



**SANTA  
BARBARA  
COUNTY**



# **FY 2017-18**

**A HIGHLIGHTS REPORT**





The County encompasses more than 2,745-square miles and is home to about 440,000 residents.

The Organization's Mission-Vision-Values:

## **MISSION**

Deliver exceptional services so Santa Barbara County's communities can enjoy a safe, healthy and prosperous life.

## **VISION**

Employees empowered to deliver exceptional public service.

## **VALUES**

Trust and Ethics  
Customer Focus and Exceptional Public Service  
Accountability and Professionalism  
Innovation

## **ABOUT THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors serves as the legislative and executive body of Santa Barbara government, and is comprised of five elected officials representing each of the County supervisory districts. Each is elected for a four-year term with the position of Chairperson selected annually among the members.

The Board generally convenes in regular session on several Tuesdays each month, with the second Tuesday meeting of the month held in Santa Maria. The Board sets policy for County departments, oversees the County budget, and adopts ordinances on local matters and establishes land use policies that affect unincorporated areas.

The County of Santa Barbara is comprised of 21 departments that provide a range of programs and services to the community. Departments make recommendations to the Board and implement its actions. The Sheriff-Coroner, District Attorney, Clerk-Recorder-Assessor, Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator, and Auditor-Controller are independently elected offices.

Santa Barbara County government has a history of providing excellent and responsive public service while operating under sound fiscal principles. To learn more about your county government, please visit [www.CountyofSB.org](http://www.CountyofSB.org).

# Introduction

The vital role the County plays in delivering exceptional public service to improve the lives of the people and communities we serve became all the more clear in late 2017 with the Thomas Fire followed by the devastating 1/9 Debris Flow. We are living and working with a pre- and post-fire and debris flow frame of reference. Every aspect of your county government is committed to the recovery and rebuilding of our community. The path ahead will be challenging, but together we will work through it.

Despite these challenges, Santa Barbara County continues to build a better government that strives to be responsive and accountable. In 2017, we embarked on Renew '22, a five-year program to re-vision and transform Santa Barbara County government by the year 2022. We are examining our processes and procedures to improve methods of delivering quality services, and redesigning how we do our work over the next five years in order to thrive. We will be here today, next week, next year and beyond to do whatever it takes to make our community stronger and more resilient than it has ever been.

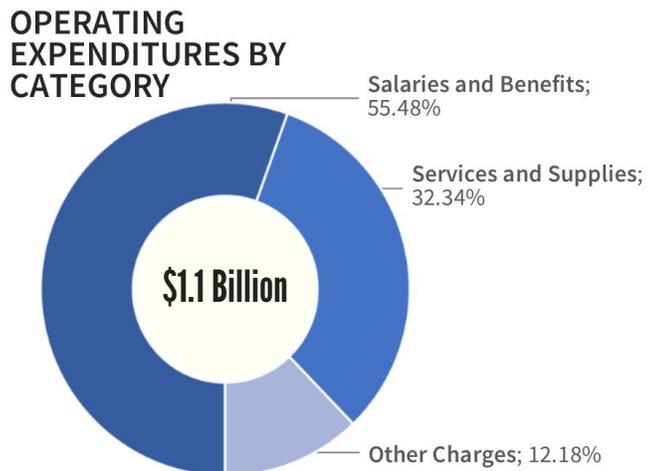
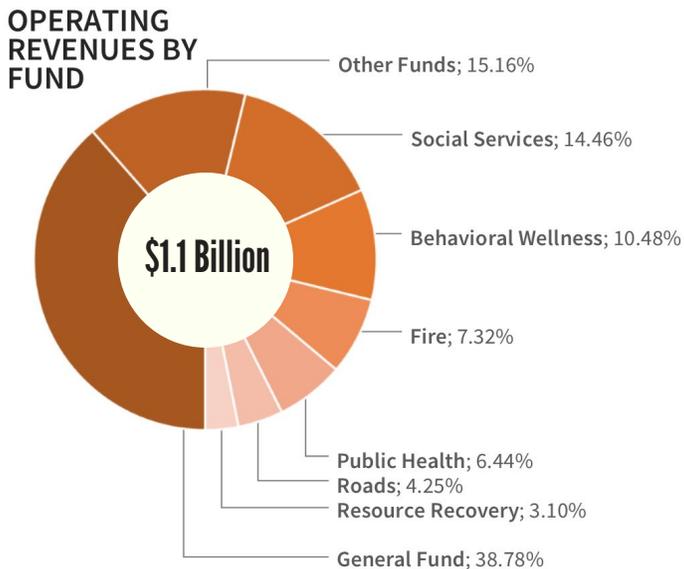
Enclosed are highlights of the Board of Supervisors and department achievements authorized by the Board of Supervisors, grouped by the County's six policy goals.

