300,000
2013-14	$	1,081,600
2014-15	$	584,600
2015-16	$	5,020,900
totals	$	18,237,500

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MARKETPLACE EQUITY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Principle	
Job Growth and Economic Vitality	
Strategy	Target
Legislative	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Weights and Measures Programs are important to businesses and consumers in California. Weights and Measures regulatory activities ensure that there is a "level playing field" for business and industries. Likewise, these programs are critical in providing protection for consumers and a method for making value comparisons by providing equity in the marketplace. The Division of Measurement Standards (DMS) within the California Department of Food and Agriculture is the lead agency for weights and measures. DMS has incurred significant general fund reductions that have diminished their ability to provide consumer protection.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support legislation that preserves and enhances funding resources for weights and measures programs at the state (DMS) and local (Sealer) level for consumer protection including the use of state general funds for the Division of Measurement Standards.

Support legislation that establishes funding for quantity control and package inspection.

Support legislation which assures clear labeling and accuracy of the net quantity of packaged products to promote value comparison and to ensure the consumer receives the correct product and the quantity of product for which they pay.

Oppose legislation that would allow for industry self-certification of commercial weighing and measuring devices.

Oppose legislation that would diminish or remove protections now afforded to consumers for transactions measured by weighing or measuring devices or computed by Point of Sale systems.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Weights and measures programs serve the people of California by aggressively preserving and defending the measurement standards essential in providing the citizens a basis of value comparison and fair competition in the marketplace.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

During the 2011-12 fiscal year, CDFA experienced a $19 million General Fund reduction. Funding for many important programs was affected including those in DMS. An industry led consortium guided CDFA through the reduction process, in which alternatives were considered, including reduction and elimination of programs, and other funding sources. The Device Administrative Fee was authorized by the California Legislature in Assembly Bill 120 and signed by Governor Brown on July 26, 2011. This fee is to fund the DMS Device Compliance Program which provides oversight and training to county weights and measures officials in areas of commercial weighing and measuring device inspection. However, other weights and measures programs continue to lack the necessary funding to provide adequate services.

CONTACT

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SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT FUNDING

Principle	
Community Stability/Economic Vitality	
Strategy	**Target**
Funding & Legislative	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Two groundwater bills became effective January 1, 2015 (SB 1168, and SB 1319). Together these bills comprise the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The intent of the Act is the sustainable management of California's groundwater within about 25 years. SGMA is being implemented by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

Basins that are subject to the legislation include all medium and high priority basins as defined by DWR that have not previously been adjudicated. Within Santa Barbara County, there are three such basins. They are the Cuyama Valley, San Antonio, Santa Ynez, and the unadjudicated portions of the Santa Maria Groundwater Basins.

The Act requires the completion of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for each basin. The general components of GSPs will include technical information about aquifer yield, use, and balance, measurable objectives for sustainability, and actions to meet the sustainable yield. The entity responsible for complying with the requirements of the Act is the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). Counties are the presumed GSAs in the absence of other entities assuming the role.
Although $100 million in grant funds for SGMA was approved by voters, it is a relatively small amount for the number of basins subject to the Legislation.

REQUESTED ACTION

Develop additional funding mechanisms by the State for Santa Barbara County to implement the requirements of SGMA. Without funding SGMA becomes essentially an unfunded mandate for comprehensive analysis and management of the three largest groundwater basins in Santa Barbara County.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

California is one of the last remaining States that has not required some form of sustainable management of groundwater. As a result, many California basins are in a state of critical imbalance which has resulted in degradation of water quality, land subsidence, loss of surface water interaction, and economic hardship among users. In addition, it has reduced the water available for use during periods of drought such as the current one. Creating additional funding mechanisms for the implementation of SGMA will allow for sustainable management of the County's basins which will ultimately benefit several of the 2017 Legislative Principles including Economic Vitality, Community Stability, and Health and Human Services. It will allow basins to retain their value as sources of emergency water supply and maintain agricultural vitality.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Precise cost estimates for the implementation of SGMA are unavailable at this time because the State has not yet finalized guidelines for implementation and because associated costs will extend far into the future.

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US HIGHWAY 101 - REGIONAL

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Highway 101 lane widening project is the highest regional funding priority for the County. The project will increase U.S. Highway 101 from 4 to 6 lanes by adding High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes between the Cities of Carpinteria and Santa Barbara, a distance of 10 miles, to improve safety, reduce traffic congestion and match the 6-lane highway south of Carpinteria and north of Santa Barbara. US 101 is one of only two north-south highways in California that connect the Los Angeles basin, with a population of 13 million, and the greater San Francisco Bay Area, with a population of 7 million. The other north-south highway, Interstate 5, is periodically closed due to inclement weather and US 101 serves as the primary alternate route in California during those periods.

The corridor provides access from Central Coast agricultural operations to markets around the country. US 101 also provides critical access to Vandenberg Air Force Base in central Santa Barbara County. The entire project corridor is within the Santa Barbara urbanized area that includes the University of California at Santa Barbara, defense-related businesses, and hundreds of businesses related to the tourism industry. On a daily basis, commuters from neighboring Ventura County, interregional truck traffic, and tourists contribute to the facility's average daily traffic of 90,000 vehicles, exceeding the capacity of the four-lane facility for hours at a time, bringing this 10-mile segment of highway to a crawl. Upon completion of the project, the corridor will be a part of a continuous 40-mile, 6-lane facility, extending from the City of Ventura in Ventura County to the City of Goleta in Santa Barbara County.

The corridor will include 16 miles of continuous HOV lanes. This 10-mile segment, and an adjacent 6-mile segment to the south at the Ventura/Santa Barbara County line currently under construction, will be the first HOV lanes on the Central Coast of California.

REQUESTED ACTION

Request continuation of federal funding for the region's highest regional roadway priority.

Advocate, in cooperation with the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, for legislative and administrative action on the critical nature of the project at the State and Federal level.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

US Highway 101 is one of only two north-south transportation routes between Los Angeles and San Francisco within the State of California. Transportation of commuters and goods and services, including Central Coast agricultural crops, are essential to the overall economic health and vitality of the State. When Interstate 5 is closed, due to accident, fire or snow, all north-south traffic is diverted to the US 101. It is designated as a State Focus Route and High Emphasis Route.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The total estimated cost of the project is $425 million. The project will be funded by $140 million from Measure A, the local transportation sales tax, and $285 million in State and Federal funding.

CONTACT

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CHILD SUPPORT ACCESS TO SEALED COURT FILES

Principle	
Efficient Service Delivery/Operations	
Strategy	Target
Legislative & Advocacy	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Uniform Parentage Act of 1973 broke new ground by giving unmarried fathers legal rights and responsibilities regarding their children, with the basic philosophy, stated in Section 2: "The parent and child relationship extends equally to every child and every parent, regardless of the marital status of the parent."

Still groundbreaking, the Act has since been updated in response to developments like new technologies of assisted conception, but remains outdated in its assumption that any child who is not the offspring of a female and male who are married to each other is marked by stigma and requires sealed court files. In California, this practice is codified in Family Code Section 7643. This creates special difficulties for the Child Support program, since one of its first steps in accepting a new customer is opening a court file on the customer's behalf. When there is an existing confidential file, Child Support is prohibited from opening a new court file and is required to instead become part of the existing file, without having access to the identification number and contents of the file.

REQUESTED ACTION

Advocate for legislation that adds "Child Support staff" as noted in bold to section b. of Family Code section 7643, for example:

> "Papers and records pertaining to the action or proceeding that are part of the permanent record of the court are subject to inspection and copying by the parties to the action, their attorneys, **Child Support staff**, and by agents acting pursuant to written authorization from the parties to the action or their attorneys."

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Legal proceedings can be mysterious and confusing to members of the public, who often do not realize they have an existing court case. The legal assistance provided free of charge by Child Support is compromised when Child Support is unable to access important court records that memorialize established responsibilities and roles.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

In Santa Barbara, the Child Support Department opens over 2,000 cases a year. An increasing percentage are Uniform Parentage Act cases, and are therefore rejected by the courts until Child Support can gain access to the existing court case and resubmit documentation. This is a major inefficiency that creates unnecessary delays in customer service.

CONTACT

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COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES

Principle	
Efficient Service Delivery/Operations	
Strategy	**Target**
Funding	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County of Santa Barbara funds Library services and operations for seventeen city and county libraries. Library services in the County are administered via contracts with the City of Santa Barbara, the City of Santa Maria and the City of Lompoc. Through this arrangement, the county partners with local cities to provide library facilities, services and materials in a cost effective manner. Library services are provided through the following established zones:

Zone 1: Santa Barbara. Services provided to the cities and unincorporated areas located within or in close proximity to Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, Montecito, Isla Vista, Goleta, Buellton, Solvang, Santa Ynez and Los Olivos.

Zone 2: Lompoc. Services provided to the cities and unincorporated areas located within or in close proximity to Lompoc, Vandenberg Village and Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Zone 3: Santa Maria. Services provided to the cities and unincorporated areas located within or in close proximity to Cuyama, Guadalupe, Los Alamos, Orcutt and Santa Maria.

The County's contribution to library services for each zone is based on the population of the cities and unincorporated areas within the respective zone as certified January 1st of the prior fiscal year by the California State Library Public Library Fund (PLF).

REQUESTED ACTION

State funding for the County's library system. If funding is provided, the first priority is to fund needed new library technology, books and materials. In addition, the County seeks funding for equipment, furnishings and to expand hours of operations at various library locations.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The demand for countywide library services continues to increase. Residents of the County view library services as an essential part of the community and an avenue for all segments of the population to continue self-improvement and education. Current library facilities are in need of renovation, new books and materials, new technology and increased hours of operation.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The County contributes approximately $3.38 M annually from its General Fund, for library services and operations countywide. The cost to maintain library operating hours, replace materials, books, and technology far exceeds our current ability to provide funding. The County seeks additional annual funding, to allow for replacement of out dated equipment, furnishings, technology and materials and increase library hours of operation.

CONTACT

George Chapjian, Director, Community Services Department (805)568-2467

Dennis Bozanich, Deputy County Executive Officer, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

IMPROVING LOCAL GOVERNANCE: UNINCORPORATED POWERS

Principle	
Efficient Service Delivery and Operations	
Strategy	Target
Legislative & Advocacy	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

States grant cities and counties the ability to administer government at the local level. Santa Barbara County as a general law County operates under California Government Code Title 3, and other applicable California laws. General Law cities operate under California Government Code Title 4 and other applicable California laws.

