

2008 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

CONTACTS

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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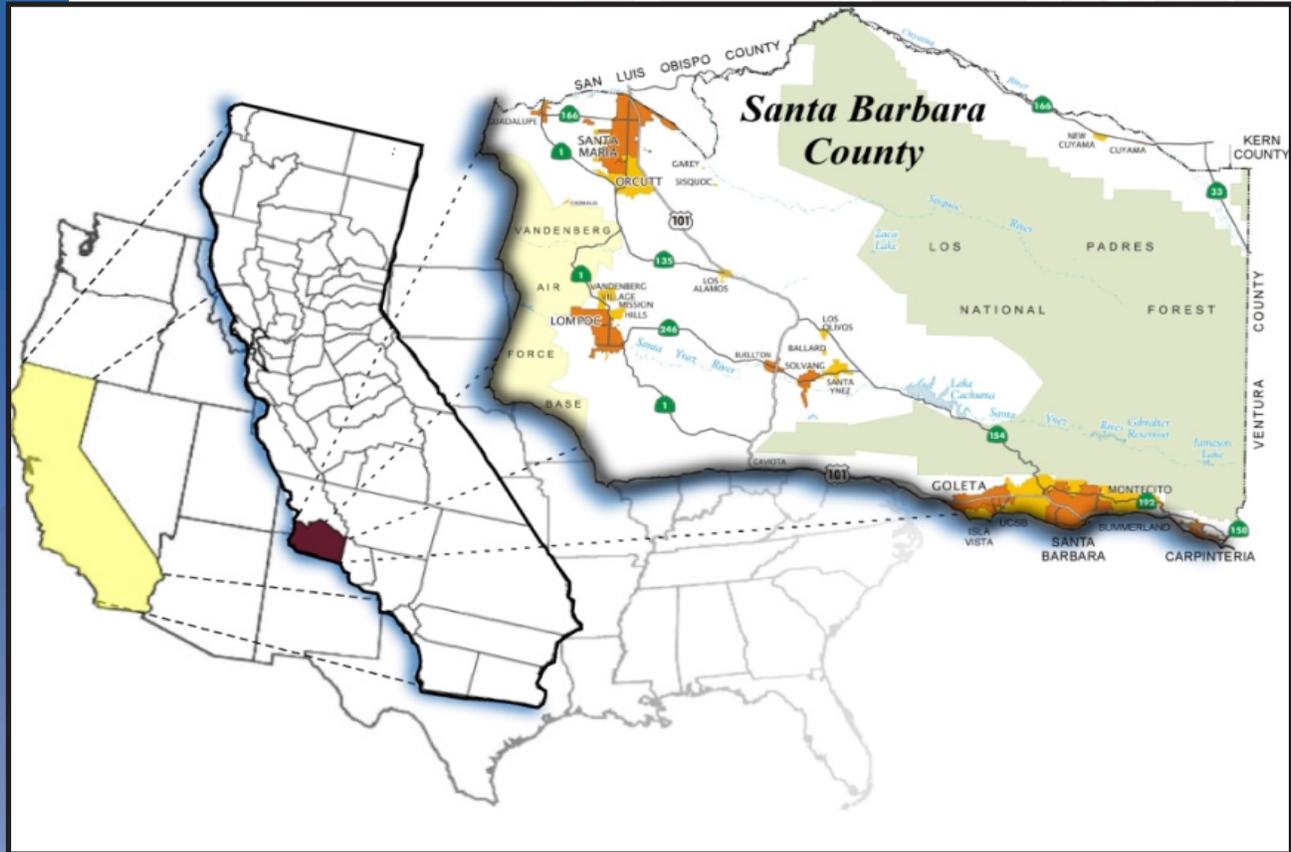


STATE



FEDERAL

COUNTY FAST FACTS



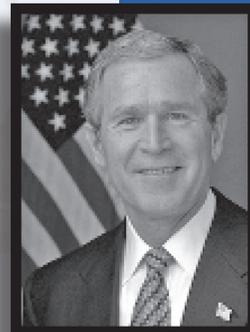
- Population: 421,625
- Square Miles: 2,774
(1/3 located within Los Padres National Forest)
- 110 miles of coastline
- 555,000 acres in agricultural preserve contracts
- \$1.02 billion gross production for agriculture (2006)
- Major crops: strawberries, broccoli and wine grapes
- Top Employers:
 - University of California, Santa Barbara (9,501 jobs)
 - Vandenberg Air Force Base (4,782 jobs)
 - County of Santa Barbara (4,214 jobs)
- Ethnicity:
 - 56% White
 - 37% Hispanic
 - 2% Black
 - 5% Other
- Median Age: 34.4
- Median Home Price: \$719,072
- Median Family Income: \$65,110
- County Budget of \$712 million for 2006/07 Fiscal Year

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FEDERAL AND STATE OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH 43RD PRESIDENT OF THE US

Bio- Previous occupation: Politician-Governor of Texas and Business Owner-Partner of the Texas Rangers Baseball Team and oil/gas business owner. Elected in 2001 and reelected in 2005.

Key Issues- rebuilding/promoting democracy in Iraq, homeland and national security, education reform (No Child Left Behind Act of 2001) and Medicare and health care reform.



UNITED STATES SENATOR BARBARA BOXER 110TH CONGRESS

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) and Foreign Relations.

Key Issues- public education and after school programs, affordable health care and patient bill of rights, environmental issues including safe drinking water.



UNITED STATES SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN 110TH CONGRESS

Bio- Previous occupation: Politician- Member Board of Supervisors and Mayor, San Francisco. Elected to Senate in 1992. Committee assignments include Appropriations, Energy and Natural Resources, Intelligence, Judiciary and Rules and Administration.

Key Issues- crime victims rights, national security/homeland security, environmental issues including water supply and healthy forests.



CONGRESSWOMAN LOIS CAPPS 23RD DISTRICT

Bio- Previous occupation: Nurse, educator. Elected to Congress in 1998. Committee assignments include Committee on Energy and Commerce, House Budget Committee and Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues.

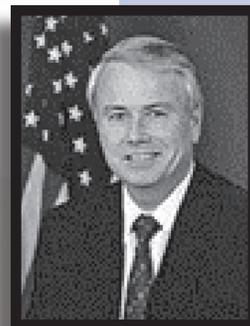
Key Issues- education, energy and environmental issues, public health and health care issues.



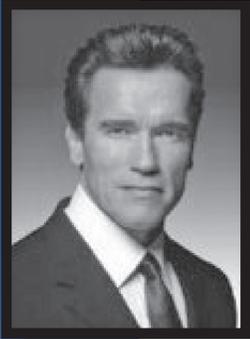
CONGRESSMAN ELTON GALLEGLY 24TH DISTRICT

Bio- Previous occupation: Businessman/real estate broker, politician. Elected to Congress in 1986. Committee assignments include International Relations, Judiciary and Resources Committee.

Key Issues- common sense environmentalism, national security/homeland security and veterans' issues



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FEDERAL AND STATE OFFICIALS



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
38TH GOVERNOR

Bio- Previous occupation: Actor and bodybuilder. Promoter of Special Olympics, physical education and after-school programs. Elected in 2003 and re-elected in 2006.

Key Issues- health care reform, prison reform, workers compensation reform and children's issues.



CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR ABEL MALDONADO
15TH DISTRICT

Bio- Previous occupation- Farmer, Politician. Elected to California Senate in 2004. Committee assignments include (Vice-chair), Human Services (Vice-chair), Agriculture (Chair), Education, Governmental Organization and Health.