## EFFICIENT & RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT

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

On June 11, 2018, the Board of Supervisors adopted a **balanced budget of \$1.1 billion for Fiscal Year 2018-19.**

The adopted budget provides funding for important initiatives, ongoing and new mandates and liabilities, and increased levels of funding for prior Board commitments - all within the context of recovering from one of the largest disasters the County has encountered in recent history.



**FYI:** Agriculture is the number one contributor to the county's economy and through the multiplier effect, contributes a total of \$2.8 billion to the local economy and provides 25,370 jobs.



**Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (L-R):** Steve Lavagnino, Fifth District; Das Williams, First District; Joan Hartmann, Third District; Janet Wolf, Second District; Peter Adam, Fourth District

The Ad-Hoc Subcommittee of the Board regarding **Santa Ynez Valley Band of Chumash Indian** matters and staff continued to meet in 2017 to discuss land use and financial issues, and other matters of mutual concern with the Tribe. An agreement was reached between the County and the Tribe on October 31, 2017.

**Changes in Key Leadership:**

In mid-2017, Van Do Reynoso, Ph.D., was appointed to Director of Public Health.

On December 1, 2017, Tanja Heitman was sworn in by the Superior Court as Chief Probation Officer.

On June 20, 2018, it was announced that County Undersheriff Bernard "Barney" Melekian was named Assistant County Executive Officer (ACEO) over public safety beginning September 10, 2018.



# IN FOCUS:

## Renew '22, a Multi-Year Plan to Transform Santa Barbara County Government

The world is changing quickly around us requiring adaptation and change. For these reasons, Renew '22 was launched in 2017 to examine County processes and procedures to improve methods of delivering quality services, and redesign how work is accomplished.

Renew '22 connects the 2017 Budget Rebalancing Initiative to eliminate structural budget gaps; the foundational work created by the Organizational Strategic Plan that was developed with employee input; and the Strategic Communications Plan initiated in 2016 to improve and enrich outreach to employees, customers, residents, vendors, partners and other agencies.

Renew '22 sought to define how we do our work and gain clarity on Board priorities and policies. As part of the FY 18-19 budget process and hearings, the Board considered short- and long-term plans, proposals and next steps. Many Renew '22 initiatives are in various stages and have the potential to transform County government. We will keep employees and the public informed of our progress and seek input along the way.



To receive County news delivered to your e-mail, simply join our mailing list linked from our home page at [www.CountyofSB.org](http://www.CountyofSB.org).

## FYI:

The County owns 20% of the 149 electric vehicle charging stations existing across the county.



The Board continued to support local efforts to provide the community with cost-effective renewable energy options by directing staff to further explore the possibilities of forming a new **Community Choice Energy (CCE) program** or joining existing regional CCE programs. CCE enables local governments to leverage the purchasing power of their residents, businesses and governmental entities to buy or generate power for their communities. When California deregulated the energy market in 1997, many Californians switched to energy providers other than the investor-owned utilities. Following the energy crisis of 2000-01, the state suspended consumer choice of electricity providers. As a response to the closing of the open market, Assembly Bill 117 passed in 2002 establishing CCE.

## CUSTOMER SERVICE CUSTOMER FOCUSED

To improve efficiency and customer service, and as good stewards of the environment, many County departments went paperless in 2017.

Child Support Services switched to electronic filing for its volume of more than 1,000 court documents every month, cutting in half the amount of time spent processing each document and freeing up staff to fulfill other customer services.

Social Services stopped accepting cash payments, instead relying on fully insured, vendor-serviced payment kiosks. With the use of these new kiosks and other commercial payment options, cash collections rose by \$41,000 per month - a 38% increase.

The Public Defender's Office goal is to be 100% paperless in 2019. Its Juvenile Division went completely electronic, with the Misdemeanor team conversion underway.

## FYI:

In 2017, the County issued more than 3,500 marriage licenses. Of those, the Courthouse and Hall of Records hosted an average of 347 weddings per month.



## FYI:

The Board received the first annual report on the County's progress in implementing the Energy and Climate Action Plan, adopted in 2015. Working together, the County and community have reduced greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 30,605 metric tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent. That compares to removing almost 6,500 cars off our local roads and highways for 12 months.

# ECONOMICALLY VITAL & SUSTAINABLE

*Support efforts to foster community wide sustainability by promoting economic stability.*

A 2 percent increase to the County's **Transient Occupancy Tax** (TOT) took effect on January 1, 2017. It was estimated to generate \$1.8 million in annual General Fund Revenue as a result of the increase. Due to the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow, the County anticipates losses to the TOT as well as property tax, two of the County's largest discretionary revenue sources.