In many counties in California, more than half of a county's population is in an unincorporated area, as opposed to an incorporated city. Therefore, the county government is responsible for the provision of services and addressing infrastructure needs. Counties, however, do not enjoy the same taxing, revenue generation, and governing authorities as cities. In 2014, legislation was passed that allows voters in the unincorporated areas of a county to vote on a tax measure and the resulting revenue can only be applied within the unincorporated area. While this change provides for the imposition of sales and use tax within a specific unincorporated area, increasing of the opportunities available for revenue generation, a general law county's ability to enjoy the full spectrum of governance powers provided to general law cities remains limited.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support legislation which provides general law counties all governance powers afforded general law cities in order to adequately address full spectrum of services and infrastructure needs in unincorporated areas. Work with the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) to fully assess spectrum of differences in powers of general law cities vs general law counties.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Unincorporated areas of counties must have mechanisms in place to address service and facility needs. Residents of unincorporated areas of a county should not be limited in the ability to achieve goals and address needs as a result of a lack of governance powers provided via the State. Preserving, enhancing and managing the revenue base in addition to employing all tools currently available to cities is essential to govern effectively and address collective and community specific needs. Tools to be explored will include but are not limited to levying of all administrative fines, forfeitures and penalties.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Counties will be better able to manage operating budgets if afforded the instruments to recover costs for services and infrastructure in unincorporated cities. Current services require funding sources that are acquired through indirect means. Using tools such as but not limited to fines, forfeitures and penalties will better equip counties with the potential for full cost recovery.

CONTACT

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MODERNIZATION OF THE CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM

Principle	
Efficient Service Delivery/Operations	
Strategy	**Target**
Legislative & Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The federal government published on November 17, 2014 the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM): Flexibility, Efficiency and Modernization in Child Support Enforcement Programs. The proposed changes are intended to move the program toward a more family-friendly philosophy that acknowledges Child Support occurs in a context that necessarily includes recognition of employment challenges, custody and visitation arrangements, and co-parenting challenges. Mindful that some of the Child Support enforcement tools can create unnecessary damage to struggling individuals, the proposed changes in regulations also permit families to seek assistance from Child Support without being enrolled in all of its available services. The NPRM has been widely circulated during a public comment period. The Child Support program will benefit from the implementation of the proposed regulations.

REQUESTED ACTION

Advocate with the state and federal legislative delegation to aggressively seek implementation of Child Support enforcement modernization efforts identified in the Notice of Proposed Rule Making through statutes and regulations.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Many aspects of the Child Support program have not been updated in 35 years. The public will benefit from increased program flexibility, efficiency and modernization; adaptations that take advantage of advances in technology; and the correction of technical errors in current regulations.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The proposed changes will utilize existing state and federal resources currently budgeted for the Child Support program.

CONTACT

Carrie Topliffe, Director, Child Support Services Department, (805) 568-2326

Dennis Bozanich, Deputy County Executive Officer, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

FARM BILL FUNDING

Principle	
Fiscal Stability	
Strategy	Target
Funding	Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

On February 7, 2014 the Agriculture Act of 2014 (Farm Bill) was signed into law. The Farm Bill contains important provisions for ongoing efforts to combat pests and diseases in the U.S. Section 10007 of the Farm Bill explicitly mandates funding for Plant Pest & Disease Management and National Clean Plant Network. Reauthorization of the Farm Bill was a significant priority for the State of California. The current Farm Bill contains funding for invasive species programs in California.

Now more than ever, due to increased international trade and travel early pest detection is important to prevent significant economic and environmental damage throughout the U.S. Once a pest becomes established or spreads significantly, the cost to eradicate, suppress, or manage it can be in the millions of dollars not to mention the economic costs in lost crops and damage to native ecosystems.

The 2014 Farm Bill reauthorized and expanded existing programs and added some new programs to support the specialty crop industry and organic sector. Examples of programs that benefit Specialty Crop producers are:

Title I, Commodities: A variety of crop insurance programs.

Title II, Conservation: Provides assistance to producers and landowners to adopt conservation activities on agricultural and forest lands to protect and improve water quality and quantity, soil health, wildlife habitat and air quality.

Title III, Trade: Provides support for U.S. agricultural export programs and includes Specialty Crop programs addressing sanitary, phytosanitary and technical barriers to specialty crop exports. California agricultural commissioner's (CACs), serve as the local accredited certifying officer representing USDA in inspection and certification of agricultural commodities destined to foreign ports. In 2015, California CACs were responsible for 33.77% of all the phytosanitary certificates issued for international trade.

Title IV, Forestry: Supports forestry management programs run by USDA;s Forest Service such as conducting restoration and other forest management projects (invasive pest and weeds and fire suppression efforts).

Title X, Horticulture: Main provisions focus on policies dealing with marketing and promotion, the National Organic Program, pest and disease prevention, food safety and local foods. While the programs benefit these sectors within Santa Barbara County greatly, the overall spending amounts are a small portion relative to spending levels for commodity programs (wheat, rice, corn and soybeans). All provisions in Title X have specified amounts and thus the Budget Authority estimates remain the same. These programs are expected to be reauthorized in the next Farm Bill.

REQUESTED ACTION

- Protect existing revenue sources as provided in the 2014 Farm Bill (heretofore Section 10007) by and enhance state and federal funding of Pest Prevention Program activities.
- Protect policies and funding for Title I, II, III, IV and X and advocate for increased funding that benefit producers of specialty crops grown in Santa Barbara County.
- Support the strengthening of inspections at borders and ports of entry to safeguard against invasive pests and diseases.
- Support legislation or rulemaking to hold and inspect packages profiled by detector dogs at U.S. Postal facilities.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

There are a number of significant invasive species being introduced and detected in California that threaten agriculture and the environment. Continued funding of Invasive Pest programs and Farm Bill Specialty Crop specific programs is critical in protecting Santa Barbara County agriculture.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Funding for programs in the 2014 Farm Bill total nearly $100 billion annually; it is unlikely that a new Farm Bill would be above that funding level. The breakdown by Title of Farm Bill funding includes: Nutrition 77%, Crop Insurance 10%, Commodities 6%, Conservation 6%, and remaining Titles 1%.

A reduction or elimination of federal and state funding for the State and counties to perform early pest detection and surveillance activities will result in either an additional cost to local governments to cover the costs of these critical pest exclusion activities or a reduction or elimination of these services all together. This will lead to the agricultural industry, the public and environment being put at risk for further invasive pest infestations. California agricultural losses to exotic pests exceed $3 billion annually.

CONTACT

Cathleen M. Fisher, Agricultural Commissioner, Agriculture Department (805) 681-5600

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PESTICIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Principle	
Fiscal Stability	
Strategy	Target
Funding	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

In the budget-trailer bill (Chapter 741, Statutes of 2003; SB 1049), intent language indicates that the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) should fund County Agricultural Commissioners' local pesticide regulatory programs with $22 million annually. The Legislature failed to appropriate adequate funding to DPR to meet this level and no authority was provided to County Agricultural Commissioners to establish fees to cover their program costs. As approximately $16 million in County general funds throughout the state are contributed per fiscal year in order to maintain the integrity and quality of the pesticide regulatory system Californians have grown to expect, it is critical we find a way to fund these local programs.

REQUESTED ACTION

- Support methods that would provide long-term stable funding for county pesticide regulatory activities.
- Support legislative or state budgetary proposals that maintain or increase funding through the pesticide mill fee that is sufficient for pesticide regulatory activities to protect the safety of workers, the public and the environment and provides funding for education, outreach and compliance assessment activities related to the safe use of pesticides.
- Support the preemptive status of state pesticide laws and authority provided to the Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) and California Agricultural Commissioners.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The mission and objectives of local pesticide enforcement programs is to protect public safety, the environment and farm labor from pesticide exposure. County Agricultural Commissioner's provide the local regulatory framework to carry out the mission and to meet the objectives of the pesticide enforcement program.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Long-term stable funding is needed from legislative and state budgetary proposals through the pesticide mill fee that would sufficiently cover county general fund costs for pesticide regulatory activities.

CONTACT

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Dennis Bozanich, Deputy County Executive Officer, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

PUBLIC SAFETY

Principle	
Fiscal Stability	
Strategy	Target
Funding, Legislative, & Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The tenet of the public safety departments in the County of Santa Barbara is the protection of life and property through highly competent delivery of emergency response, fire prevention services, constitutional and effective law enforcement, custody, and rehabilitation services that provide a high level of safety to residents and visitors. The public is well served when victims of crime are protected and individuals charged with a crime have equal access to justice, are prosecuted and defended diligently and ethically, and all involved parties receive a fair and timely resolution of their case.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support continued State investment in local facilities and programs that will aid in addressing the "revolving door" problem in state and local detention facilities.

Support State funding that improves the delivery of inmate physical and mental health care services.

Support State funding and policies in adult probation that build a continuum of intervention, prevention and supervision services for adult offenders.

Support State funding and policies that fully support Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) initiatives.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Improving the means and tools for the Public Safety Departments will allow them to provide quality public service to the people in Santa Barbara County by:

- Safeguarding them from the impacts of crime, fires, medical emergencies, and disasters;
- Providing information and recommendations to the Courts;
- Enforcing the laws and providing correctional services;
- Enforcing court orders and post-release community supervision conditions;
- Requiring offender responsibility and accountability;
- Delivering safe and effective juvenile detention, treatment, and rehabilitation services;
- Prosecuting the guilty, protecting the innocent, and preventing crime;
- Ensuring constitutional rights of all; and
- Delivering effective and timely law enforcement services.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Public safety services can be very costly and demanding on local government budgets. This plank aims to seek out additional funding and resources without negatively impacting the County's budget. There is no immediate or additional cost incurred directly.

CONTACT

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SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

Principle	
Fiscal Stability	
Strategy	Target
Funding, Legislative & Advocacy	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Every trip begins and ends on a local road, bridge or sidewalk. Local transportation systems are critical for moving people, goods, and services reliably and safely to their destination. Traditional sources of revenue for transportation are declining as communities develop more sustainably, and vehicles become more fuel-efficient. Additional funding is required to respond significantly to transportation needs.

In order to maintain the transportation system in a safe and serviceable condition the philosophy of system preservation must be embraced by our country's leadership to provide the right treatment, to the right facility at the right time. This issue is well documented at every level of government in needs assessments throughout the country.

Sustainable and dedicated transportation funding is needed to provide certainty for businesses and communities, create jobs, and make necessary policy updates that lay the foundation for lasting economic growth. Transportation infrastructure is too essential to suffer continued neglect. We must commit to finding ways to support maintenance of existing infrastructure.

REQUESTED ACTION

Advocate with the Governor and Legislature for a sound, long-term financial solution that will ensure stable funding of the surface transportation system.

The solution must include dedicated funding to properly maintain existing transportation infrastructure including, but not limited to pavement, bridges and pedestrian facilities.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

This plank supports the existing transportation network in order to maintain safe and efficient movement of goods, services, and people. If the backlog of existing maintenance is not addressed now, the cost to maintain it will double in the next decade. For Santa Barbara County, this means the transportation maintenance backlog will increase from $250M to $500M. An additional $9M of annual funding is needed for pavement maintenance alone to prevent roads from deteriorating further and even more is needed to implement pavement best management practices.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Ongoing sustainable funding to maintain roads and other essential transportation infrastructure is critical to the public's health, safety and welfare throughout the nation. The lack of a consistent source of funding leads to costly deferred maintenance, extensive repairs and increased liability claims.