Key Issues- agricultural and environmental issue, health and safety issues and accountability and transparency in government.



CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR TOM MCCLINTOCK
19TH DISTRICT

Bio- Previous occupation- Politician, 14 years as California Assembly member. Elected to California Senate in 2000. Committee assignments include Legislative Ethics, Public Employment and Retirement and Transportation and Housing (Vice-chair).

Key Issues- fiscal issues of taxes and the state budget, public safety and transportation and infrastructure.



CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLYMAN SAM BLAKESLEE
33RD DISTRICT

Bio- Previous occupation: Research scientist, owner of an investment firm. Elected to California Assembly in 2004. Committee assignments include Budget, Rules (Vice chair) and Utilities and Commerce.

Key Issues- energy planning/policy and environmental/conservation issues, fiscal issues and consumer protection.



CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLYMAN PEDRO NAVA
35TH DISTRICT

Bio- Previous occupation: District attorney, civil litigator. Elected to California Assembly in 2004. Committee assignments include Appropriations, Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Transportation (Chair) and Water, Parks and Wildlife.

Key Issues- emergency management and disaster preparedness/assistance, public safety and transportation.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY OFFICIALS

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FIRST DISTRICT SUPERVISOR SALUD CARBAJAL (CHAIR)

District includes the City of Carpinteria, portions of the City of Santa Barbara and the unincorporated areas of Carpinteria Valley, Summerland, Montecito, and Mission Canyon. Mission Creek located within District. CSAC, NACO and BEACON representative.



SECOND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR JANET WOLF

District includes portions of the Cities of Goleta and Santa Barbara, the unincorporated areas of the Goleta Valley and the Channel Islands. Goleta Beach is located within District. BEACON representative.



THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR BROOKS FIRESTONE

District includes the Cities of Buellton, (portions of) Goleta, Solvang, and the unincorporated portions of the Gaviota Coast, Lompoc, Los Alamos and Santa Ynez Valley. Lake Cachuma located within District. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Committee and LAFCO representative.



FOURTH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR JONI GRAY

District includes the Cities of Guadalupe and Lompoc and portions of the unincorporated areas of Santa Maria Valley, including Casmalia and Orcutt. Lompoc Veterans' Building and the Santa Maria Levee located within District. CSAC and NACO representative.



FIFTH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR JOSEPH CENTENO (VICE CHAIR)

District includes the City of Santa Maria and the unincorporated areas of Sisquoc and Cuyama Valleys. Santa Maria Levee and Cuyama Community/Recreation Center located within District. SBCAG Chair, KIDS Network, Juvenile Justice Coordinating Committee and LAFCO representative.



COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE



DEAR READER:

The County of Santa Barbara is proud to present its 2008 Legislative Program for your consideration. The issues, programs and projects identified within this Program ("the legislative priorities") were adopted by the County Board of Supervisors on January 15, 2008. This platform is based on extensive input solicited from County departments and the Legislative Program Committee of the Board as well as from the critical issues and trends that emerged from the County's Strategic Scan and Operating Plan/Proposed Budget.

The Legislative Program adheres to the County's legislative principles, which are itemized below. Each priority for 2008 is aligned with its corresponding principle(s). The principles also serve as a guide for the County in developing a position on any forthcoming federal and state legislation.

As in previous years, the County will continue to advocate for (1) funding assistance for large-scale infrastructure projects that safeguard the public and promote a high-quality of life for residents and (2) stable and sufficient funding for the cost of providing mandated services. Each endeavor will prove more challenging given the economic condition of the State and Federal Government, yet the County will work diligently to ensure that the needs of its citizens are represented as difficult financial and service decisions are made over the course of the legislative session and beyond.

EFFICIENT SERVICE DELIVERY/OPERATIONS: Support efforts to streamline processes and promote operational enhancements germane to a County department's mission and core services, and correspondingly, oppose legislation that creates undue fiscal and operational burdens on departments.

1. Funding requests for EOC Equipment, Cuyama Center, Goleta Beach, Lake Cachuma, Lompoc Veteran Building, Lower Mission Creek and the Santa Maria Levee. Funding opportunities for park facilities. Reauthorization of funding programs for transportation.
2. Reimbursement for the costs of administering the 2008 Presidential Primary.
3. Funding to enable the implementation of the County's Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, including programs that support a comprehensive system of housing, services and treatment related to homelessness.
4. Sustained or enhanced funding for disaster preparedness, incarceration of illegal criminal aliens (SCAAP), children's health insurance (SCHIP), social service programs and other mandated programs provided by the County.
5. Re-indexing of Medicare payments to health clinics (Federally Qualified Health Center) and the timely reimbursement of Medi-Cal claims.
6. Support for legislation that funds property tax administration, promotes elections reform, supports conversion technology and prevents illegal dumping.
7. Pending outcome of the February 5, 2008 Measure S Ballot Measure, potentially remove sunset date for the Maddy EMS Fund that partially compensates healthcare providers for emergency medical and trauma care services.

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.

1. Funding requests for EOC Equipment, Cuyama Center, Goleta Beach, Lake Cachuma, Lompoc Veteran Building, Lower Mission Creek and the Santa Maria Levee. Funding opportunities for park facilities. Reauthorization of funding programs for transportation.
2. Reimbursement for the costs of administering the 2008 Presidential Primary.
3. Sustained or enhanced funding for disaster preparedness, incarceration of illegal criminal aliens (SCAAP), children's health insurance (SCHIP), social service programs and other mandated programs provided by the County.
4. Re-indexing of Medicare payments to health clinics (Federally Qualified Health Center) and the timely reimbursement of Medi-Cal claims.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

5. Pending outcome of the February 5, 2008 Measure S Ballot Measure, potentially remove the sunset date for the Maddy EMS Fund that partially compensates healthcare providers for emergency medical and trauma care services.

INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION: Support the advocacy efforts of such organizations as the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the National Association of Counties (NACO), Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), First 5 Santa Barbara, the Kid's Network and other local and regional agencies. Collaborate with other institutions and entities on mutually beneficial issues while upholding the other principles of efficient service delivery and operations, fiscal stability and local control.

1. Partner with the City of Lompoc for the Lompoc Veterans Building.
2. Partner with the City of Santa Barbara for the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project.
3. Partner with the City of Santa Maria for the Santa Maria Levee.
4. Collaborate with CSAC, League of Cities and schools to support the reauthorization of the Safe Routes to Schools program. Collaborate with CSAC, NACO and SBCAG to ensure funding of transportation projects.
5. Collaborate with CSAC to ensure reimbursement for the 2008 election and partner with CSAC and NACO on issues pertaining to the administration of elections and property taxes.
6. Collaborate with cities and community organizations to ensure funding to implement the Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness.
7. Collaborate with (1) the County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC) on the re-indexing of Medicare payments and other health-related issues; (2) the California Mental Health Directors Association to ensure the timely receipt of reimbursement for mental health services rendered to Medi-Cal clients; (3) the National and State Sheriffs' Association, Chief Probation Officers of California, NACO and CSAC on adequate funding of SCAAP and other public safety issues; (4) First 5, Kids' Network, CSAC, CHEAC and NACO for adequate funding of SCHIP; (5) the County Welfare Directors Association of California for adequate funding of social service programs including Adult Protective Services, In-Home Supportive Services and the transitional housing program and (6) CSAC and NACO to ensure sustained funding for other mandated programs and services.
8. Collaborate with CSAC and other counties to support bills that pertain to mobile home protection, conversion technology and illegal dumping.
9. Collaborate with CSAC and other counties on issues related to the State mandated Housing Element. Engage cities in the discussion of housing.
10. Collaborate with State agencies regarding stronger alcohol enforcement in Isla Vista.