The **Governor's Enacted Budget** provides \$4.4 million in one-time funding to backfill the County's property tax losses incurred because of the disasters. On June 11, the Board assigned these funds and an additional \$1.5 million to repay 94 percent of the \$6.3 million pulled from the Strategic Reserve for disaster response activities.

On June 5, 2018, voters passed the **cannabis tax ballot measure**. The adopted FY 18-19 budget includes funding for permitting, licensing and administration of the County's cannabis program through licensing and permitting fees totaling \$1.6 million; and funding for enforcement through cannabis tax revenue.

Of the \$5.5 million in revenue projected to be generated from cannabis taxes in FY 18-19, \$1.7 million will be used to fund enforcement costs while the balance will be used to address deferred maintenance needs, rebuild the Strategic Reserve and help fulfill other Board priorities.

## IN FOCUS:

### The Future of Cannabis Operations in Santa Barbara County

Following the passage of Proposition 64 by California voters in the November 2016 general election, the Board of Supervisors established an Ad Hoc Committee to develop a permanent ordinance related to the regulation of medical and recreational cannabis. The Committee consisted of Supervisors Williams and Lavagnino, and staff from the County Executive Office, Agriculture Commission, Planning & Development, Public Health/Environmental Health, Sheriff's Office and District Attorney. The Board spent significant time in 2017 balancing neighbor concerns with developing a pathway for local owners.

On February 27, 2018, the Board of Supervisors adopted a series of ordinances that regulate commercial cannabis operations within the County's unincorporated area. The ordinances categorize cannabis operations into eight permit types, and allow each license type in certain zones throughout the County's unincorporated area.

The Ordinance is in effect for the Inland area of the County (Land Use and Development Code). The Ordinance for the Coastal Zone (Article II) will not be in effect until it is certified by the California Coastal Commission. On May 1, 2018, the Board adopted the Cannabis Business License Ordinance, which added a local commercial cannabis

*The County launched a website to assist in the land use permitting and business licensing of cannabis operations featuring an interactive zoning map, checklists to manage required documents, links to state regulations and a complaint process.*

business license to the County Code, a complete outdoor cannabis cultivation ban in the coastal zone, an acreage limit of 186 acres to the Carpinteria Agricultural Overlay District, and a limit of eight retail licenses for the County.

The land use amendments and business license ordinance became operational on June 5, 2018 for areas outside the Coastal Zone. Regulations within the Coastal Zone are pending review and certification by the California Coastal Commission.



Despite setbacks and delays, the **Rosewood Miramar Beach Montecito** is expected to open in 2018. Reservations are currently being accepted starting in January 2019.

A reinvention of the city's beloved Miramar Beach Hotel, the resort will evoke a true sense of American Riviera glamour with garden and oceanfront bungalows, two palm-tree-lined swimming pools and members-only Miramar Beach Club.



## SHORT-TERM RENTAL ORDINANCE

In October 2017, the Board directed Planning and Development to review and clarify provisions concerning the use of **Short-term Rentals** within the unincorporated areas of the County. The resulting zoning changes how and where STRs and Homestays may be permitted.

STRs are allowed in certain commercial zones, but prohibited in residential, AG I/II, Mixed Use, Resource Protection, Industrial, and Certain Special Purpose Zones. Homestays are allowed in AG-I and Residential Zones.

Homestays cannot exceed three bedrooms, a person can only apply for one homestay license, homestays must have nuisance response plans, and a long-term tenant is someone who has a lease for at least six months.

The grace period to operate STRs in Residential and AG-I zones is until October 1, 2018 for the inland area of the County. Short-term Rentals remain unregulated in the Coastal Zone. The Board funded additional work on the coastal Short Term Rental and Homestay ordinance in the FY 18-19 budget. Staff plans to seek board direction in August or September 2018. For information, go to <http://sbcountyplanning.org/>.

### FYI:

During July 2016 to June 2017, Planning and Development issued 1,150 zoning permits and 3,200 building permits with a valuation of \$272 million.

# HEALTH & SAFETY

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

Construction is well underway on the **Northern Branch Jail**, employing close to 340 construction trade workers. Of those, about half reside in the tri-counties, with veterans representing just over six percent of the work force.

With an expected completion date in spring 2019, the \$111 million, 134,000-square-foot, 376-bed detention facility is designed to help incarcerated individuals gain knowledge, education, awareness, and skills to grow independently and collectively with an array of programming and support services, counseling and training.