CONTACT

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HOLLISTER/STATE STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Principle	
Inter-Agency Collaboration	
Strategy	Target
Funding	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Hollister Avenue from San Antonio Road to Modoc and State Street from Modoc to State Route 154 are primary arterials in Santa Barbara County. This corridor serves as an alternative route to U.S. 101 and needs improvements to accommodate multimodal travel at current and future traffic volumes.

Proposed improvements include widening the corridor to create additional capacity and improve multimodal circulation. The project will add pedestrian boulevards, bike lanes, bus accommodation, transportation enhancements, and replace a narrow and outdated railroad overhead crossing. The project is supported by the community and will promote a unified sense of community, improve public health and welfare, provide alternative routes for movement of goods and services, and stimulate economic development throughout the area.

REQUESTED ACTION

Requests funding of $8 million for design and construction of the improvement project of Hollister Avenue between San Antonio and Modoc Roads.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

This project supports multimodal transportation and infill development. Some of the benefits to the community include:

- Reduced travel time for movement of people, goods and services, resulting in less congestion, and pollution and improved regional air quality
- Reduced conversion of agricultural land, sensitive habitat, and open space for new development
- Reduced costs to build and maintain expensive new infrastructure
- Improved health and welfare with opportunities for active transportation
- Added vibrancy and a unified sense of community to the corridor
- Implements complete streets concepts, accommodating vehicles, pedestrians, and bicycles
- Improves facilities to comply with the American Disabilities Act

COST TO GOVERNMENT

$8 million

CONTACT

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Dennis Bozanich, Deputy County Executive Officer, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM FUNDING

Principle	
Inter-Agency Collaboration	
Strategy	Target
Funding	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

A number of significant invasive species are routinely introduced and detected in California that threaten agriculture and the environment. Continued funding of Pest Exclusion, Pest Detection Trapping and Survey Activities, Rapid Response, Pest Management and Eradication (if feasible), and Public Education Outreach Programs is critical in protecting California's resources.

REQUESTED ACTION

- Protect existing revenue sources and enhance state and federal funding of Pest Prevention Program activities.
- Provide full cost recovery for new programs.
- Maintain or enhance funding for current programs.
- Support all reasonable efforts by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, County Agricultural Commissioners, and the agricultural industry to acquire funding and to prevent the introduction and potential spread of invasive pests in California.
- Support legislation and/or state and federal programs that provide for effective pest management and eradication activities
- Provide local flexibility to enhance the abilities of Agricultural Commissioners to respond to pest emergencies and high priority local pest exclusion pathways.
- Support budgetary efforts to restore funding for agricultural border stations.
- Support research on invasive species pathways as well as funding mechanisms to close potential pathways.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

In addition to benefits to California agriculture, early pest detection and surveillance programs benefit the natural ecosystem, consumer interests, and human health, as well as agriculture in states other than California.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

A reduction or elimination of federal and state funding for the State and counties to perform early pest detection and surveillance activities will result in either an additional cost to local governments to cover the costs of these critical pest exclusion activities or a reduction or elimination of these services all together. This will lead to the agricultural industry, the public and environment being put at risk for further invasive pest infestations. California agricultural losses to exotic pests exceed $3 billion annually.

CONTACT

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LAKE CACHUMA

Principle	
Inter-Agency Collaboration	
Strategy	Target
Funding & Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

As a result of a biological opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Federal Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) has evaluated the impacts of raising the water level at Lake Cachuma to protect the endangered steelhead trout. The increased water capacity, coupled with the need to replace outdated and aging infrastructure, is the catalyst for funding requests to continue Parks operations listed below. Ongoing drought conditions have increased the need and the opportunity to fund needed capital improvements to Lake Cachuma.

REQUESTED ACTION

Requests state and federal legislative support new appropriation requests as follows: Road repair, fire flow and water distribution system improvements - $5.6 million; New water treatment plant and related systems - $3.7 million; Sewage treatment - $5.1 million; Recreational improvements - $10.5 million.

PROJECT	TOTAL COST	AMOUNT FUNDED	FUNDING SOURCE
BIOLOGICAL OPINION / SURCHARGE INITIATED PROJECTS			
Fire Flow and Water Distribution Improvements	$2,100,000	-	BOR
Construction Road Repair & Access Improvements (connected to fire flow for fire truck access)	$3,500,000	-	BOR
New Water Treatment Plant and Related Systems	$3,700,000	-	BOR
Sewage Treatment Plant and Related Systems	$5,100,000	-	BOR
TOTAL	**$14,400,000**		
OTHER CAPITAL FACILITIES AND RECREATIONAL PROJECTS			
Boat Ramp Extension	$1,000,000	-	DB&W
Boat Dock Replacement	$350,000	-	DB&W
New Overnight Accommodations (Cabins/Yurts)	$2,200,000	-	BOR
Recreation Improvements (Pool Facilities)	$6,900,000	-	BOR
TOTAL	**$10,450,000**		
GRAND TOTAL FOR ALL PROJECTS	**$24,850,000**		

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The County provides an array of recreational amenities including boating, fishing, camping (tent, RV, yurts and cabins), seasonal naturalist programs, and nature cruises to approximately 500,000 visitors annually.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The County provides an array of recreational amenities including boating, fishing, camping (tent, RV, yurts and cabins), seasonal naturalist programs and nature cruises to approximately 500,000 visitors annually.

CONTACT

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LAND USE: ENFORCEMENT FINES FOR LAND USE VIOLATIONS

Principle	
Local Control	
Strategy	Target
Legislative & Advocacy	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

State law governing ordinance violations sets maximum fine amounts for violators of zoning ordinances at a maximum of $100 for the first violation within a one year timeframe, a maximum of $200 for the second violation within a one year timeframe, and a maximum of $500 for each additional violation within a one year timeframe, including one-time violations. One-time violations are violations that cannot be corrected or cured. These amounts were approved by the state legislature more than 30 years ago.

Santa Barbara County recognizes the need for the State legislature to set maximum fine amounts to ensure fairness and consistency across the State of California. However, the $100, $200, and $500 maximum fine amounts severely hinder the County's ability to adequately enforce land use violations, particularly for, but not limited to one-time violations. One-time violations often occur when owners rent out their properties for special events (e.g. weddings). The County's zoning ordinances specifically prohibit this type of use on residentially zoned properties without proper permits. As written, the maximum amount the County may fine the owner for this type of violation is only up to a maximum of $500 in any given year. This substantially undermines the County's zoning ordinances because the maximum allowable fine amount is insufficient to deter owners who rent out their properties for commercial purposes when the profit margin for violating the local ordinance is much greater than the fine. For example, a large commercial wedding with over 300 guests was held on residential property without the benefit of permits. Permit review would have addressed public safety and traffic concerns for an event of this magnitude. In this case, the County was only allowed to fine this owner $100 for this purposeful violation. This amount is insufficient to deter property owners who can easily absorb this as part of their routine business operating expense.

Updating the applicable state codes to enable the local agency more discretion to impose appropriate fines, and the collection and enforcement of those fines, would greatly enhance the land use enforcement program in Santa Barbara County. For one-time violations, the County requests that maximum fines that could be imposed be set at significantly higher levels than currently allowed by State code. The County would choose an actual fine amount appropriate for the violation and would not automatically use the maximum. At the very least, counties should have the same authority that existing Government Code section 36901 provides to cities to levy fines not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1000). Property owners will continue to have rights to appeal any fines imposed and the appeal hearing officer will continue to have the discretion to waive, reduce, or modify the fine. In addition, the one year timeframe should be stricken from the Government Code, or in the alternative, be increased to a five year timeframe, so that fines may further deter repeat offenders.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support legislation that would provide the County with more local control and discretion over fines imposed for violations of the County's zoning ordinances.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Revised legislation of applicable state law would provide the County with more effective tools to gain compliance from those who violate our County's zoning ordinances. Increased penalties for one-time violations would be a greater disincentive and promote greater compliance with County zoning regulations. This would help to ensure that the County's policies regarding land use and development continue to be met.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

No direct costs to the government are anticipated.

CONTACT

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION

Principle	
Local Control	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Section 332(c)(7) of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 prevents local governments, including the County of Santa Barbara, from opposing the placement and regulation of personal wireless service facilities on the basis of the environmental effects of radio-frequency emissions to the extent that the proposed facilities comply with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations concerning such emissions. The California Public Utilities Code also limits the authority of local governments to regulate wireless facilities in public rights of way.

There is ongoing debate within the scientific community regarding how thoroughly the long-term health effects of low-frequency electromagnetic and radio-frequency emissions are understood. Questions remain regarding how well the existing regulations established by the FCC protect more vulnerable populations such as school-aged children, and how well they protect against the cumulative effect of radio-frequency emissions on people who live or work in close proximity to multiple cellular facilities. Currently, the ability of local governments to include a consideration of the health and environmental effects of these facilities when deciding whether or not to approve the construction or modification of a cellular communications facility is limited. Existing regulations regarding telecommunication facilities also hamper local agencies' ability to protect the visual quality of their communities. Protecting a high quality visual environment is vitally important to community residents; it is equally important to protect the desirability of an area as a tourist destination.

In addition to regulating the scope of local review, local jurisdictions are limited by federal and state law in the time they have to review and process, including environmental review, permits for telecommunications facilities. The planning review process must be complete in 60 days for modifications to existing facilities, 90 days for collocated facilities, and 150 days for new facilities or the facilities are deemed approved.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support state and federal legislation that repeals limitations on state and local authority imposed by federal and state law that infringe upon the authority of local governments to regulate the placement, construction, and modification of telecommunications towers and other personal wireless service facilities on the basis of the health and environmental effects of these facilities.

Oppose sections of the Act that preempt local control and prevent local governments from considering health effects.

Advocate for the FCC to work in cooperation with the FDA and other relevant federal agencies to revisit and update studies on potential health concerns arising from wireless emissions in light of the national proliferation of wireless use. In particular, the County believes it is imperative that the FCC undertake longitudinal health studies to determine whether its existing exposure limits are adequate to protect public health. The longitudinal studies should encompass a broad demographic (i.e. children, people with compromised health, etc.) in order to fully protect public health. It is significant to note that the exposure limits allowed by the FCC appear to exceed the levels considered permissible by most other countries.[1]

Advocate that the FCC revise the processing deadlines for new telecommunication facilities to insure that local agencies have adequate time to fully evaluate proposed projects under CEQA to address siting and design options to minimize visual and site disturbance impacts and protect a high quality visual environment. The 2016-17NACo American County Platform and Resolutions supports the County's position:

[1] See Reference:
http://www.rivm.nl/Documenten_en_publicaties/Algemeen_Actueel/Uitgaven/Milieu_Leefomgeving/Comparison_of_international_policies_on_electromagnetic_fields

"Counties need to be concerned about retaining authority as trustees of public property and as protectors of public safety and welfare. The 1996 Telecommunications Act acknowledges the balance among federal, primarily through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and state and local authority. NACO opposes any actions that would undermine this shared responsibility and any federal or state preemption of counties' traditional powers in these areas."