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.

1. Support legislation to protect mobile home parks from conversion and ensure mobile homes as part of the County's affordable housing stock.
2. Pursuit of State legislation and discussion on housing element reform.
3. Pursuit of State legislation on restructuring of cemetery districts' board of trustees.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

4. Pursuit of State legislation to remove the sunset date of the County's Maddy EMS Fund if a local funding measure (Measure S on the February 5, 2008 ballot) should fail.

5. Strengthen State coordination regarding alcohol enforcement/oversight within Isla Vista.

A SYNOPSIS OF THE OUTCOMES RELATED TO THE COUNTY'S 2007 PLATFORM IS NOTED BELOW:

FEDERAL

1. Beach Erosion: Goleta Beach was included under the Army Corps Construction Account Section 103 Shore Protection Program which may entitle the project to federal funding of \$615,000.
2. Disaster Preparedness Funding: Advocated for sustained funding for disaster preparedness related to public health grants awarded by the CDC as well as other emergency response and preparedness funding (SAFER, Homeland Security). While federal funding for public health grants did not increase, additional monies were allocated to emergency response.
3. EOC Equipment: While an appropriations request was submitted for \$1.033 million, no funding materialized in the FFY 08 budget.
4. Lake Cachuma: The County requested an appropriation of \$2.33 million, which was included in the House version of the Energy and Water Appropriations bill (the Senate version included \$750,000). The FFY 08 budget included \$967,000.
5. Lompoc Veterans Building: While an appropriations request was submitted for \$865,000, no funding materialized in the FFY 08 budget.
6. Lower Mission Creek: The Water Resources Development Act of 2007 included an authorization of \$30 million (\$15 million of federal share) for this project. In addition, the Senate version of the Energy and Water Appropriations bill proposed an appropriation of \$500,000 (County requested \$1.25 Million). The FFY 08 budget included \$215,000 to complete the pre-engineering and design phase and initiate the construction phase of this project.
7. Medicare Re-index: Two bills have been introduced (S 941 and S 2188) that would increase reimbursement rates for a FQHC (County's delegation has not signed on as co-sponsors at this time).
8. Santa Maria Levee: The Senate version of the FY 2008 Energy and Water Appropriations bill proposed \$500,000 (County requested \$500,000) and the FFY 08 budget included \$280,000 for a federally funded study by the Army Corps to identify the best repair solution to the levee.
9. Transportation: While an appropriations request was submitted for \$5 million, the County did not receive funding for any specific transportation projects as part of the FFY 08 budget. However, it will continue to advocate for projects as the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU draws closer. At the State level, Caltrans has recommended the use of transportation bond monies to widen Highway 101 between Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

The County appreciates the support it received from Senators Boxer and Feinstein and Representatives Capps and Gallegly on these various issues, especially the funding of Lower Mission Creek and the Santa Maria Levee. Both of these projects are vital in ensuring residents of the County are protected from floods.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

STATE

1. Prompt payment of Medi-Cal claims: Funding was included in the adopted FY 07-08 budget to reimburse counties for claims submitted in the last three prior years. Legislation (AB 308) was introduced and supported by the County's Assemblymembers to require the Department of Mental Health to adopt regulations to provide for the prompt reimbursement to counties of Medi-Cal claims for the provision of services under the early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment (EPSDT) Program.
2. Housing Element Reform: Legislation (AB 1019) was sponsored by Assemblymember Blakeslee to allow for a negotiation between cities and counties on housing credits as part of the annexation process. This bill has been chaptered into law. The County also obtained a sponsor for another bill (AB 1497, a two-year bill) that sought to examine the relationship between land availability, agriculture (Williamson Act in particular) and required housing allocations. The County is seeking partnership with other counties and engaging in discussions with the staff of various Legislative Committees on the principles embodied by this bill as part of its 2008 platform.
3. EOC Equipment: The County did not receive any funding.
4. Payment in Lieu of Taxes: While there was no progress made on this issue at the State level, the County advocated for funding of the federal payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) program at its fully authorized levels. The FFY 08 budget includes increased PILT funding.

With the support of its State delegation consisting of Assemblymembers Blakeslee and Nava and Senators Maldonado and McClintock, the County was able to achieve many of its noted State objectives. The County acknowledges the delegation's role in advocating for the County on specific legislative bills and during budget deliberation.

The success of the County's 2008 legislative platform will depend on the continued partnership with its elected representatives---representatives that are committed to conveying local concerns through the corridors of the capitols in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. In this current era of community-based civic engagement, the County is part of a cohesive system that commences with the casting of votes on the floors of democratic institutions by its representatives and concludes by local implementation of legislation and programs funded by the Federal and State governments. The County appreciates the assistance its representatives and their staff have rendered to us this past year and looks forward to another legislative and budgetary cycle where mutual collaboration results in beneficial outcomes to Santa Barbara County constituents.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Brown
County Executive Officer

STATE LEGISLATION CONTINUING STATE ISSUES

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County will continue to monitor, support and advocate on specific issues that emerged in 2007 including: (1) prompt payment of Medi-Cal claims for mental health services, (2) housing element reform promoting the debate on the most suitable location for housing, (3) mobile home protection, (4) elections administration and (5) property tax administration. For 2008, the County will also focus on supporting legislation that (6) promotes the use of conversion technology and (7) addresses the issue of illegal dumping of items on County roads and right of ways.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

- (1) Medi-cal claims: County Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Department has experienced significant delays in payment from the State for the services it has rendered to Medi-Cal clients resulting in the Department borrowing from the County General Fund to sustain services and pay community-based organizations for services rendered. Service levels could be curtailed if late payments continue.
- (2) Housing element reform: The mandate for housing must be considered in relation to other mandates such as agricultural preservation and acknowledge the most suitable locations for required housing units to preserve rural lands, promote the economic viability of agriculture and prevent a jobs-housing imbalance contributing to traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.
- (3) Mobile home protection: Promoting the stock of mobile home units allows County residents an affordable housing option to remain within the County.
- (4) Elections Administration: Subtracting permanent absentee voters from percent limits helps reduce the costs of administering elections.
- (5) Property tax administration: State funding of this function would allow the County to efficiently process property taxes, which would help generate funding for services.
- (6) Conversion technology: Diverts waste from landfills and converts it to alternative energy.
- (7) Illegal dumping: strengthen enforcement and increase fines related to the illegal dumping of items on the County road right of way.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

There are no known new costs to the State for supporting these issues, with the exception of property tax administration. However, the State would also benefit from ensuring that counties are able to process property taxes in a timely manner.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation support legislation (existing or new) that addresses these various issues.