## Community Corrections Partnership

The **Community Corrections Partnership (CCP)** is an effort to reduce jail overcrowding and link every person released with services, support and resources to achieve a productive, law-abiding life, thereby reducing recidivism and increasing community safety. The CCP and its Executive Committee adopted the workgroup's recommended Realignment Spending Plan and Public Safety Realignment Act Plan for fiscal year 2018-2019. The Plan highlights areas of expansion and enhancement, and is demonstrative of new strategies that are innovative and recognize the complexities and competing interests of the justice system continuum. The FY 2018-19 Realignment Plan is reflective of the CCP's continued focus on providing a forum for transparency and optimism in the use of Realignment funds, while promoting efficiency and productivity with the driving goal of public safety. Participating County departments and agencies include Sheriff, District Attorney, Probation, Public Defender and Behavioral Wellness; Superior Court and the Lompoc Police Department. To learn more, go to [www.sbprobation.org](http://www.sbprobation.org).



The **County Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) Governing Board** developed more than 75 policies and implemented many facility, service and staffing improvements to enhance client care and ensure full compliance with state and federal mandates.

The Department of Behavioral Wellness operates the PHF, the only acute psychiatric inpatient hospital within the county that accepts Medi-Cal, and one of only two freestanding psychiatric hospitals in California able to receive Medicare reimbursement.

Through the **Sheriff's Office**, an agreement was established with **California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG)** to provide inmate medical and mental healthcare. CFMG provides these services in more than 25 California counties and 100 agencies nationwide. Since taking over in April, CFMG has improved the delivery and service of quality medical and mental healthcare to the inmate population in Santa Barbara County.

## FYI:

Youth and adults under probation supervision completed 16,172 hours of community service work throughout the county, exceeding the target of 15,000 hours.

# IN FOCUS:

## Stepping Up: Reducing Numbers of Mentally Ill in the Jail



The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a Resolution to actively support the work of the Stepping Up Initiative led by the National Association of Counties (NACO), Council of State Governments Justice Center, and the American Psychiatric Foundation to make more effective use of strained budgets and safely reduce the number of adults with mental illnesses in jails by connecting them to community based treatment and services when possible.

Every year, two million people with serious mental illnesses are jailed across the U.S., which is a rate up to six times higher than the general public. According to NACO, the human toll of this problem and its cost to taxpayers is staggering. Jails spend two to three times more money on adults with mental illnesses that require intervention than on those without those needs.

The National Stepping Up Initiative, an effort to improve the way we respond to people with mental illness who are also in contact with local criminal justice systems, held its first California Summit in Sacramento in January and second in Santa Barbara in November. The summits provided attendees an opportunity to engage with national experts, peers from across the state, and people living with mental illnesses.

More than 50 county teams participated in the summit comprised of county supervisors, county administrative/executive officers, law enforcement agencies and behavioral health agencies. The Santa Barbara County team includes participation from the offices of Second District Supervisor, Sheriff, Behavioral Wellness, Public Defender, Probation, District Attorney, County Executive and several community organizations.



Through a new program, 450 **naloxone overdose rescue kits** were distributed in 2017 via the Department of Behavioral Wellness through its contractor Pacific Pride, which may be responsible for reversal of 150 opiate overdoses in the community.

The Probation Department was awarded a three-year **\$975,000 grant** to expand and enhance the **Veterans Treatment Court (VTC)**, a joint initiative among justice partners, community-based treatment providers, and veterans' service organizations that specialize in the treatment of military veterans in the criminal justice system. Targeted resources provide veterans with an opportunity to establish clean and sober lifestyles, reduce criminality and psychiatric episodes, and improve the quality of life.

*Pictured is the Veteran Treatment Court graduation in November 2017. Photo courtesy of Santa Maria Times*

# Thomas Fire and



The massive, wind-driven Thomas Fire began in Ventura County on December 4, 2017, initially impacting Santa Barbara County with a widespread power outage affecting 130,000 customers, smoke and ash. On December 7, the fire marched across county lines and burned the hillsides above Carpinteria, Summerland and Montecito, severely damaging 17 named canyons and 13 watersheds.

The fire burned approximately 281,893 acres, becoming the largest wildfire in modern California history before it was fully contained. The Thomas Fire caused more than \$2.176 billion in damages, including almost \$205 million in fire suppression.



Two weeks after evacuated residents were allowed to return home, disaster struck at 3:30 a.m. on January 9, 2018 when an unprecedented half inch of rain fell within a five-minute period on the severely burned Santa Ynez Mountains, causing mud and boulders to flow down creeks and valleys into Montecito. The debris flows were up to 20 feet high moving at estimated speeds of 30 miles per hour that swept up trees, houses, structures, bridges, cars and trucks, and knocked out every utility. Transportation and the economy was crippled for two weeks while a 30-mile stretch of Hwy 101 was closed until crews could clear highway buried in 10 feet of mud and debris, some of which reached beaches five miles downstream. Tragically, 23 members of our community lost their lives and hundreds were left homeless. We face the threat of more debris flows, but Santa Barbara County is resilient; we will recover and rebuild.