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Health advocates have worried for decades that exposure to frequencies emanating from telecommunications sources might be harmful. There are increasing health and environmental effects resulting from the location of certain cell phone towers and antennas, especially in regards to the cumulative effect of radio-frequency emissions on people who live or work in close proximity to multiple cellular facilities. Longitudinal studies need to be conducted to determine whether the exposure levels currently allowed by the FCC are safe or whether they may cause adverse health effects to any population group. Citizens would be better served by allowing local government greater flexibility to regulate the placement of cellular facilities near areas such as residences, schools, daycares, or parks. Longer processing times would give local agencies the opportunity to evaluate alternative locations and designs in order to maximize the protection of a high quality visual environment.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

This is largely a regulatory function to allow local governments' greater discretion to decide how, when, and where cellular facilities should be sited.

CONTACT

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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 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 Housing, Land Use & Transportation Committee 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 received a distribution from the SDF of approximately $1.4 million annually. The State has not made funds available for gaming impact mitigation grants since FY 2013-14. These funds were previously utilized to fund fire, law enforcement, and capital projects. In addition development which occurs on lands taken into 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.

CONTACT

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ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

One of the most important ways of supporting the health of Santa Barbara County residents is to ensure their access to health care coverage and health care services. With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, many residents are now eligible for health care coverage for the first time. All health care plans now include some essential benefits like maternity, mental health, preventive, and pediatric dental care. Thus, enrollment in these health plans provides many health benefits. To maintain the health of our residents, we are committed to assisting residents enroll in benefits for which they are eligible, providing health care services through Federally Qualified Health Centers for individuals who receive Medi-Cal or Medicare in addition to those without other coverage options, maintaining infrastructure for a quality health service agency, and pursuing related requirements to receive federal funding for public healthcare organizations.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support legislative, budgetary or administrative measures which establish, enhance or fund policies, programs, research, standards, educational material and public awareness campaigns that prevent disease, promote wellness and ensure access to needed health care. Support should include no decreases in current funding levels in these health related programs.

- Assistance for health care coverage – Support direct assistance with applications and patient education concerning health care coverage, support for renewals and re-application for health benefits, coordination with our county and state partners at the Department of Social Services, CenCal Health, and Covered California.
- Organizational infrastructure for public healthcare organizations – Support automated systems and staffing that manage, report on and evaluate health care delivery, programs and incentives to maximize the capacity of our systems and coordination of care. Support accreditation of the PHD to support quality.
- Provision of essential health care services – Support measures that would provide for the continued expansion of both county and community Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHCs) and the provision of quality health care services. Favor approaches such as the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) that promotes partnerships and coordination in the provision of services to patients. Continue to advocate for programs and FQHC payment reform that provides for reimbursement for the necessary wrap around and support services of the treatment team, such as pharmacists and Marriage & Family Therapists (MFTs).

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

There will be an increase in access to health care coverage and a decrease in morbidity and mortality among residents in Santa Barbara County.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

There is no immediate or additional cost incurred directly.

CONTACT

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CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Federal/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The safety, permanency, and well-being of Children are a top priority in California; however, sufficient funding is needed to adequately address the specific needs of our children and families. It is well-founded that children do best when raised within their family of origin as long as they can do so safely. It is less costly to our children and the community at large to preserve families and when removal is necessary to safely reunify children as soon as possible. When this is not possible adequate services and supports must be provided to children in foster care to ensure that they are able to achieve permanency or successfully transition to independence.

Therefore, increased Federal and State funding for services and support is needed in order to improve the outcomes of children and youth in the Child Welfare system. AB 403 (Stone, Statues of 2015) requires significant changes to the placement and care provided to children in foster care, including increasing capacity and support to resource families in California and improving outcomes for children and youth in our child welfare system. The proposed state budget does not sufficiently fund all of the statutory mandates and legislative requirements that need to be met to implement this significant reform beginning January 1, 2017.

Increased federal funding is also needed to address the service needs of youth who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Specifically, in 2014, Congress approved the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (HR 4980). The new law makes several federal reforms to better serve foster youth and includes provisions that focus on the emerging issue of sex trafficking of minors. In light of the new federal law and rollout of the related state program, additional funding is necessary to enable counties to meet the state and federal requirements and expectations for the specialized services to be provided to this traumatized population of children

REQUESTED ACTION

Advocate at the Federal and State level to strategically increase funding for Child Welfare Services programs so that our children and families may be more adequately served and that the county remains aligned with the identified priorities and program trends at both the state and federal levels.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The costs of child abuse and neglect are those costs associated with the consequences or impact of maltreatment on children. As a result of being victims of abuse and neglect, many children require special education services as well as early intervention services to manage developmental delays. Maltreated children are also more likely to engage in juvenile delinquency and adult criminal behavior compared to children who do not experience abuse and neglect. Furthermore, research demonstrates that children who experience abuse are disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness as adults. As a result, child maltreatment leads to additional housing, juvenile justice and adult criminal justice expenditures. The developmental and behavioral impact of child maltreatment also leads to lost worker productivity.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The social and economic costs of child abuse and neglect can be difficult to quantify. Some costs are straightforward and directly related to maltreatment, such as hospital costs for medical treatment of injuries sustained as a result of physical abuse and foster care costs resulting from the removal of children when they cannot remain safely with their families. Other costs, less directly tied to the incidence of abuse, include lower academic achievement, adult criminality, and lifelong mental health problems. Both direct and indirect costs impact our society and economy. Survivor needs are likely to impact multiple systems, including health care, education, criminal justice and social services. A 2012 study by the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention estimated the average lifetime cost per victim of nonfatal child maltreatment at $210,000.

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HEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

We can be successful in improving the health of all residents by supporting legislation that prevents chronic disease, prevents the spread of illness, promotes healthy behaviors and promotes wellness. Legislative, policy, environmental changes and education can influence behavior and thus impact health and health outcomes. Three behaviors (poor diet, physical activity levels and tobacco use) contribute to four chronic diseases (vascular disease, cancer, lung disease and Type 2 diabetes) that cause more than 50 percent of the deaths in Santa Barbara County. In a 2015 survey, residents reflected priority areas of healthy eating, active living, mental healthcare, and housing to improve health in Santa Barbara County. We can directly impact behaviors that drive chronic and communicable diseases and poor health outcomes. We can also directly impact health with access to services, preparedness, and our response to health conditions. Health looks at the whole person including physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being.

Public Health and Behavioral Wellness have both adopted the 3-4-50 model to promote positive health behaviors by the clients they serve. Individuals with mental health issues have 20 years fewer life expectancy than those without, while individuals with both mental health and substance abuse issues have 25 years fewer years life expectancy. By encouraging clients to address the three primary prevention actions (smoking cessation, physical activity, good nutrition), we may be able to make a real impact on improving both quality of life and life expectancy. Public Health and Behavioral Wellness have also adopted consistent emergency codes for use in clinical or community crisis events.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support legislative, budgetary and administrative measures that establish, enhance or fund policies, programs, research, standards, educational material and public awareness campaigns that prevent disease, promote wellness, mental health, and ensure access to needed health care.

- Healthy behaviors and activities to promote wellness- Support programs and funding that encourage physical activity, healthy eating, breastfeeding, healthy parenting practices, healthy and safe foods, mental wellness, and reduce the prevalence of smoking and obesity.
- Disaster preparedness and emergency medical response to protect the community - Support programs and funding that prepare our emergency response procedures, training, and disaster command structures for the entire community including vulnerable populations and medically fragile residents. Support legislation and regulatory measures that improve the quality and delivery of emergency medical services and pre-hospital care.
- Prevention of harmful health conditions and ensures access to health care – Support programs and funding that prevent injuries and violence, prevent the spread of communicable disease, promote infection control and laboratory practices, identify and address environmental conditions that are barriers to health.

Support should minimally include no decreases in current funding levels in these health related programs and measures that maintain or strengthen local agency roles.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

There will be a decrease in disease and illness and a decrease in premature death among residents in Santa Barbara County.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

There is no immediate or additional cost incurred directly.

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HOMELESSNESS

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Funding & Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County of Santa Barbara in partnership with cities and community organizations drafted the "Bringing Our Community Home: The Santa Barbara Countywide 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness" plan in 2006. The County continues to work on these and other efforts in partnership with the Central Coast Collaborative on Homelessness or C3H. The County seeks funding support to implement this plan, including financing a comprehensive system of housing, services and treatment to help prevent homelessness.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support existing and new legislation to address the issue of homelessness.

Support funding of housing, services and treatment programs to end chronic homelessness. Specifically, the County requests the Federal delegation's support for funding McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants, including the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program, and the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. These programs are authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended by the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009.

Support the inclusion of provisions which allow for additional flexibility in the use of Federal funds on the local level to address housing for the homeless. The County also requests continuing support for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the HOME program. These two programs provide additional public services, capital improvements, and new affordable housing, which work together to reduce homelessness and prevent additional persons and families from becoming homeless.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Each year more than 6,300 people in Santa Barbara County experience homelessness; on any given night, nearly 2,000 people are homeless. Of the people who are homeless, 45% or as many as 913 people are chronically homeless. Santa Barbara County's chronically homeless population is composed of single adults and families with children who have either been continuously homeless for a year or more or have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years, have a disabling condition and have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g. living on the streets) or in an emergency shelter during that time. Many of these individuals have serious mental illnesses; two-thirds of all people with serious mental illness have been homeless or have been at risk of being homeless at some point in their lives.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Chronically homeless people may consume more than 50% of all the services provided to homeless people due to their continued movement through the service system without obtaining the help they need. Chronically homeless individuals are also frequent users of other costly public services, such as hospital emergency rooms, psych emergency wards and the criminal justice system. Chronic homelessness is expensive, but these costs can be reduced and chronic homelessness can be ended through the provision of permanent supportive housing. Studies have demonstrated that providing people with permanent supportive housing is the most humane and cost-effective way to end chronic homelessness.

CONTACT

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OCEAN WATER TESTING

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Funding	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Ocean water testing is performed at sixteen Santa Barbara County beaches on a weekly basis to identify any areas where bacterial health standards are exceeded. When sampling results indicate water quality meets state health standards, the beaches are open. Warnings are posted at beaches when one or more of the state health standards have been exceeded. Beaches are closed when water is contaminated by sewage at the location and there is an imminent public health concern. The current testing methodology provides tests results 24 hours after the ocean water has been tested. There is a new ocean water testing methodology, Method 1609 polymerase chain reaction (qPCR,) that provides point in time water testing results. These results could be provided to the public in a timelier manner, thus supporting timely postings of beach warnings and closures to keep our residents safe and healthy.

REQUESTED ACTION

Request funding support in the amount of $70,500 for the costs associated with the implementation of Method 1609 qPCR for ocean water testing. These costs are due to the "parallel" testing (running duplicate methods to ensure accurate and consistent results) is required for the first year of implementation.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Beaches are a significant environmental resource in Santa Barbara County used by many residents. If residents enter ocean water when water quality exceeds safe standards, there are increased health risks. Ocean water testing results are shared broadly on our website, in media and through various organizations as a public health service to our community.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

During Fiscal Year 2015-16, the Public Health laboratory testing cost approximately $73,000 under the existing testing methodology. The new Method 1609qPCR testing is projected to increase costs one-time by approximately $70,500 for the first year of implementation because of the parallel testing required. This projected one-time cost is currently unfunded.