CONTACT

Terri Maus Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer, 805.568.3412



2008 REQUESTS

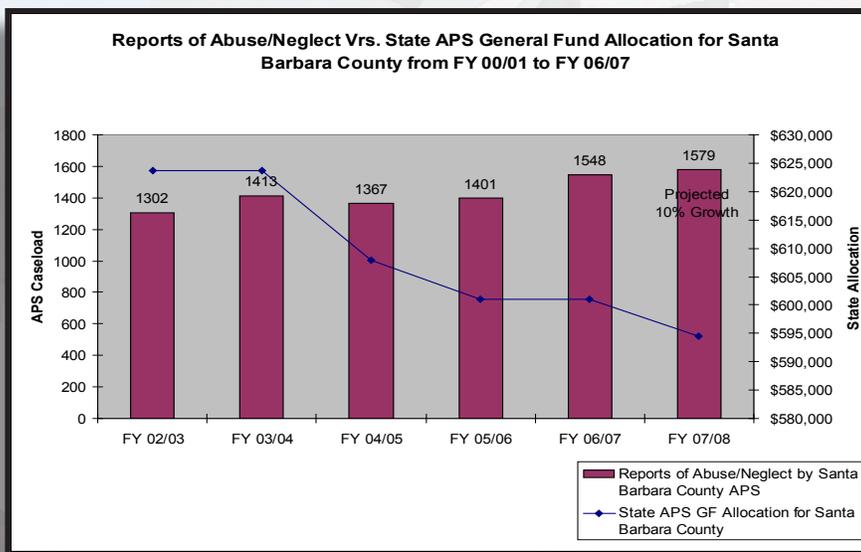
ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Adult Protective Services Program (APS) responds to reports of neglect (by others and/or self) or financial, physical, sexual or psychological abuse of elderly and/or disabled adults. As a mandated program of the State, the County receives funding from the State based on the County's percentage of elderly and disabled adult populations. State funding has remained relatively static since 1999 and requires an adjustment to reflect the growing caseload.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

In FY 2006, APS responded to over 1,400 reports or referrals involving suspected abuse or neglect of elderly or dependent adults. As noted in the chart to the left, the County has experienced an average of 19% increase in reports of abuse/neglect since FY 02-03 while County APS funding has declined by an average of 5% over the same time period. The rise in FY 06-07 has largely been attributed to increased public awareness, a growing aging population and reports of financial abuse, brought on, in part, by legislation (the Elder Abuse Financing Reporting Act of 2005) requiring employees of financial institutions to report incidents of financial abuse perpetrated against elder and dependent adults.



Should this trend continue and County staffing remain constant, the County will only be able to respond to the most critical cases of abuse and neglect, which may delay or curtail its ability to respond to other cases.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The State has allocated \$50.179 million toward APS; the County received \$594,575 for FY 2007-2008. However, the State benefits from funding APS as elder and dependent adult abuse is costly as victims may face premature and costly institutional care and rely on public benefits.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation and members of the Budget Committee enhance, or at a minimum, maintain, the level of funding for this program during the State FY 08-09 Budget. (In FY 07-08 a proposal to (1) enhance funding by \$12m and (2) include actual caseload data into formula was introduced, but vetoed) The County requests its federal delegation supports federal legislation (S. 1070 and H.R. 1783) known as the Elder Justice Act to provide federal funding to states to prevent elder abuse, increase prosecution of those who mistreat the elderly and provide victim assistance.

CONTACT

Kathy Gallagher, Director, Department of Social Services, 805.681.4451

CUYAMA COMMUNITY/RECREATION CENTER

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The community of Cuyama, consisting of a population of approximately 800 residents, is located in a very rural area of Santa Barbara County, isolated from any neighboring urban communities where organized community events are available. The County is seeking funding for a phased community center for Cuyama to include (1) a 25 meter swimming pool, (2) a community recreation center and (3) public health clinic and public library replacement.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The only aquatic facility in Cuyama was the high school's 50-year old pool until it was condemned by the County a decade ago due to safety concerns after the Paso Robles earthquake in December of 2003. The new swimming pool will provide recreational facilities to an area with average highs above 70 degrees from April- October, including an average temperature of 90 degrees during the summer months. The nearest pool and other community recreational facilities are over one hour away in Santa Maria. Recreation facilities consist of a ball field and an aging, dilapidated recreation center which serves as a location for community recreation activities, sporting events, senior citizen activities and summer programs for children. The library consists of a 12 x 40 foot trailer that is at least 20 years old and a health clinic that consists of a 1,400 square foot, older home conversion that needs repair and modernization. New facilities would enhance the quality of life for residents.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The County has budgeted \$2.2 million for the construction of the swimming pool, which is currently in the final design phase. The funding for the pool includes \$2 million from the County and \$200,000 from a Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); yet, about \$700,000 remains unfunded. The recreation center, library and clinic are part of a master plan anticipated to cost \$10 million.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation (1) include this project in a federal appropriation requests, (2) include it as an eligible project for State funding for existing or future infrastructure improvements bond monies, (3) in support increased funding of grant programs that the project may be eligible for. Such as, but not limited to, HUD CDBG, the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Loan and Grant, the National Park Service (NPS) Outdoor Recreation Acquisition, Development and Planning (grant requires the State to submit to NPS on behalf of the County) and the State Land and Water Conservation Fund, (4) support legislation that may fund aspects of this project such as S 1990- BUILD Health Centers Act of 2007 and S 829 HOPE VI Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2007 (5) support any grant applications submitted by the County for the construction phases of this project.

CONTACT

Paddy Langlands, Assistant Director, General Services Department, 805.568.3096

DISASTER PREP/BIOTERRORISM FUNDING

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County's Public Health Department (PHD) has received funding for public health preparedness and response to pandemics and other types of health disasters from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) which has enabled the County to improve its disaster response infrastructure to levels higher than those prior to 9/11/01. . In order to comply with federal and state benchmarks, PHD has increased staff, upgraded facilities, and purchased equipment and supplies. However, this state of readiness cannot be sustained without continued funding for nominal staffing levels and equipment and systems maintenance.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/ IMPACT

PHD has established infrastructure to exchange critical health data, conducting training on disease investigation, pandemic influenza, bioterrorism agents, emergency response procedures and disaster management command structures and written plans and implemented standardized drill and exercise procedures. A reduction in funding will result in less frequent or intensive training and drilling exercises, deferred purchase and maintenance of equipment and decreased spending on communication.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

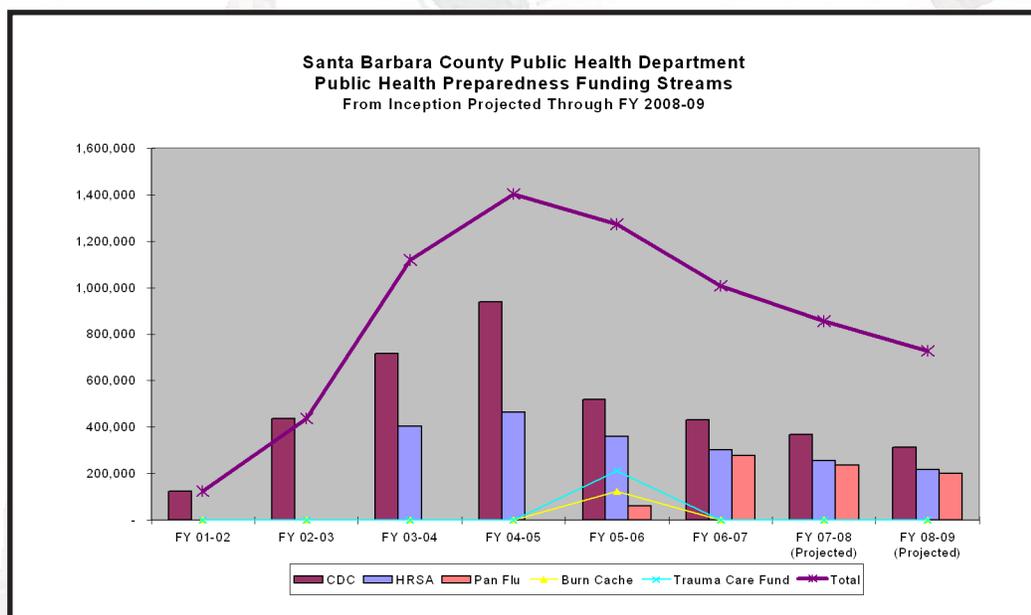
PHD anticipates that it requires \$395,000 per year in public health funds and \$260,000 in a pass through of hospital preparedness funds in order to maintain communication systems, disaster caches, and personnel training and exercises to insure ongoing preparedness for bioterrorism, pandemics and disasters.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation support enhancing, or at a minimum, maintaining, the level of funding allocated to the CDC and HRSA specifically for this purpose within the federal budget. The County is also interested in exploring other funding options for the specific communication and training items contained within this budget.