# 1/9 Debris Flow



In memory of those who tragically lost their lives or remain missing in the 1/9 Debris Flow:

Faviola Benitez  
Jonathan Benitez  
Kailly Benitez  
Joseph Francis Bleckel  
Martin Cabrera-Muñoz  
David Cantin  
Jack Cantin  
Morgan Corey  
Sawyer Corey  
Peter Fleurat  
Josephine Gower

John McManigal  
Alice Mitchell  
James Mitchell  
Caroline Montgomery  
Mark Montgomery  
Marilyn Ramos  
Rebecca Riskin  
Roy Rohter  
Lydia Sutthithepa  
Peerawat Sutthithepa  
Pinit Sutthithepa  
Richard Taylor



ReadySBC.org is the County's website dedicated to recovery and rebuilding information, links and resources.

**READY SBC.org**  
SIGN-UP • PLAN • UNDERSTAND



*County Emergency Operations Center during activation for the Thomas Fire.*



The Board approved the **Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan**, a document required by FEMA and Cal OES that must be updated every five years. The mitigation plan is a collaborative effort with countywide jurisdictions to identify risks and vulnerabilities, and help communities reduce long-term risk to people and their property from hazards through effective planning.



**FYI:**

The interactive evacuation area map developed by the County for the Thomas Fire reached more than 5 million views.

# IN FOCUS:



## Community Emergency Alert System

Our countywide emergency managers, firefighters, law enforcement officers, EMT/paramedics, and other emergency responders do an incredible job of keeping us safe, but they cannot do it alone. Personal responsibility for preparedness is necessary, too. In doing so we contribute to the safety and security of our communities.

Santa Barbara County is ahead of many counties because of the Aware and Prepare program, a public-private partnership dedicated to strengthening community disaster resiliency. Aware and Prepare enhances the capabilities and coordination of government agencies and non-profit organizations in mitigating, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies and disasters.

Aware and Prepare is an invaluable resource during emergency situations to ensure people throughout the County knows how to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters, such as floods, debris flows, wildfires and earthquakes. Residents and visitors are encouraged to go to [www.ReadySBC.org](http://www.ReadySBC.org) and register to receive emergency alerts and have an escape plan.

In 2017, the County Office of Emergency Management facilitated the completion of a proposal to the state by the **Drought Action Working Group** developed jointly with all the water purveyors in the County and approved by all the municipal and special district water agencies and the Board of Supervisors. The Board also continued to re-ratify the Drought Emergency as the County is in its seventh year of continuous drought.



The District Attorney developed framework for a new **felony pre-filing diversion program** and took key steps toward implementation. The County of Santa Barbara is one of only eight jurisdictions in the U.S. to receive technical assistance for program development. The proposed program will provide offenders with the opportunity to avoid facing felony charges if they meet certain guidelines, which would free up vital resources from the overburdened courts and criminal justice system. With the design phase complete, program implementation is expected in FY 2018-19.

The **Public Defender** established a robust in-house **training program** to offer continuing education programs for staff and contract lawyers, as well as those in private practice, and to our neighboring Ventura County Public Defender. The department also established a legal internship and post-bar program.

The **Sheriff's Office** received federal funding to join other law enforcement agencies nationwide in providing **Blue Courage® training**, which is designed to encourage greater community relationships, sense of nobility in the profession, empathy, compassion, respect, resilience, and courage.

In a related effort of continual training and development, all Sheriff's Office law enforcement deputies and most dispatchers were trained in **Crisis Intervention Training (CIT)**. This training provides a basic understanding and communication skills for dealing with persons in crisis, specifically a mental health crisis. The Sheriff's Office developed a 40-hour Advanced CIT training, certified by Peace Officer Standards and Training, and Standards and Training Corrections.



In 2017, the County updated the **Local Oil Spill Contingency Plan** based on lessons learned and stakeholder participation following the **Refugio Oil Spill** incident in May 2015. The oil spill response clean up and field monitoring was completed by March 2, 2017.



The County Office of Emergency Management hosted a full-scale Railroad **Hazardous Material Accident drill** that involved both a field response and activation of the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with area HAZMAT teams, first responder agencies, County Public Health.

# QUALITY OF LIFE

Provide a high quality of life for all residents.

## Transportation Improvements in Goleta and Isla Vista

**FYI:** County Parks, open spaces and campgrounds received more than 7 million visitors this year. By comparison, Yosemite National Park sees 5 million annual visitors & Yellowstone National Park receives 4 million.



Construction on the new **Goleta Beach Park Bridge** was completed in November. The sidewalk and railings make the new bridge safer for pedestrians and cyclists by separating them from vehicular traffic. The aesthetic design complements the environment with a stained, stamped pedestrian walkway that simulates a boardwalk and faux cobblestone. The project cost of \$4.86 million was 100 percent underwritten with state and federal transportation funding.