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ORGANIZED DELIVERY SYSTEM

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Changes in federal law through the Affordable Care Act and federal Parity laws now ensure that individuals have the same access to mental health and substance abuse treatment as they do to medical services. The county's Department of Behavioral Wellness is developing a comprehensive proposal to create an Organized Delivery System (ODS) to address the needs for substance abuse treatment services within Santa Barbara County as part of the state's 1115 B Waiver with the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

There is a growing opioid epidemic and increased number of overdose deaths nationally and in the County. Treatment is the most effective way to reduce the damage done to the individual, the family and the community by addiction to alcohol and other drugs, but too often treatment options have been limited by inadequate funding for substance abuse treatment programs. Federal Parity laws and the Affordable Care Act have expanded access to these life-saving services, and California has been granted permission from CMS to allow counties to develop comprehensive treatment services based on community defined needs and is reimbursable by federal MediCal funding. Santa Barbara has engaged in a community planning process and is developing a proposed ODS for the County. Rates for the services will be negotiated by the state separately with each county, and we request support to negotiate favorable rates to create robust and sustainable services in Santa Barbara. This is especially important as the cost of creating and maintaining services can be quite high relative to other counties due to the lack of affordable real estate.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support expanded substance abuse treatment.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Expanded substance abuse treatment will lead to reduced addiction, decreased childhood trauma, higher employment and quality of life, reduced arrests, increased family reunification, decreased premature death, and reduced impact on criminal justice system.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Federal funding will support the majority of Drug MediCal (DMC) services, as this is an expansion of the DMC benefits.

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SAFETY NET PRESERVATION

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Federal/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

According to 2014 Census figures, in Santa Barbara County 68,953 people (16.6% of residents) are still living below the federal poverty level (compared to 11.9% in 2007). There are approximately 20,475 (21.3% or more than one in five) of the County's children living in poverty (compared to 13.5% in 2007). Our poverty rates reflect the impacts of a weakened economy and the slow and prolonged recovery from the Great Recession, and drastic cuts in health and human services programs at the Federal and State levels. All of these factors have disproportionately affected low income seniors as well as children and families, leaving their "basic" needs of food, shelter, personal and financial security, health and welfare at risk of being unmet and leading to food insecurity, diminished health, and homelessness.

For those workers and their families who are getting by living paycheck to paycheck with little to no assets to fall back on, the loss of a job or serious illness can plunge their families into poverty. Many will turn to government-run safety net programs for help. Cumulative cuts to county-administered health and human services programs add up to a loss of more than $2.4 billion in state and federal funds since June 2001. Additionally, nationwide, food stamp benefits saw a $5 billion reduction in November 2013 when Congress allowed a recession-era boost to expire. Though there have been modest restorations over the past couple of years, too many core public services are underfunded following years of deep cuts. The shrinking public safety net has put extreme pressure on underfunded faith-based and community-based organizations to "catch" these needy families. If the safety net, "public" or "non-public," cannot respond to the growing need to temporarily assist those in need until their economic conditions improve, more residents will fall into poverty.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support the preservation of existing safety net program funding levels at both the Federal and State levels and restore cuts to safety net programs in future budgets in order to preserve the safety net for the County's most vulnerable citizens.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Hunger and malnutrition exacerbate chronic and acute diseases and speed the onset of degenerative diseases among the elderly, which affects their quality of life and increases the cost of caring for them. Children who are hungry or sick cannot learn, and may fail to reach their full potential, leading to an uneducated future workforce who compromise future personal self-sufficiency and economic competitiveness. Residents that do not qualify for Medi-Cal expansion of coverage or are unable to pay the insurance premium through Covered California continue to be without health insurance and turn to emergency rooms, which shifts the burden and cost of health care to local communities. They may forego preventive or basic care, which increases the risk they will need more expensive care in the future. Without child care subsidies, low income working parents may be forced to quit their jobs as the costs of child care becomes too expensive and staying home to provide child care affects their ability to maintain their employment and self-sufficiency.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Poverty imposes enormous costs on society and can have devastating implications on the short-term and long-term economic vitality of Santa Barbara County. The long-term economic impacts of poverty include the lost potential of children raised in poor households. The short-term impacts include lower productivity, earning, and purchasing power of poor adults, poor health, increased crime, and broken-down neighborhoods.

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SENIOR SERVICES FUNDING

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Federal/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Our aging population is a priority in our County and state alike. Additional resources are needed beyond what the Older Americans Act provides to increase service capacity to meet the growing demand, not only for basic needs like food, transportation, and housing but also for workforce development i.e.: geriatric specialization and caregiver support.

According to 2013 Census data there are over 59,000 seniors age 65 and older within the County of Santa Barbara (14% of the County's population). This number is expected to double by the year 2050 placing additional demands on a variety of health and human services programs. Key issues facing seniors within the County are in-home care, housing, as well as public assistance needs for those that live below the poverty level. It is critical to ensure that the programs and services that are needed to meet the needs of the growing population and low-income seniors are available.

REQUESTED ACTION

- Support re-authorization of the Older Americans Act.
- Support increased Federal and State funding and support for services that promote health and well-being thereby enhancing the quality of life of low-income seniors.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

California's age 65 and older population stands at 4 million, which is projected to double to over 8 million by 2030. Additionally, the projected average life expectancy has increased to over 81 years for women and over 76 years for men.

While seniors are the fastest growing sector of the population, little funding is provided to address overall spectrum of needs faced by individuals as they age. Without assistance, seniors often lack the ability to remain in their own homes and thus must resort to assisted living facilities at extraordinary costs or rely on family members and professional or informal caregivers for continued care. In addition, as a result of increasing medical needs, seniors utilize emergency rooms and public clinics at an increasing rate as a result of lack of appropriate health coverage.

The SCAN Foundation highlights Medicare-Medicaid integration, person-centered care and long-term care financing as key issues to meeting the increasing demands. A comprehensive program of safety net services provided via community providers and governmental agencies, provides for the opportunity for seniors to remain independent for a longer period and provides for the spectrum of health and human services needs required to age with dignity.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Preventative, proactive, geriatric specific services for the aging population is more cost effective and better practice in comparison to institutional placements. Evidence confirms that skillful case management community centered services, nutritional based programs is important in maintaining the health and functional independence of older adults. Said services can reduce costly hospital admissions and delay nursing home placement. A majority of older adults in the US have diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol or a combination of these chronic conditions. These conditions can be successfully managed with appropriate interventions that will improve health and quality of life. Unchecked, these conditions result in increased costs.

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SOCIAL SERVICES TANF REAUTHORIZATION

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program was founded on the idea that states should have the flexibility to design their programs in a way best suited to their unique populations in order to help families transition from assistance to self-sufficiency. The last reauthorization of TANF, which was part of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, was heavily weighted toward Federal oversight and penalties instead of state flexibility – a change that reflected a level of distrust that was unwarranted given the progress states made in reducing the welfare rolls after TANF was initially implemented. The success of TANF depends on counties' flexibility to target local needs and support participant's work activities. Without that flexibility and the funding to implement it, the working families who are struggling toward self-sufficiency will lose supportive services and many will be unable to successfully end their reliance on cash assistance. Welfare reform is an ongoing process of supporting working families in gaining self-sufficiency, not a one-time removal of families from the welfare rolls.

With congressional reauthorization looming, the county supports flexibility that allows States and counties to meet the individual needs of their caseloads. We support establishing Federal rules that measure the effectiveness of welfare programs by utilizing more outcome-based measures.

REQUESTED ACTION

The County requests that its delegation advocate at the Federal level to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to restore and enhance state and county flexibility to tailor work and support services that move families into self-sufficiency based on their unique needs. TANF Reauthorization must reverse the damaging effects of the 2005 TANF Reauthorization changes to the Work Participation Rates (WPR) formula and definition of "work." The County is interested in a balanced approach between federal oversight and state flexibility with better and more outcome-based measures of success.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Santa Barbara County continues to struggle with the challenge of complying with Federal regulations and finds it difficult to achieve the federal WPR, placing our county at risk of fiscal sanction. TANF Reauthorization offers an opportunity to change the current one-size fits all Federal rules that penalize States and Counties instead of offering flexibility and incentives gauged toward effective measures of welfare program success.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Since TANF Reauthorization in 2005, the current required Federal participation rate of 50% has been a challenge to meet at the county level. TANF Reauthorization offers an opportunity to change the current one-size fits all Federal rules that penalize States and Counties instead of offering flexibility and incentives gauged toward effective measures of welfare program success.

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STATE SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDING (CODB)

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

For the County Department of Social Services (DSS), the State pays a portion of the costs associated with providing mandated public assistance programs ("cost of doing business" or "CODB"). However, the State's contribution has not kept pace with inflation or the actual costs of administering mandated programs. Rather, the state has frozen its funding for administration and overhead at the 2001 level. Although the department receives funding for caseload growth, absence of CODB funding prevents the department from pursuing new technologies and increased efficiencies, or achieving staffing levels that adequately address the needs of the clients and fulfill the mandated timelines established by the State and Federal government. DSS has deferred funding other needs in lieu of programmatic cuts, but cannot continue this practice indefinitely. The State does not plan to provide these resources in the foreseeable future. Although it has been mitigated up to now by DSS, the full impact will begin to negatively impact the Department's ability to deliver mandated services.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support efforts to restore appropriate “cost of doing business” funding levels immediately and continuing into the future. Counties do not have the discretionary income to continue to backfill the states responsibilities for funding these programs.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

As a result of the many years of withholding CODB and a compounding of the shortfall by adding Medi-Cal CODB withholding to the equation, it has eroded DSS's ability to maintain adequate staffing levels to meet client demand. Consequently, clients experience longer wait times and delays in eligibility determinations, which has increases food insecurity, homelessness, and delayed access to medical coverage. Staffing shortfalls also result in a delay in investigations which may result in children, adults, and disabled individuals being left in an abusive or negligent situation.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The state's failure to fund actual county cost increases (e.g. salary and benefit increases) has led to a funding gap of nearly $1 billion annually. Freezing funding also shifts costs to counties and increases the county share of program costs above statutory sharing ratios. Continued under-funding by the State has resulted in staffing decreases without a comparable decrease in State mandated programs. Should this continue, it would mean a significant decrease in service delivery, create performance inefficiencies, and impact the ability to meet mandated timeframes while simultaneously exposing the county to increased liability particularly in Child Welfare Services. Additionally, failure to meet mandated performance measures in programs may lead to fiscal sanctions being imposed by the Federal and State governments.