CONTACT

Michele Mickiewicz, Deputy Director, Community Health, Public Health Department, 805.681.5446



ELECTIONS

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

One function of a county is to serve as the Registrar of Voters, which includes registering voters and maintaining voter files, conducting all elections (federal, state, county, school, and special district elections) and maintaining related official records. One such election that counties must administer is the Statewide Presidential Primary in February of every presidential election year. However, the costs of conducting this mandated election has yet to be funded by the State. The County is seeking reimbursement from the State for the estimated \$1.5 million the February 5, 2008 Presidential Primary will cost to administer.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

In March 2007, the State passed Senate Bill 113 requiring a Statewide Presidential Primary in February of every presidential election year. The intent of this bill was to “restore to California voters the opportunity to vote in a presidential primary election that is timely and meaningful in choosing presidential candidates” by changing the election date from June to February. However, the State did not fund this mandated election in the FY 2007-08 State budget, despite bill language stating “It is the intent of the legislator to fully reimburse counties for the costs resulting from the presidential primary elections added by this act in an expeditious manner upon certification of those costs.” A similar scenario occurred when the State required counties to administer the 2005 Recall Election whereby the County funded the election and was reimbursed nearly a year later in the following fiscal year.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The State cost to reimburse the County for administering this election is about \$1.5 million.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation either sponsor legislation or vote in favor of a bill that requires the State to reimburse counties for the cost of the election. It will work with CSAC and submit letters of support to the author of such a bill, to various Committees and the Governor. The County will also issue letters of support to bill authors, Committees and the Governor indicating its support of AB 984/SB 967 and other newly introduced legislation that promotes conducting elections in an effective and efficient manner. These bills would allow counties to subtract permanent absentee voters from the 1,000 limit per precinct, which results in fewer precincts and reduced operational costs as less poll workers, training classes, voting machines, precinct supplies, ballots and other required actions for conducting an election are needed.



CONTACT

Joe Holland, County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor, 805.568.2558.

GOLETA BEACH COUNTY PARK

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Goleta Beach County Park is a 29-acre park located in the unincorporated area of Goleta near the University of California at Santa Barbara. With over 1 million visitors a year, Goleta Beach attracts the most visitors of all the County's 23 parks. Several major storms have eroded the beach at the Park, resulting in the loss of turf and other park amenities. The County is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to study beach stabilization options.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The average visitation count to Goleta Beach County Park over the past five years is 1,500,000. The Park includes a 1,500 ft pier, a restaurant and snack bar, three sets of restrooms, picnic and barbeque facilities, play equipment, parking, ranger residences and maintenance area, and a large turf area. In response to storm events, emergency rock revetments have been constructed and the beach nourished by depositing sand dredged from local streams onto the beach.



COST TO GOVERNMENT

Approximately \$1.3 million has been spent since 1999 on efforts to install and remove emergency rock revetments to protect the park, permit applications and associated field condition monitoring, public community planning process and environmental document preparation. Funding for these efforts has included the County's General Fund, state and local grant funds and FEMA (funding after the 2005 storms). The County intends to pursue a beach stabilization option referred to as the "permeable pier", which involves adding pilings to the existing pier to create and maintain a wider beach for shore protection and recreation. The 20 year cost of this project is estimated at \$9,732,000.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests support of this project from its delegation as the County will be filing a Coastal Development Permit application for the Goleta Beach Park CARE Program - Beach Sand Stabilization with the California State Coastal Commission by January 31, 2008. Other regulatory agencies that have permit authority over work along the coastline and similar permit conditions for a long term plan for the Park include State Lands Commission, Army Corp of Engineers and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The County also requests funding support for this project. Of the \$9.7 million total project cost, the County anticipates that it still needs \$7.5 Million. It is requesting \$1,193,000 for design and permitting costs.

CONTACT

Dan Hernandez, Director, Parks Department, 805.568.2477

HOMELESSNESS

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County participated with various cities and community organizations to draft "Bringing Our Community Home: the Santa Barbara County-wide 10-Year Plan To End Chronic Homelessness" in 2006. The County seeks funding support to implement this plan, including financing a comprehensive system of housing, services and treatment

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

According to the Plan, each year more than 6,300 people in Santa Barbara experience homelessness; on any given night, over 4,000 people are homeless. Of the people who are homeless, 10-15%, or as many as 945 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 THE GOVERNMENT

As stated within the Plan, chronically homeless people 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 eradicated 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.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation support existing and new legislation to address the issue of homelessness and support funding of housing, services and treatment programs to end chronic homelessness. Specifically, the County requests its delegation support the reauthorization of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and support legislation such as the Community Partnership to End Homelessness Act (S 1518). Given the nexus between homelessness and mental illness, the County requests its delegation support funding for mental health treatment services as well as programs such as the Transitional Housing Plus (THP+) that provides funding for transitional housing for emancipated youth.

CONTACT

Terri Maus Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, 805.568.3412

IN HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program provides assistance to eligible aged, blind and disabled individuals who are unable to remain safely in their own homes without this service. By providing assistance with daily tasks of living such as homemaker and personal care services, IHSS maintains quality of life while avoiding the more costly alternative of institutionalization. However, State funding of this program is outdated and requires adjustment.

The State budgeting methodology for IHSS was created in 1993 and provides administrative funding to counties for a specific number of hours of social worker time, which is 11.5 hours per client/year. Currently, a County social worker averages an estimated 20 hours per client/year. The increased amount of time needed per client is largely a result of increased State mandates such as those outlined in SB 1104 (quality assurance, fraud, overpayments, etc.) and the IHSS Plus Waiver which brought in federal requirements and Medi-Cal Standards. In addition to spending more hours per client, the number of clients has increased. From June 2002 to June 2007, County IHSS has seen an overall on-going caseload increase of 52% (from 1,962 ongoing cases to 2,973), which represents an average of 10.3% growth per year.

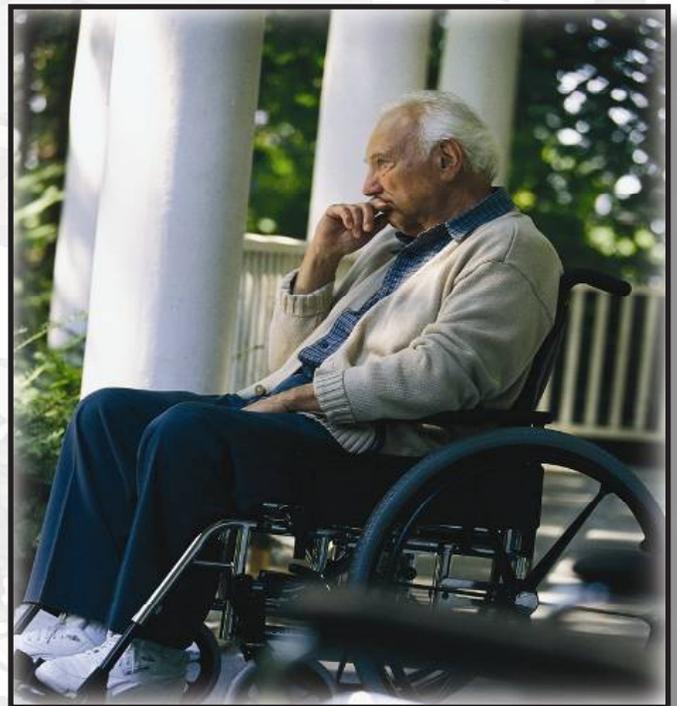
PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

In Fiscal Year 2006-07, the County provided services to about 2,500 program recipients a month, of which 37% lived in South County, 19% in Mid County and 44% in North County.