To improve safety in **Isla Vista**, a new four-way traffic light was installed at Pardall Road and Embarcadero Del Norte, the main artery between Isla Vista and UCSB with a high volume of cyclist, pedestrian and automobile traffic. The traffic light will help all traffic safely navigate the intersection. The project cost of about \$300,000 was split between UCSB and County Public Works through a longstanding infrastructure improvement agreement.

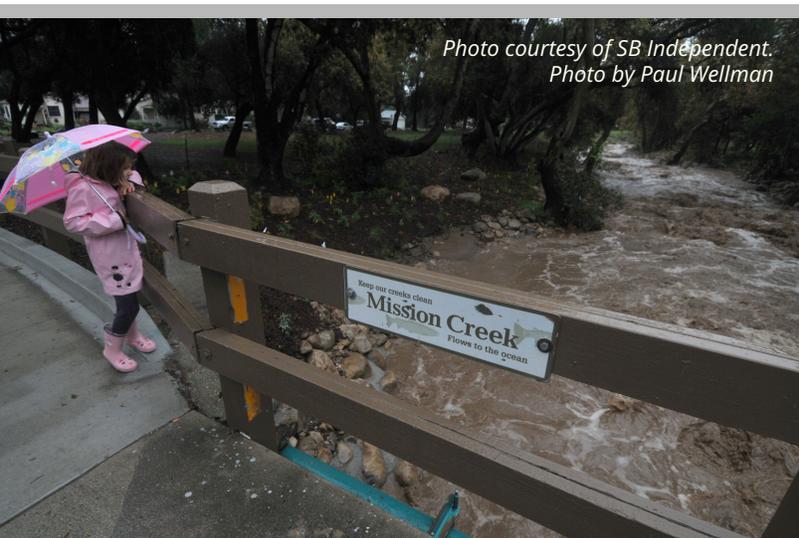


Photo courtesy of SB Independent.  
Photo by Paul Wellman

This year alone, more than \$1 million in **housing** loan repayments to the County was collected, which will be used to create new affordable housing units countywide, an award of \$434,875 in State Housing Related Parks Program funds for the Isla Vista Community Center renovation, and \$2.3 million in state and federal funding for countywide homeless programs.

Contractors completed the **Lower Mission Creek Flood Control** and Restoration Project. Located between Mason and Yanonali streets in Santa Barbara, the Public Works project is designed to improve the movement of water along the creek to accommodate a 20-year flood.

**FYI:** The Public Works Transportation Division maintains 1,650 lane miles - the distance from Santa Barbara to Houston, and 10,020 posts displaying 15,227 signs.



The Board approved redesign and construction of the **Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project**. The new facilities will sort recyclables and organic materials that are converted into compost and bio-gas to generate electricity. The project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions equivalent of removing 22,000 vehicles off of our roads annually. Construction is projected to begin in early 2019.



**28 new affordable housing**

units were brought on-line, including three Habitat for Humanity homes in Carpinteria using Inclusionary Housing Ordinance (IHO) In-Lieu funds; 16 homes and eight rental units at the Tree Farm project near Goleta under the IHO; and a seven-bedroom house purchased with County HOME funds by Good Samaritan Shelter Inc., for formerly homeless veterans and their families.



### Building Better Neighborhoods

The Board approved Community Services Housing Division to utilize more than \$1.7 million in federal **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** funds for new capital projects including the Isla Vista Youth Projects' acquisition of their Children's Center building in Goleta; the Orcutt in-fill sidewalk project; Cuyama Valley restroom, concession stand and skate park installation; Domestic Violence Solution's apartment rehabilitation; Bridgehouse homeless shelter capital improvements; PATH homeless shelter water heater replacement; and Women's Economic Ventures (WEV) Self-Employment training for micro-enterprise businesses.

The Office of **Arts and Culture** administered and disbursed more than \$350,000 in grant funding to support arts education, arts and culture organizations and artists throughout the county.



**ARTS & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY 5**  
THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NONPROFIT ARTS & CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS & THEIR AUDIENCES

**AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS**

**in Santa Barbara County, CA**



The Board and many County departments supported the 2017 Santa Barbara County **Veterans Stand Down** event held in Santa Maria in October. The event offered veterans, particularly those who are homeless or low income, with a wide range of services including readjustment and crisis counseling, employment and housing assistance, medical screenings, veterinary assistance for pets, and more.