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SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Without child care subsidies, low income working parents are unable to obtain employment, are forced to quit their jobs, or put their children in substandard care which impacts children's futures and our communities' viability. Without adequate investment in the child care infrastructure, providers and parents lack the supports necessary for a strong system. Therefore, the County is advocating for sufficient funding to increase the quality and quantity of child care slots, reimbursement rates, and infrastructure.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support increased State funding for child care subsidies, rates, slots, and support services to align with current programming and trends in the early care and education.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Researchers and economists have documented that high quality early care and education offers a high return on investment ($4.00 to $17.00/per dollar spent), especially for children with risk factors. Reductions in juvenile crime, teen pregnancy, high school drop-out rates and intervention services are well-documented for children who attended such programs. Additionally, the child care industry contributes significantly to the local economy both in their workforce, and the ability for parents to be gainfully employed. Therefore, providing children with a strong start can counteract the negative implications of disadvantaged environments.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

In FY 2015-16 Santa Barbara County received $3,633,259 in Stage 1 child care funding, compared to $3,310,139 in FY 2014-15, translating to a 10% increase in funding. However, this increase in funding has been offset by a 4.5% increase in the Regional Market Rate in October 2015 and a local 15% increase of licensed care providers (which use higher reimbursement rates) resulting in additional expenditures for the CalWORKs and Alternative Payment programs.

When former CalWORKs families cannot work due to the reduction or lack of child care benefits, their self-sufficiency is threatened and many end up back on aid (cash, CalFresh, and Medi-Cal). Costs shift from a relatively reasonable cost for keeping people employed to a more expensive model in which the State and Counties pay for people to remain on public assistance. Additionally, reduced access to high quality early care and education services for children at risk will result in higher social service and law enforcement costs in the near future.

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AGRICULTURE/WILLIAMSON ACT SUBVENTION

Principle	
Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection	
Strategy	Target
Funding	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, also known as the Williamson Act, allows local governments to enter into ten year contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use. Landowners are assessed property taxes based upon farming and open space uses as opposed to full market value of the land. Local government in exchange receives an annual subvention of forgone property tax revenues from the State via the Open Space Subvention Act of 1971. Approximately 550,000 acres of land are enrolled within the Williamson Act within the County of Santa Barbara. The FY 2009-10 state budget reduced the Williamson Act Subvention payments from $39 million to $1,000, effectively suspending the payments to local governments during an already difficult economic time. There have been no subvention payments to the County since then. Historically, the County had received an annual subvention payment from the State of approximately $653,000.

California's agricultural sector is the most important in the United States, leading the nation's production in over 77 different products including dairy and a number of fruit and vegetable "specialty" crops. The large variety of crops grown allows California to be on the leading edge of agricultural markets and technology. California produces almost twice as much as its closest competitor, Texas, and is the sole U.S. producer of crops such as almonds, artichokes, persimmons, raisins, and walnuts.

Locally, agriculture continues to be the County's major producing industry. The 2015 gross production was valued at $1.47 billion. This is a $10 million (0.7%) decrease in gross value when compared with the 2014 figures and is the tenth year in a row that agriculture has surpassed the one billion dollar benchmark. The County is the second largest producer in the state for broccoli and cauliflower as well as having a high production of strawberries, wine grapes, lettuce, and other produce. Farming and ranching operations are also one of the most important industries and economic drivers in the County.

REQUESTED ACTION

Restore State subvention funds that reimburse counties which continue to have a Williamson Act program.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The Williamson Act program has been an effective tool to preserve farmland and open space. It assists local government with general plan and zoning objectives and promotes orderly growth.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

There has been no appropriation of subvention funds for the Williamson Act program since FY 2011-12.

CONTACT

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AIR QUALITY – MARINE VESSEL EMISSIONS

Principle	
Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

In Santa Barbara County, the thousands of marine vessels that travel along the 130 miles coastline produce significant emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx), particulates, air toxics, and greenhouse gases. The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District has estimated that more than half of the smog-forming NOx emissions in the County are from marine vessels transiting the Santa Barbara Channel (Channel). Emissions threaten air quality and public health and constrain the County's ability to meet federal and state standards pertaining to ozone and particulates. In the summer of 2014, The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District worked with partners to institute a small-scale trial incentive program to reduce ship speeds in the Channel to gather data and help establish the foundation for a larger scale program.

While progress has been made in efforts such as the trial program, and in achieving regulations such as the California Air Resources Board fuel rule, and engine and fuel rules associated with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) designating 200 miles off the coast of North America as an Emission Control Area (ECA), there are four areas that still need to be addressed namely:

1. Responding to challenges to the ECA and its rules that need to be addressed by the U.S. Delegation to the IMO;
2. Efforts to reduce emission from existing engines;
3. Quantifying air quality impacts associated with the existing shipping lanes in the Channel; and
4. Identifying funding and/or regulatory options to implement a large-scale vessel speed reduction plan in the Channel to reduce ship speeds down to 12 knots or less, providing air quality (and whale protection) benefits.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support securing economic incentives to accelerate the retrofit of engines and funding for research and development of new technologies and strategies to control shipping emissions.

Support ongoing funding for a large-scale vessel speed reduction program in the Santa Barbara Channel. Such a program could be structured as a voluntary incentive program (with an identified source of funding, for example, State Cap-and-Trade auction revenues).

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Ships contribute to worldwide emissions of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, sulfur, air toxics, and greenhouse gases. These emissions represent a serious threat to air quality and public health. Moreover, local control is diminished as federal and state laws (Federal and California Clean Air Acts) require adherence to air quality standards and local jurisdictions have limited authority over regulating shipping vessels. Ship speed reduction to 12 knots will reduce emissions of all pollutants by up to 50% annually and would increase the protection of endangered whales and other marine mammals.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

There may be indirect costs to local governments that are required to maintain federal and state standards for air quality and greenhouse gas reductions, despite having no local control over shipping vessels' emissions.

CONTACT

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Principle	
Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection	
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 wellbeing 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, microeconomic 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 ACTION

Support policy and funding commitments to community development programs at the 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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ENERGY AND CLIMATE

Principle	
Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection	
Strategy	Target
Funding, Legislative & Advocacy	Fed/State

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 approved an Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP) to lower GHG emissions 15% below baseline levels (2007) by 2020 and provide for additional reductions beyond 2020. The ECAP includes fifty emission reduction measures encompassed in the following eleven 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.

In addition to measures outlined in the ECAP, the County is also monitoring opportunities related to carbon sequestration, emissions resulting from forest fires, and climate change planning and adaptation strategies. To coordinate climate and sustainability implementation efforts across departments, the County has formed a County Sustainability Committee. The County is also participating in the recently formed Central Coast Climate Collaborative, which focuses on regional climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, as well as the California Coastal Resilience Network, which allows local jurisdictions to share lessons learned about coastal climate change adaptation.

Furthermore, Santa Barbara County participates prominently in the management and regulation of not only traditional petroleum-based energy resources, but renewable energy resources, as well. The County's promotion of and participation in projects that cover the spectrum of renewable energy generation and storage demonstrates its commitment not only to contributing to and helping sustain the region's economic vitality, but to addressing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change associated with more traditional energy development.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support funding for local and regional energy and climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives, including, alternative transportation, energy efficiency, water efficiency, distributed clean energy, and climate change adaptation planning.

Support more funding for local and regional energy and climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives from Cap and Trade auction revenues and other State programs.

Support California Public Utility Commission regulatory actions that are favorable to local energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives and Community Choice Energy programs.

Support federal actions associated with overcoming barriers for Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing.

Support legislation that sets future State emission targets; Advocate for and seek legislation and funding to support County participation in emerging and mature renewable energy development programs, projects and infrastructure.

Identify, evaluate and advocate for changes to state and federal regulatory requirements that create unnecessary and/or unintended barriers to implementation of renewable energy programs and projects.

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Specific emission reduction measures and projects not already in existence will vary in cost. The costs for development and implementation of most are anticipated to be good candidates for external funding from private sector investment and/or grant funding from state and federal sources while others may require County investment.

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HEALTHY SOILS INITIATIVE

Principle	
Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection	
Strategy	Target
Funding & Legislative	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Scientific and policy developments in California now provide a unique opportunity to advance and scale agricultural and land management practices that improve soil carbon (and soil health) and increase water holding capacity in soils, while addressing the State's climate change goals. Policy proposals being considered by the State Legislature and the Governor's Office would create an incentives program that would provide farmers, ranchers, and organizations with financial incentives to implement carbon-beneficial agricultural practices that sequester carbon, reduce greenhouse gases and increase soil carbon. This program, the Healthy Soils Initiative, is being advanced by Governor Jerry Brown and will be administered by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the Department of Conservation (DoC), Cal Recycle (for compost production and application to farms and ranches), and several other key agencies.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support legislation that provides funding resources at the state and local level to develop and implement land management practices to improve soil carbon and soil health.

Support legislation that creates incentives programs that would provide farmers, ranchers, and organizations with financial incentives to implement carbon-beneficial agricultural practices that sequester carbon.

Support State funding for Healthy Soils Program and Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation Program from Cap and Trade Revenue.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

- Sustainability: Carbon sequestration aligns with the goals of the County's adopted Energy and Climate Action Plan and provides a mechanism/tool to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Agricultural: Pilot programs that utilize carbon sequestration land management practices have resulted in increased productivity and increased water holding capacity in soils.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

No direct costs to the government are anticipated.

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HISTORIC SANTA BARBARA COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Principle	
Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection	
Strategy	Target
Funding	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Santa Barbara Courthouse is owned by the County of Santa Barbara and serves as a community resource for the area's civic groups, non-profit groups, and other residents. However, this aging building is in need of funding to correct deficiencies and undertake historic rehabilitation of the structure for it to continue serving the community going forward. The historic (City Landmark, State Historic Landmark, and National Historic Landmark) Santa Barbara Courthouse, constructed in 1929, is a 156,000 square foot complex of buildings and home to the Superior Court of California and Civic Government.

REQUESTED ACTION

Request $10 million in funding, over the next five years, for the continued conservation and preservation of this iconic National Historic Landmark through the Department of the Interior, National Endowment for the Arts, Housing and Community Development, Homeland Security, or direct Budget Appropriation.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The complex is occupied by multiple offices, courtrooms, and historic rooms that are able to accommodate hundreds of people. Moreover, it serves as a vital component of civic society, primarily as a gathering place for community celebrations in the area. There are multiple weddings, hosted private or public celebrations, and serves as a backdrop in commercial ad projects. There is a strong public-private partnership of fund raising with the help of the Courthouse Legacy Foundation and Courthouse Docent Council. These organizations have raised almost $3,000,000 over the previous five years for projects at the Santa Barbara Courthouse. This has allowed the County of Santa Barbara to leverage public resources to assist with the many projects underway at the Santa Barbara Courthouse annually.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The County has estimated the cost of life-safety, conservation, preservation and restoration projects to be approximately $55 million, which includes:

- ADA upgrades including ramps, restroom upgrade, handrails, signage installation ($2,235,000)
- Life-Safety upgrades including installation of exit sign, fire rated doors and related hardware, fire alarm and fire sprinkler system ($6,000,000)
- Architectural Conservation: stone and cast store restoration, leather and furniture restoration, painted ceiling restoration, draperies and textile restoration, wrought-iron, ceramic tiles and general plaster repairs ($25,000,000)
- Structural upgrades, retrofitting and stabilization of non-bearing elements ($2,775,000)
- Mechanical upgrades to existing heating and plumbing systems ($6,475,000)
- Electrical upgrades including replacement of circuitry and re-wiring of building elements ($3,760,000)
- Hazardous material abatement including asbestos, lead paint abatement, and organic material destroying organisms ($4,600,000)
- Exterior modifications including repair of existing sidewalks, curbs and gutters and hard/soft landscaping elements ($4,000,000)

CONTACT

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OIL & GAS INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE

Principle	
Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection	
Strategy	Target
Funding, Legislative, &Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Oil & gas development has occurred in Santa Barbara County since as early as the 1890's. A significant amount of onshore and offshore oil & gas production continues within the County today. Numerous private operators utilize infrastructure such as pipelines, tanks and specialized equipment to serve this ongoing production. Existing infrastructure continues to age and degrade, some of which is in need of replacement. Unused, historic infrastructure persists. Existing, aging oil & gas infrastructure is less likely to include modern technological features that help ensure safe operations and reduce potential for spill/upset. A significant amount of historic, abandoned infrastructure associated with discontinued operations is also located within the County. Local jurisdictions have limited ability to require upgrading of aged infrastructure, and to enforce existing safety-related and environmental protection-related laws and ordinances.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support legislation that incentivizes and/or requires private oil & gas operating companies to repair/replace aging infrastructure including pipelines and tanks. Also include requirements for the use of best available safety-related technologies, with the intent of reducing the frequency and volume of upset events that result in environmental damage. (Funding for improvements would be provided by the affected company.)