The County has funded the additional hours for client in-take internally. Fiscally, it cannot continue this practice without diverting resources from other programs and projects. Without comprehensive in-take, there will be a delay in clients being enrolled in IHSS.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The State has allocated \$115 million toward this program of which the County anticipates receiving \$847,845 for FY 2007-2008. However, the State benefits from funding IHSS because the cost of these types of services is about 50% less than the cost of nursing home care.



REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation and members of the Budget Committee enhance, or at a minimum, maintain, the level of funding for this program during the State FY 08-09 Budget. The County will collaborate with CSAC and the CA Welfare Directors Association to find a sponsor for a bill that would re-examine the budget methodology, including funding counties for work performed on denied applications.

CONTACT

Kathy Gallagher, Director, Department of Social Services, 805.681.4451

LAKE CACHUMA

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

As a result of a biological opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Federal Bureau of Reclamation has evaluated the impacts of raising Lake Cachuma to capture, retain and subsequently release additional water for the protection of habitat for the endangered steelhead trout. This surcharge will impact various existing improvements around the lake.

Project Component	Bureau Cost	County Cost	Total Cost
New Water Treatment Plant	\$2,200,000	\$800,000	\$3,000,000
Sewer Lift Stations Relocation and Upgrades(3)	\$1,309,300	\$289,300	\$1,598,600
Live Oak Camp Permanent Restroom	\$300,000	\$50,000	\$350,000
Water Reservoir Improvements	\$1,006,600	\$0	\$1,006,600
Water Distribution System Improvements	\$900,000	\$0	\$900,000
Fire Flow Improvements	\$460,000	\$0	\$460,000
Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrades	\$1,600,000	\$0	\$1,600,000
Total	\$7,775,900	\$1,139,300	\$8,915,200

* The County recently completed the upgrade of its boat launch facilities (\$2.6 Million).

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The County provides an array of recreational amenities including boating, fishing, camping (tent, RV and yurt), seasonal naturalist programs and nature cruises to visitors year-round at Lake Cachuma. In Fiscal Year 2005-2006, there were 525,193 visitors to Lake Cachuma.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The County and the Bureau of Reclamation have executed a long-term assistance agreement. The Federal Bureau of Reclamation constructed Bradbury Dam in the 1950's forming Lake Cachuma. The dam was constructed under contract with the Santa Barbara County Water Agency on behalf of the Cachuma Project Member Units for the purpose of providing irrigation, domestic and industrial water supplies to the member units. The Bureau owns all "project" facilities and operates Bradbury Dam. Remaining cost of facility replacement is \$8 Million, of which \$7.8 Million is allocated to the Bureau and \$1.1 Million to the County.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

Lake Cachuma received an appropriation of \$967,000 within the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for the replacement of water and sewage treatment facilities. The County requests its Congressional delegation to support a new appropriation request to additional funding for the total cost of replacing the facilities.

CONTACT

Dan Hernandez, Director, Parks Department, 805.568.2461

LOMPOC VETERANS BUILDING

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Lompoc Veterans Memorial Building is owned by the County of Santa Barbara and serves as a community resource for the area's veterans, non-profit groups and other residents. However, this aging building is in need of funding to renovate the structure.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The historic 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 civic society, primarily as a gathering place for the military veterans in the area. Without renovations to the facility, the building may no longer be able to be used by community groups. There are few buildings in the area that are able to accommodate large events and to serve as a substitute for the Veterans Memorial Building.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The County has estimated the cost of renovation to be approximately \$3.9 million, which includes:

- ADA upgrades including lift installation, restroom upgrade, handrail and signage installation (\$79,000)
- Architectural / Safety upgrades including installation of exit sign, fire rated doors and related hardware and fire alarm and fire sprinkler system, kitchen upgrade to Commercial Code requirements, insulation, restroom addition, roof tile and downspout repair (\$1,193,000)
- Structural upgrades including chimney repair and structural analysis (\$72,000)
- Mechanical upgrades to existing heating and plumbing systems (\$17,000)
- Electrical upgrades including replacement of circuitry and re-wiring of building (\$760,000)
- Hazardous Material abatement including asbestos and lead paint abatement, and termite inspection report (\$1,621,000)
- Exterior modifications including repair of existing sidewalks, curbs and gutters, enhanced landscaping and additional parking facilities (\$118,000)

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests assistance from its delegation to fund a portion of this project through an appropriations request.

CONTACT

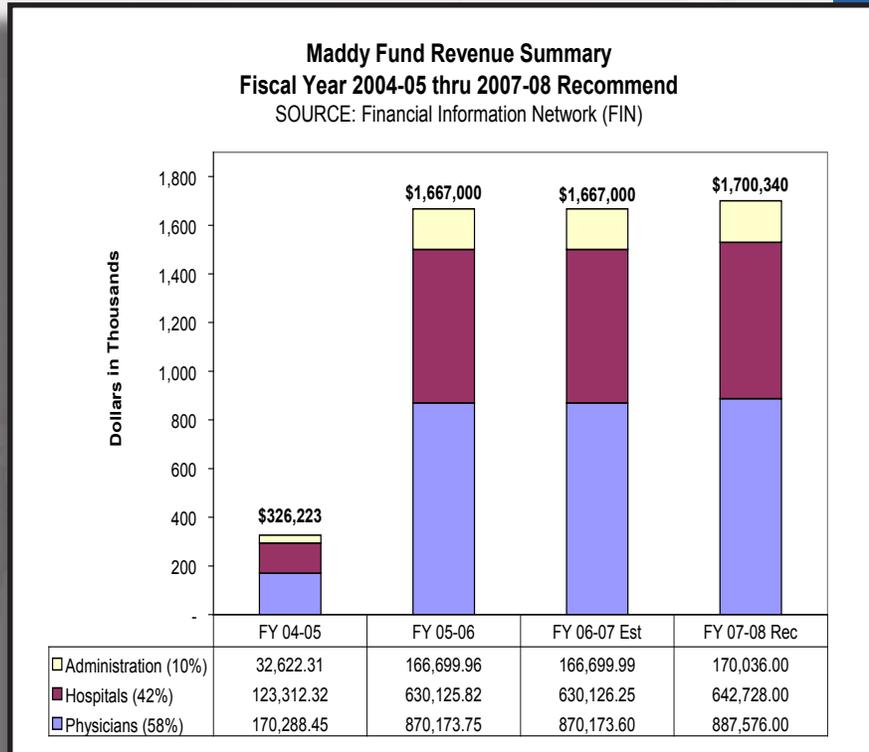
Paddy Langlands, Assistant Director, General Services Department, 805.568.3070



MADDY EMS FUND

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The "Maddy Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Fund" is a funding mechanism that currently generates approximately \$1.6M per year through the assessment of penalties on motor vehicle and criminal fines and forfeitures to partially compensate health care physicians and hospitals for otherwise uncompensated emergency medical and trauma care services. As stipulated in Assembly Bill 2265, which is enacted in Section 42207.5 of the Vehicle Code and Section 76104.1 of the Government Code, the County is authorized to collect these penalties only until January 1, 2009. AB 2265 also expects "that the County of Santa Barbara shall place an appropriate proposed tax ordinance as a county measure on the ballot for or before the November 2008 election that will ensure the collection of sufficient funds to fully support the trauma center." The February 5, 2008 election will include a local ballot initiative known as Measure S2008-the Santa Barbara County Trauma System and Emergency Medical Services Network parcel tax. If passed by 2/3 of the voters, Measure S2008 will impose a parcel tax of \$35.15 on all real property parcels countywide to replace the Maddy EMS Fund. If the measure fails, the County may need to seek legislation to remove the sunset date.



PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The Maddy EMS Fund provides reimbursement to physicians and hospitals (Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital, Lompoc District Hospital, Marian Medical Center, Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital and Santa Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital) for costs of providing non-compensated emergency medical and trauma care services. This includes Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara, the only trauma center serving the entire Central Coast and the only comprehensive trauma center between Los Angeles and San Jose. Funding is used to maintain and expand the availability of various specialists on call within the emergency rooms.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

There is no cost to the State for allowing the County's Maddy EMS Fund to continue beyond its 2009 sunset date.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests a bill sponsor to introduce legislation to remove the sunset date if the local ballot measure is not passed by the voters.

CONTACT

Dr. Elliot Schulman, Director/Health Officer, Public Health Department, 805.681.5105

MEDI-CAL PAYMENTS

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County's Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Department (ADMHS) is experiencing delayed payment from the State Department of Mental Health for services rendered to Medi-Cal clients causing financial duress and constraining service delivery.

Last fiscal year, the number of days for the ADMHS to receive payment from the State for the costs incurred for providing services to Medi-Cal eligible clients averaged 102.5 and 117.5 days respectively. This included payments for Medi-Cal Federal Financial Participation and Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT), which is the State match for children receiving services. Together, claims for services provided to these clients represent a combined total of \$33.2 million, or 48% of the Department's current year's operating budget.

The monthly claim to the State averages approximately \$2.7 million and includes services provided by County staff at its outpatient clinics, the Psychiatric Health Facility or on a contracted basis by community-based-organizations.

The increasing and consistent delay in receipt of funds from the State continues to significantly impact the Department's cash flow and requires ongoing borrowing from the County's general fund to fund operations. The monthly advances from the general fund have averaged from a low of \$3.7 million in Fiscal Year 2004-05 to a high of \$6.5 million in Fiscal Year 2005-06.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

ADMHS provided mental health services to 7,800 adults, children and families last fiscal year. 73% of all clients served were Medi-Cal eligible. Because of delays in State payments, ADMHS has delayed its payments to other County departments like Probation, Public Health and Social Services and has borrowed from the County's General Fund in order to absorb the delay in payment from the State. Both of these strategies restrict the County's ability to fund mandated and discretionary services. Without immediate reimbursement from the State, ADMHS will need to delay its payments to community-based organizations which provide treatment services to clients on behalf of the Department.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

While the State Department of Mental Health will be repaying counties for claims submitted in prior years, the County is experiencing delays in payments for the current fiscal year. In light of the recent FY 08-09 Proposed Budget, counties may experience a further delay in the receipt of payments.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation and members of the Budget Committee continue to support the timely payment of claims to counties.

CONTACT

Marianne Garrity, Assistant Director, Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services, 805.681.4092

MEDICARE RATES

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Public Health Department (PHD), by virtue of a Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) Healthcare for the Homeless grant has the status of a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). This status is instrumental to the on-going financial viability of the seven-clinic system as it allows PHD a fixed rate per visit that was originally meant to reimburse an FQHC provider for its costs. The payment rate, however, has a cap based on the Medicare Economic Index (MEI), which historically has grown at a rate far below that of the costs of the healthcare system. Unless FQHC Medicare rates are “rebased” to reflect the cost of healthcare, PHD will need to use more local funding to sustain current service levels or decrease service levels.

As depicted in the chart to the left, the growth of costs to PHD has outpaced the rate of Medicare reimbursement relative to the MEI. The MEI needs to be rebased because (1) it increases more slowly than do many FQHC costs, and (2) it does not reflect the broad array of services that are delivered. PHD currently is reimbursed \$115 for a visit that costs \$290.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

4,082 patients were served in 2005 through this grant, including 1,729 patients living in homeless shelters. Services are provided through clinics and field service sites at shelters throughout the County. A team of specialty doctors, nurses, physician assistants, medical assistants and clinic staff offer a wide range of services that would not otherwise be available for the homeless community. Without an increase in rates, PHD may need to decrease the number of patients served or provide less specialized treatment.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

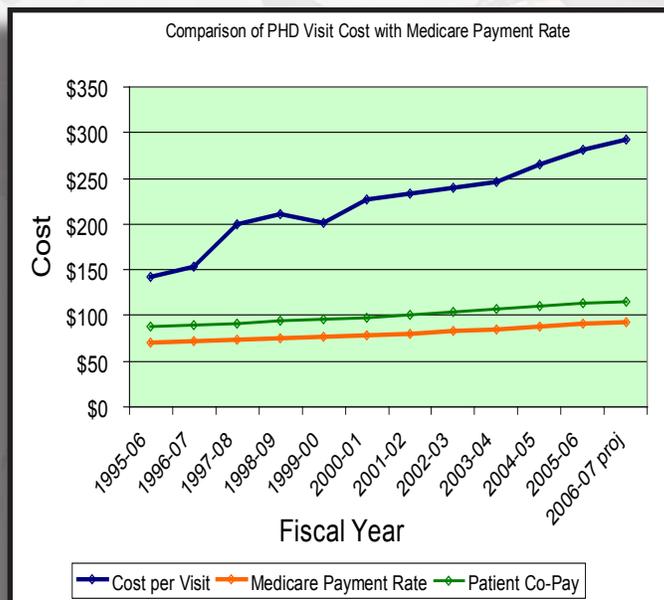
The current reimbursement rate is 60% less than PHD’s cost. While the government would incur some costs to increase the reimbursement rate, the rate would allow the County to continue to provide cost effective care to this population. As the health care home for Medicare beneficiaries, the County can provide improved outcomes and lower health care spending by providing preventative care, health education, and comprehensive treatment from the onset that may offset potential costs incurred from more expensive and long-term care, as well as prevent possible infectious diseases from spreading in the community. Longer physician-patient relationships lead to reduced emergency department use, hospitalizations, and lower per patient Medicare costs.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation support legislation (such as S. 941, S. 2188 and H.R. 2897) that would establish new rates for FQHC reimbursement as well as advocate for increased funding in the FFY 09 Budget for the HRSA specifically for Healthcare for Homeless grantees.

CONTACT

Suzanne Jacobson, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Public Health, 805.681.5183



LOWER MISSION CREEK

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project is an Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) project located within the City of Santa Barbara (and part of the South Coast Flood Zone administered by the County) designed to improve channel locations through widening and bridge replacements in order to protect residential, commercial and public properties located in Santa Barbara from flooding. Portions of Mission Creek have been known to include the threatened tidewater goby and the endangered steelhead. The project is currently in detailed design phase and is in need of funding for construction.