## FYI:

**Art means business; local nonprofit arts and culture industry drives economy and jobs to the tune of \$198.6 million in economic activity supporting 5,857 Jobs.** (Source: 2017 Arts and Economic Prosperity® 5 report from Americans for the Arts)

# FAMILIES & CHILDREN

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



Administered by Public Health, the County's Women, Infants, Children (WIC) **Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program** received the national Gold Premiere Award for its exemplary program, which served an average of 15,843 residents per month in 2017. In 2016, only five agencies across the country received this award level. WIC is a federal assistance program of the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for healthcare and nutrition of low-income pregnant women, breastfeeding women, and children under the age of five.



**First 5 Santa Barbara** funded local nonprofits and agencies across the county to provide direct services to more than 2,750 children and parents. Family Support Focus Area services include intensive case management, referral to services with follow up, home visitation, and parent education programs. In partnership with other funders and community partners, First 5 helped create and/or maintain at least 200 preschool and childcare spaces throughout the county.

## FYI:

The County's Maternal Child and Adolescent Health program served 1,468 unique families with 5,792 face-to-face visits in 2017.

The **District Attorney's Office** secured \$750,000 in grant funding for a new web-based Electronic Suspected **Child Abuse Reporting System** that will be used to report, investigate and track alleged child abuse in collaboration with Department of Social Services. The new E-SCARS system will allow child abuse reports to be transmitted electronically between agencies, which will expedite interventions so we can better protect our community's children.



County **Social Services** secured and implemented an additional year of competitive-based funding to expand the **CalWORKs** Homeless Assistance programs, and assist programs and services geared to stabilize and sustain safe housing, including aid for emergency housing, emergency repairs, utility assistance and security deposits.



• Child Support Services has 12,000 open cases serving 13,019 children.

## FYI:

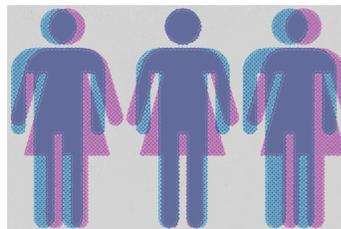
• The Public Health Department County Health Care Centers served about 28,000 unique patients for a total of 114,000 visits in 2017.

In recognition of **Child Abuse Prevention Month (April)**, the Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council held countywide screenings of the documentary film "Resilience." The film inspired local pediatricians, social workers, educators, and community service providers to use the information about brain science and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) to help parents and children disrupt cycles of violence, addiction and disease. For our efforts and program focus, Santa Barbara County has a presence on the national website at [www.ACEsConnection.com](http://www.ACEsConnection.com).



## Gender Identity Equality

The **Public Health Department** Health Centers implemented sexual orientation and gender identity data collection for all new and returning patients. Health Center Staff received specialized training to ensure that the centers offered a welcoming, inclusive environment of high-quality care for all patients. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people face many health disparities and stigma in health care and often



remain invisible to their health care providers. Collecting sexual orientation and gender identity data of is a critical requirement for health centers and other health care organizations.



### Employees Give Back

United Way  
Community Partner

Once again, the County sponsored the Employee Giving Campaign to benefit north and south county chapters of United Way and other charitable organizations. Each year, County employee contributions help enrich the lives of County children, families and senior citizens. Employees volunteered for programs like "Fun in the Sun" and "Day of Caring," and pledged donations to a charity of their choosing. In total, employees donated hundreds of man-hours and close to \$200,000.



## IN FOCUS: Public Safety Results First Initiative

Santa Barbara County has a long history of participating in national evidence-based initiatives, such as Transition From Jail to Community, that have enabled criminal justice stakeholders to assess system wide challenges and develop effective solutions. Building on this demonstrated commitment, Santa Barbara County was the first to participate in the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative.

In fall 2017, the Probation Department hosted a multi-county budget workshop at which the Results First team shared information as to use of public safety performance data and local costs to inform resource allocation decisions. This pre-session served to educate key stakeholders about the Initiative and advantages of using cost benefit analysis and embedding the Results First culture into decision-making processes. The workshop was followed by a two-day summit attended by representatives from eight counties and the state.

**FYI:** First 5 provided funding and shared leadership to a powerful network of experts and leaders who have helped 44% of local preschool and child care centers become nationally accredited, compared to the state and national average of 6%.

# CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

*Ensure that County government is accessible, open and citizen friendly.*



Community residents are helping to envision **San Marcos Park**, a new County park adjacent to the 200-acre San Marcos Foothills Preserve near Hwy 154 and Foothill Road. Provided with several ways to participate, including a series of workshops and a survey, the public contributed to the master planning process. The goal of the master plan is to establish a vision for the park that better meets the community's current and future recreational needs, increases safety and accessibility, and protects and enhances its environmental resources. The draft Master Plan will be presented to the Parks Commission and then to the Board of Supervisors.