Support legislation that provides local jurisdictions with increased regulatory authority and enforcement capability to oversee inspection and maintenance activities of existing/future oil & gas infrastructure.

Support legislation allowing for stronger enforcement actions, including increased penalties, to be imposed by the land use authority for oil & gas operators that are clearly in violation of permits and related entitlements.

Support funding for cleanup/removal of historic, abandoned oil & gas wells and equipment where there is no existing responsible party with an urgent priority targeting wells that pollute the marine environment, as well as for equipment that creates public safety/nuisance concerns.

Support legislation to strengthen the rules set forth by, and enforcement capabilities of, the Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) and State Lands Commission (SLC) to require timely and proper abandonment of oil & gas facilities which have an existing responsible party.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Reduce likelihood of oil spills and public safety hazards with the intent of protecting public health and the ecologically sensitive habitats of Santa Barbara (including terrestrial and marine environments). Increase oil & gas operators' compliance with environmental and health-protective permit requirements.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

There are no known direct costs to the County. Economic impacts would be absorbed by private oil & gas operators.

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PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Principle	
Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection	
Strategy	Target
Funding	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Santa Barbara County Parks provides services to over seven million annual visitors to seventy-one day use parks, open space locations and two camping parks as well as to a network of trails and coastal access easements. The County is interested in preserving and expanding the amount of open space located within its boundary. As such, the County is supportive of funding opportunities that enable local governments to: (1) maintain existing facilities (i.e. funding for park and trail maintenance); (2) acquire additional land for open space preservation and (3) ensure safe access to beaches, parks and open space. Examples of these projects are listed below as well as in other areas of the 2017 platform.

Gaviota Coast Preservation: The Gaviota Coast is a largely undeveloped area along Highway 101 North of Goleta and South of Lompoc that consists primarily of agricultural land in private ownership, Vandenberg Air Force Base, US Forest Service Land, and three state parks. There are a number of endangered or threatened species in the area, including the red legged frog, steelhead trout, and California tiger salamander. A National Park Service Study looked at various conservation methods, including a potential federal designation, and concluded that the area is "nationally significant" and the best conservation approach was through local and private conservation efforts. Currently there is no interest in reconsidering a potential federal designation for the Gaviota Coast. There is a need for federal funding and assistance for planning efforts and land conversation acquisition by local government and/or private land trusts.

Point Sal Access and Management Plan and Implementation: This project will provide public access to Point Sal "Reserve", which consists of 2,600 acres of publicly and privately-owned lands located in the northwestern corner of the County, along the coast of the Pacific Ocean. In 1991, an original management plan was developed and revised in 2002 under an internal administrative draft to include parcels acquired by the County since the original 1991 plan. Costs total approximately $8 Million to update the management plan ($50,000), implement public access including land acquisition and vehicle improvements to the trail-head and pedestrian trail ($7.6 Million) and install signage and cattle control ($350,000). The United States Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service has provided a $200,000 California Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) Grant for the preparation of environmental documents and design for a parking lot at the Southern Point Sal public access point and permit applications and construction of a culvert enhancement for improved public access.

Santa Claus Lane Beach Access and Development: This project will secure public access rights and easements to the beach and open an access way over the existing railroad tracks and rock seawall. The total project cost is approximately $6.9 million which includes acquiring access rights and the design and construction of safety developments for the railroad and seawall crossings, installation of a parking lot, landscape screening, a restroom and other ancillary facilities. The United States Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service has provided a $316,000 California Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) Grant to facilitate securing access rights.

Jalama Beach Facility Improvements: This project will improve existing facilities to better serve the public at one of the only overnight camping parks in northern Santa Barbara County. The total project cost is approximately $2.5 million and includes systematic renovations to the restroom and shower facilities to meet major maintenance needs and bring facilities into ADA compliance. The Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund (CREF) has provided $551,000 to facilitate some of the restroom improvements.

REQUESTED ACTION

Requests support to assist the County in its interaction with other affected agencies and identify funding opportunities for these projects.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

These projects enhance the opportunities of residents and visitors to the County to gain safe access to beaches, partake in recreational activities and learn more about natural habitat.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The County has secured partial funding for many of these projects and is seeking additional funding to complete these projects.

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REGIONAL COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECTS-FEDERAL AUTHORITY FOR CALIFORNIA

Principle	
Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection	
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; and
- 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 ACTION

Support establishment of and funding for a 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 regional sediment management solutions including those identified above.

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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SUPPORT FOR WASTE RECOVERY AND REDUCTION PROGRAMS & FACILITIES

Principle	
Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection	
Strategy	Target
Funding, Legislative, & Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Communities are continually affected by new state and federal mandates regarding the safe and effective management of waste materials, including the increased recovery of materials for beneficial reuse and recycling, as well as the appropriate management of a growing number of commonly used hazardous wastes. In order to implement new programs and to build facilities to comply with growing regulations and general interest in doing more with waste materials, the County would benefit from receiving resources such as funding, permitting assistance, and resources associated with the better management of waste.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is an alternative approach to materials management that requires manufacturers and retailers to take greater responsibility for reducing the life-cycle impacts of their products and packaging. This approach encourages designing products for recycling, reducing excess packaging, and eliminating or reducing toxic materials in products. EPR also involves the development of effective end-of-life collection and recycling/disposal programs that are designed, funded, and operated by producers or their associated stewardship organizations.

Household hazardous waste (HHW)(e.g. paint, used motor oil, antifreeze, batteries, fluorescent lights, and electronic devices, such as computers, televisions, and cell phones) is a classification of solid waste that includes products that are toxic, flammable, corrosive, or reactive. These types of products are prime candidates for establishing EPR programs. Due to their hazardous nature, the disposal of these products must be handled separately from other types of solid waste. Local governments must provide collection and disposal/recycling opportunities, which may include permanent collection centers, periodic collection events, or curbside collection services. These programs, which require considerable public outreach and education, are costly to operate.

The County of Santa Barbara, in collaboration with the cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Solvang, and Buellton, is pursuing the development of the Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project (TRRP). This facility is projected to be publicly owned and privately operated on the County owned and operated Tajiguas Landfill. All waste currently buried at this landfill will be processed by removing recyclables for sale and having organics anaerobically digested into biogas and digestate. This facility will provide a 20-year waste management system by increasing the region's recycling rate, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and generating green energy.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support funding opportunities, such as grant programs or other funding mechanisms that support implementing new waste recovery programs and facilities.

Support existing or new legislation that will help local governments sustainably and cost effectively manage solid waste, such as HHW, including mandated EPR programs, for individual products or groups of products.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The County of Santa Barbara would benefit from assistance, including new funding opportunities available for waste recovery programs and facilities in order to support the local economy, provide cost effective services, and a create a variety of environmental benefits including

- Reduction of greenhouse gasses
- Conservation of water and energy

- Conservation of natural resources by reusing extracted materials rather than extracting new materials and further impacting natural areas
- Reduction in use of toxic chemicals
- Keeping dangerous and potentially harmful materials out of our environment
- Reduction in air emissions

Other benefits include a decrease in costs to local government and improved worker safety. The Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project in particular, will help the County achieve State mandates on waste diversion (75% by 2020 – AB341), greenhouse gas reduction (1990 levels achieved by 2020 – AB 32), green energy production (33% renewal energy by 2020 – SB X12), and the reduced disposal of organics (collection and diversion of organics from commercial generators - AB 1826, 15 years of organics processing capacity - AB876, and the collaboration of state entities on the development of composting facilities - AB1045).

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Local governments are currently responsible for providing recycling and disposal programs for unwanted products. The implementation of these types of programs and facilities can cost in the range of tens of thousands of dollars to over a hundred million dollars, so securing external resources would greatly benefit these efforts. For example, costs for managing products containing hazardous materials are very expensive. Legislation that would alleviate these burdens, such as EPR programs that shift the financial burden of managing products to producers and retailers of those products, would result in significant cost savings and potentially enhanced customer service for local governments.

The estimated capital cost for the TRRP is approximately $100 million. The project will be financed through a tipping fee at the facility, and this cost will then be passed on to ratepayers in their monthly bills. This project's costs, which include a Materials Recovery Facility and an Anaerobic Digestion Facility, are comparable to other alternatives (e.g. exporting waste to another facility or expanding the existing landfill). Any external resources that can be provided will assist in the financial feasibility of this project.

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VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDINGS

Principle	
Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection	
Strategy	Target
Funding	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Santa Barbara, Lompoc, and Carpinteria Veterans Memorial Buildings are owned by the County of Santa Barbara and serve as a community resource for the area's veterans, non-profit groups, and other residents. Veterans of foreign wars are often overlooked, forgotten, and misunderstood. Giving them a place to interact with other veterans regardless of wartime experience is not only important, it is our duty to do so. The generation of the 1920s and 1930s understood this obligation; the generation of this decade needs to follow through. This request will enable the Veterans Memorial Buildings within the County of Santa Barbara to continue to serve our returning veterans for decades to come.

REQUESTED ACTION

Request funding for needed health and safety improvements to the County's Veteran's Memorial Buildings.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Santa Barbara Building
The historic (City Landmark and eligible for the National Register) Santa Barbara Veterans Memorial Building, constructed in 1927, is located on Santa Barbara's premier waterfront. It is heavily used by veterans and the community alike. Historically, Veterans Memorial Buildings came into being through the counties of California, which provided publicly-owned or donated land for the construction of memorial sites to be built in their cities. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, memorial halls and structures were constructed and dedicated as a tribute to those who fought in World War I. The usage of these spaces is guided and governed by the California Military and Veterans Code, which provides for the use of such facilities by veterans and persons or organizations other than veterans, either free of charge or for stated compensation to aid in defraying the cost of maintenance. These facilities are being closed in many counties. It is desired to save this building and ensure the usage for many years to come.

Lompoc Building
The historic (City Landmark and eligible for the National Register) Lompoc Veterans Memorial Building, constructed in 1936, is a 20,393 square foot building home to several veterans' groups. It is comprised of multiple offices, a large commercial kitchen, and two large halls that are able to accommodate hundreds of people. Moreover, it serves as a vital component of Lompoc civic society, primarily as a gathering place for the military veterans in the area.

Carpinteria Building
The historic (City Landmark and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places) Carpinteria Veterans Memorial Building, constructed in the early 1930s, is a 13,400 square foot home to the Carpinteria Valley Veterans of Foreign Wars and many local non-profit community service organizations. Due to the age of the building, major areas of work include: electrical systems, seismic upgrading or retrofitting, exterior and interior ADA improvements, replacement of aging and failing wood components, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The work items listed below are in priority order for each building.

Santa Barbara Building
The County has estimated the cost of renovation to be approximately $1,250,000, which includes:

1) **Seismic Safety**: This includes seismic retrofitting, foundation stabilization, and deteriorated wood framing components. Total cost estimated for this work is $375,000.

2) **Electrical Systems**: This includes main panel, subpanel upgrades, internal wiring systems, and aging light fixtures. Total cost estimated for this work is $500,000.
3) **Energy**: This includes water distribution systems, HVAC, utility regulation equipment, and window upgrades. Total cost estimated for this work is $375,000.

Lompoc Building
The County has estimated the cost for restoration to be $1,050,000, which includes:

1) **Architectural**: This section includes exiting, fire protection, accessibility for the disabled and other life-safety related projects; replacement of doors and windows, and related buildings systems upgrades. Federal Share request is $750,000.
2) **Hazardous Materials**: This section includes removal of lead based paints and asbestos materials. Federal Share request is $300,000.

Carpinteria Building
The County has estimated cost for restoration to be $1,300,000, which includes:

1. **Architectural**: This section includes exiting, fire protection, accessibility for the disabled and other life-safety related projects; roofing, replacement of doors and windows, and related buildings systems upgrades. Federal Share request is $750,000.
2. **Hazardous Materials**: This section includes removal of lead based paints and asbestos materials. Federal Share request is $300,000.
3. **Seismic Safety.** The main spaces and bell tower are in need of seismic stabilization and the building in general requires seismic retrofitting to attach roof, wall, and foundation systems for movement during an earthquake event. Federal Share request is $250,000.

CONTACT

George Chapjian, Director, Community Services Department, (805) 568-2467
Dennis Bozanich, Deputy County Executive Officer, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

Principle	
Community Sustainability & Environmental Protection	
Strategy	Target
Funding	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Onsite wastewater treatment systems (septic systems) that are properly sited, installed and maintained provide a safe and effective means of handling domestic wastewater in areas where the public sewer is unavailable. Conversely, antiquated systems or systems installed in areas that are not especially suitable for the use of septic systems represent a potential health and safety hazard as they may expose the public to sewage and noxious odors as well as contaminating surface water (creeks) and groundwater.

In 2012, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted the Water Quality Control Policy for the Design, Operation and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) that for the first time established statewide regulations for OWTS. The policy not only sets stringent standards for new systems but also for the repair or modification of existing systems. Depending on location specific conditions, the cost of installing or repairing an OWTS will increase significantly. As a result, homeowners may delay making needed repairs or upgrades to their systems.

By providing financial assistance in the form of grants or low or no interest loans, property owners will be more proactive to replace or repair a failing or antiquated OWTS. Such a program would enhance the public health and safety by eliminating exposure to sewage and preventing contamination of the County's water resources.

REQUESTED ACTION

Request funds, in the form of grants, low interest loans or no interest loans, to assist homeowners that must make expensive repairs or upgrades to their OWTS in order to be in compliance with new state standards be made available.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Providing inducements to replace or repair antiquated or failing OWTS will reduce the potential for exposure to sewage and contamination of surface water and groundwater provide greater protection of the public health and safety.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

No immediate direct cost but unknown administrative costs associated with working with a financial institution or other entity with expertise to manage a grant or loan program.

CONTACT

Takashi Wada, MD, MPH, Director and Health Officer (805) 681-5105

Larry Fay, Environmental Health Services Director (805) 346-8483

Dennis Bozanich, Deputy County Executive Officer, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

Appendix

County at a Glance

The People (U.S. Census Bureau)

Population: (2014 estimate) 440,668

Ethnicity: (2014 estimate)

- **45.9% White**
- **44.4% Hispanic**
- **5.7% Asian**
- **2.4% Black**

Age: (2014 estimate)

- **22.4% under 18 years of age**
- **14.0% over 65 years of age**

The Cities

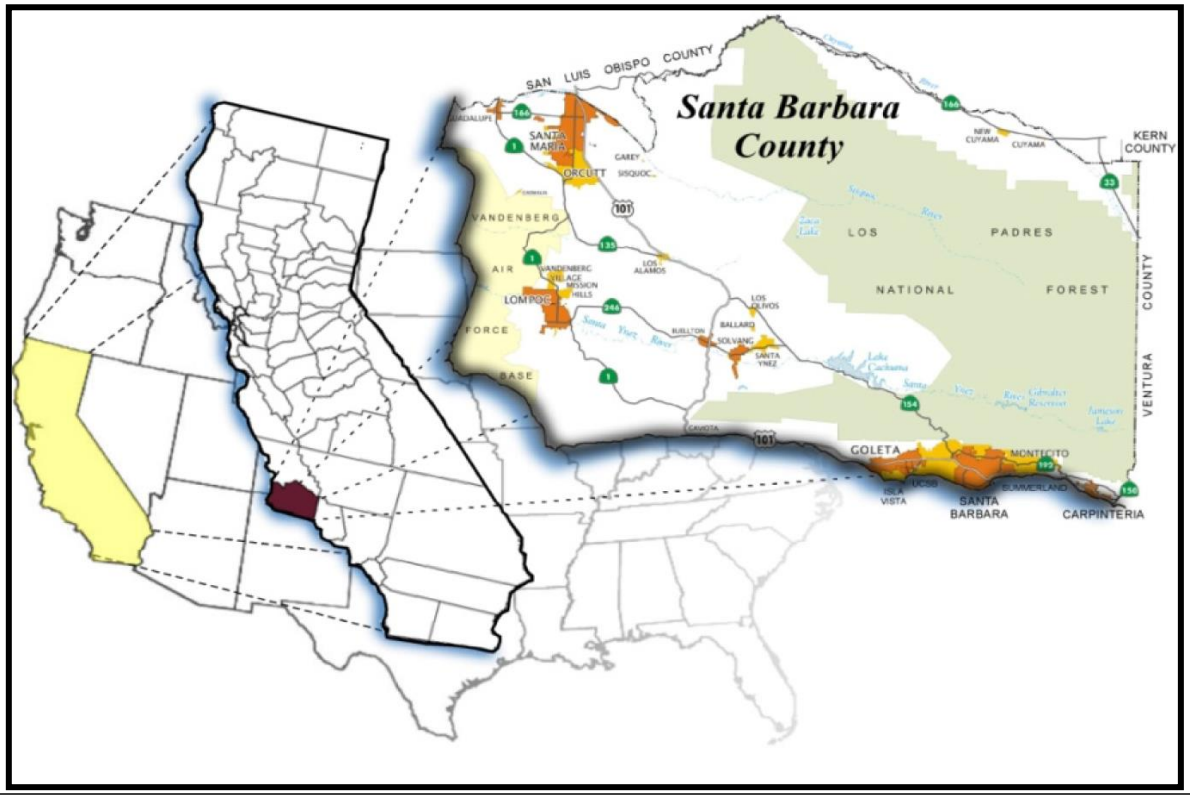
- **Buellton**
- **Carpinteria**
- **Goleta**
- **Guadalupe**
- **Lompoc**
- **Santa Barbara**
- **Santa Maria**
- **Solvang**

The Community

- **114 parks**
- **18 beaches**
- **18 open space preserves**
- **17 public libraries**
- **17 golf courses**
- **Civic Participation (November 4, 2014)**
  -Number of Voting Precincts: 250
  -Number of Registered Voters: 196,998

The Land

- **2,735 square miles**
- **1/3 located within the Los Padres National Forest**
- **150 square miles Vandenberg Air Force Base**
- **117 miles of coastline**
- **Average temperature 64 degrees F**
- **Average 300 days of sunshine a year**



Santa Barbara County

Federal Officials

President Barack Hussein Obama II,
44th President of the US
whitehouse.gov
Bio - Previous occupation: US Senator. Elected in 2008.
Key Issues: Revitalizing the economy, healthcare, US global leadership and homeland security.

United States Senator Barbara Boxer,
114th Congress
boxer.senate.gov
Bio - Previous occupation: Politician-10 years as member of the US House of Representatives. Elected to Senate in 1993. Committee assignments include Commerce, Science and Technology, Environment and Public Works (Chair), Foreign Relations and Ethics.
Key Issues: Public education and after school programs, affordable health care and patient bill of rights and environmental issues including safe drinking water.

United States Senator Dianne Feinstein,
114th Congress
feinstein.senate.gov/public
Bio - Previous occupation: Politician- Member Board of Supervisors and Mayor, San Francisco. Elected to Senate in 1992. Committee assignments include Appropriations, Intelligence (Chair), Judiciary, and Rules & Administration.
Key Issues- crime victims' rights, healthcare, economy, national security/homeland security, environmental issues including water supply and agriculture and education.

Congresswoman Lois Capps,
24th District
capps.house.gov
Bio - Previous occupation: Nurse, educator. Elected to Congress in 1998. Committee assignments include Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Natural Resources Committee.
Key Issues: Budget, education, energy and environmental issues, public health, immigration, gas prices and health care issues.

State Officials

Governor Jerry Brown,
39th Governor
gov.ca.gov
Bio - Previous occupation: Elected Governor of California in 2010, elected California Attorney General in 2006, elected Mayor of Oakland in 1998 and reelected in 2002, elected Governor of California in 1974 and reelected in 1978, elected California Secretary of State in 1970.
Key issues- jobs for California's future, education, budget , environment, clean energy jobs plan, pension reform, water for the 21st century, and fighting to protect civil rights.

California State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson,
19th District
sd19.senate.ca.gov
Bio – Previous occupation: Deputy District Attorney, CA State Assemblymember elected to State Senate in 2012.
Key Issues: Reproductive health, spousal support, economic and wage equality.

California State Assemblyman Katcho Archadjian,
35th District
arc.asm.ca.gov/member/AD35
Bio - Previous occupation: Business owner, elected County Supervisor in 1998, appointed to California Coastal Commission in 2006, Elected CA Assemblymember in 2010.
Key Issues: Health care, public safety, community improvement, fiscal reform and education.

California State Assemblyman Das Williams,
37th District
asmdc.org/members/a37
Bio- Previous occupation: CA State Assemblymember, City Councilmember, Educator, and Legislative Aide.
Key issues: State budget, higher education improvement, fiscal issues and off-shore oil drilling.

DRAFT