The **San Jose Creek bike path** and 140-foot bridge over San Jose Creek was completed in spring 2018. The project includes a 970-foot long Class I bike path between Kellogg Avenue and Merida Drive near Cathedral Oaks Road. The path travels from Kellogg Avenue through the open space next to the Kellogg Tennis Courts, over San Jose Creek and along the northern edge of University Open Space. The bike path is part of the 1993 Goleta Community Plan and 1999 Goleta Transportation Improvement Plan (GTIP). The \$692,000 cost was paid for with \$400,000 from the Measure A Bike and Pedestrian Program and \$292,000 from GTIP.



County Parks completed upgrades to the sheltered picnic area at **Richardson Park in New Cuyama**, vastly improving the physical character of the site that is used extensively by local nonprofits and residents of New Cuyama.

The County completed a **Sea Level Rise and Coastal Hazards Vulnerability Assessment** for the unincorporated areas of the County. Long Range Planning modeled and mapped coastal hazards from sea level rise through the grant-funded Coastal Resiliency Project. These coastal hazards, and their potential impacts to important assets along the coastline, are presented in the Vulnerability Assessment. Several public meetings were held this to discuss the results of the Vulnerability Assessment, as well as possible adaptation measures and strategies to minimize future impacts from sea level rise.



## FYI:

In 2017, more than 1.2 million people visited [CountyofSB.org](http://CountyofSB.org). On average, 3,000 people visit the County website each day. During the Thomas Fire, web traffic hit a single-day high of 135,000 visitors for 400,000 page views.



**Cachuma Lake** continues to be a crown jewel of the County Parks' system enjoyed by local residents and visitors. In late 2016, four new cabins were added, and this year staff focused on facility maintenance and capital improvements, including a new 18-hole disc golf course. The course, designed in collaboration with local professional disc golf players, accommodates all skill levels and features incredible views of the lake, and San Rafael and Santa Ynez mountains.



As a result of the collective changes and improvements, park visitation is up by 13 percent, campground occupancy by 10 percent, and revenues increased by \$450,000 over the previous year.

Keeping the community informed around the clock with critical information in English and Spanish over three weeks of the Thomas Fire was managed by County staff aided by volunteers from the cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta and Carpinteria; Montecito Fire Protection District; Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District; SBCC; UCSB; USFS-Los Padres; CALFIRE; and others across the state.



The **Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)** was formed by a Joint Powers Agreement between the Santa Barbara County Water Agency; San Luis Obispo, Ventura, and Kern counties; Cuyama Community Services District (CCSD); and the Cuyama Basin Water District (CBWD). Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, GSAs are required to draft Groundwater Sustainability Plans that ensure sustainable basin management. Santa Barbara County also formed three GSAs in the Santa Ynez River Valley, Goleta Fringe and Santa Maria Fringe, and contributed to formation of the San Antonio River Valley GSA.

In 2017, the County launched the **50 Home Challenge Solvang**, a joint initiative between the Community Home Energy Retrofit Project (CHERP) and the County's emPower program. The initiative seeks to engage an entire community and retrofit 50 single-family homes to make them more energy efficient while simultaneously encouraging local contractors to incorporate energy related services into their business model and driving economic activity. If successful, staff plans to replicate the initiative in other cities and neighborhoods in the county.



**FYI:**



The Public Health Department includes the divisions of Animal Services and Environmental Health Services (EHS). Annually, EHS inspects more than 2,000 unique retail food facilities, and 700 public and semi-public swimming pools and spas. In 2017, Animal Services found adoptive homes for 2,491 animals.

# CONTACTING YOUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## Contact Your Supervisor

If you have questions about how to participate in a Board of Supervisor's meeting, or how to contact your Supervisor, visit [www.countyofsb.org](http://www.countyofsb.org) and click the link for the Board.

## County Departments

To reach the general county automated telephone directory service, call the number closest to your area to prevent toll charges. Callers outside the 805 area code may use any number.

Lompoc: (805) 737-7775

Santa Barbara: (805) 681-4200

Santa Maria: (805) 934-6295

Solvang: (805) 686-5011

The directory of County department websites and contact information is at [www.countyofsb.org/deptlist.sbc](http://www.countyofsb.org/deptlist.sbc).

- Agricultural Commissioner
- Auditor-Controller
- Behavioral Wellness
- Board of Supervisors
- Child Support Services
- Community Services  
(Parks, Housing, Arts & Culture, Energy & Sustainability, Library Services)
- Clerk-Recorder-Assessor-Elections
- County Counsel
- County Executive Office
- District Attorney
- Fire Department
- First 5 of Santa Barbara County
- General Services
- Human Resources
- Planning & Development
- Probation
- Public Defender
- Public Health
- Public Works
- Sheriff-Coroner
- Social Services
- Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator

## Connect with us on Social Media

To connect with County departments on social media, please visit [www.countyofsb.org/socialmedia.sbc](http://www.countyofsb.org/socialmedia.sbc).



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