Mission Creek's drainage is about 11.5 square miles, extending from the Santa Ynez Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, and flows for eight miles through the City of Santa Barbara. Preliminary design, environment review and detailed design have been performed. The project remains in detailed design phase until funding can be secured. The County and the City of Santa Barbara have formed a partnership to ensure this project continues to move forward.



PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Since Mission Creek is located in the heart of downtown Santa Barbara, improvements to the channel are vital for protecting residential, commercial, and public properties that are subject to major damages during floods. There will also be an opportunity for creek rehabilitation.

COSTS TO THE GOVERNMENT

The project cost is estimated at \$30 million; the ACOE cost is 50% and the remaining half will be borne by the City of Santa Barbara and the County, with the County's portion coming from a flood zone benefit assessment. Federal appropriations would also help the County take advantage of potential State funding related to flood projects.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County will complete the design phase as a result of a 2007 appropriation request. The next phase of the project involves construction, which is estimated to cost about \$10 million. The County will consult with the ACOE and submit an appropriation request to its Congressional delegation that funding be provided in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill. It will also seek the support of its State delegation for possible funding from Proposition 84 monies.

CONTACT

Tom Fayram, Deputy Director of Flood Control/Water Resources, 805.568.3436

PARKS PROJECTS

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County Park Department provides services to approximately 5.6 million annual visitors to 71 day use parks and open space locations and two camping parks, and a network of trails and coastal access easements. There are several projects related to this network that are in need of additional funding.

1. SANTA CLAUS LANE BEACH ACCESS

This project will improve and provide for safe public access across Union Pacific Railroad tracks to a wide sandy beach area by: (a) ensuring safe, legal public access across railroad to the beach through acquisition of an at-grade crossing, (b) acquiring existing private beach parcels to ensure legal public use of the dry sand beach area, (c) identifying and constructing needed public improvements and amenities for beach users and (d) providing short term periodic access for opportunistic beach nourishment activities. Agencies involved include State Lands Commission, Union Pacific Railroad, CALTRANS, California Coastal Commission. County has secured \$400,000 of the \$1 Million cost (\$600,000 remaining).

2. FRANKLIN TRAIL

This project includes the construction of a five mile long multi-use trail (hiking, biking and equestrian use) and the implementation of structures and trail facilities to realize the project. The Franklin Trail is located in the coastal community of the City of Carpinteria, and will serve the immediate regional area of southern Santa Barbara County as well as out of area visitors and would provide an important historical link into the Los Padres National Forest whose Santa Ynez Range forms the backdrop to the City of Carpinteria. The Forest Service has agreed to re-establish this link pending commitments for maintenance. (\$400,000)

3. WALTER CAPPS COUNTY PARK

This project consists of the development of a 2 acre open space park in the community of Isla Vista. In March 2006, final acquisition was completed on 5 private parcels along Del Playa Drive in Isla Vista. Combined with adjacent County parcels, this small community park is proposed to be developed into a passive park facility with walks, benches, public restroom, turf play area and a natural native coastal species habitat restoration area. A memorial to the late Walter Capps is also proposed for the site. County has secured \$250,000 of the \$800,000 project cost (\$550,000 remaining).

4. OCEAN BEACH COUNTY PARK BOARDWALK

The project involves construction of a wooden boardwalk at low elevation extending for approximately 215 feet from the Ocean Beach County Park parking lot into the estuary of the Santa Ynez River. The park serves the communities of Lompoc, Vandenberg Village, Mission Hills and surrounding areas. A viewing platform with seating and low interpretive panels will be constructed at the far end of the boardwalk to provide information relating to environmental concerns, seabird identification, and natural habitats (\$300,000).

5. JALAMA BEACH COUNTY PARK CAMPING CABINS

This project proposes to install four-five camping cabins at Jalama Beach County Park. These cabins offer alternative camping accommodations in addition to increasing camping use of the park outside of the summer season (\$300,000).

PARKS PROJECTS

6. POINT SAL ACCESS AND MANAGEMENT PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION

This project proposes to allow public access to Point Sal "Reserve", which consist of 2,600 acres of publicly and privately-owned lands located in the north western corner of the County, along the coast of the Pacific Ocean. In 1991 an original management plan was developed with a vision that public agencies, conservation organizations and private citizens commit to coordinate their respective conservation efforts for this area. The management plan was then revised in 2002 under an internal administrative draft, to include parcels acquired by the County since the original 1991 plan. The 2002 plan will remain as an overall vision for all publicly owned lands in the Pt. Sal area; however, the County must now move forward in a more serious manner to evaluate, plan for and implement public access to this unique biological, cultural, scenic open space area. Generally the project will include 1) a detailed public access plan benefiting those lands currently under or soon to be under County ownership, utilizing the 1991 and 2002 plan as a guiding tool and 2) actual implementation / construction required to facilitate public access. Costs total \$2.4 Million to update the management plan (\$50,000), implement public access including vehicle improvements to the trailhead (\$2 Million) and pedestrian trail, signage and cattle control (\$350,000).

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 THE GOVERNMENT

The County has secured partial funding for many of these projects and is seeking funding assistance from the federal and state governments to ensure coastal access to residents.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests support from its delegation to (1) assist the County in its interaction with other affected agencies and (2) identify funding opportunities for these projects.

CONTACT

Dan Hernandez, Director, Parks Department, 805.568.2477

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

County residents have benefited from the Safe Routes to Schools program, which provides grants for the construction of new sidewalks, pathways and bikepaths, driver feedback radar speed signs and safety signs around schools. However, the funding for this program has only been authorized through January 31, 2008. Without the guarantee of funding for future years, the County will not be able to compete for funding of safety projects throughout the community.

In the past five years, improvements have been made throughout the County to:

- Construct new infrastructure, including curb extensions, ADA-compliant pedestrian pathways and sidewalk segments like the new sidewalk infill project along Hollister Avenue, the pedestrian pathway along Nogal Drive (pictured on the right) and the pedestrian bridge on Santa Rosa Lane in Montecito.
- Install flashing beacons, radar actuated speed display signs, traffic calming features and pedestrian-activated flashing-beacons at crosswalks at locations throughout Goleta and the Orcutt area.
- Re-stripe crosswalks and pavement markings like the intersection of Auhay Drive and Hollister Avenue where the cross-walk was re-striped and a protected pedestrian island was created and a pedestrian-activated flashing yellow beacon was installed.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The State Safe Routes to School program was created in 1999 and authorizes the use of federal funds under SAF-E TEA-LU for programs that reduce the number of fatal and serious injury accidents. Local agencies compete for State funding via a grant process. Assembly Bill 57 (Soto) authorizes funding for the grant cycles for the 2006–07 and 2007–08 fiscal years.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The current cycle of funding is \$52.3 million statewide. The County has received annual grants in the range of \$300,000-500,000, which require a 10% local match.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that a similar bill to fund this program in FY 08-09 be sponsored by last year's author or the respective Chairs of the Assembly Committee on Transportation and Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing, with support from its delegation.

CONTACT

Dace Morgan, Transportation Director, Public Works Department, 805.568.3005



SANTA MARIA LEVEE

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County owns and operates the Santa Maria Levee, which is a water conservation and flood control project. The 26 mile levee was built by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) in the 1960s and constructed as a compacted sand berm with a rock face to protect the sand from the scouring effects of water flows during a storm. When FEMA requested that the ACOE certify that the levee would provide protection from a 100 year flood, the ACOE would not. Therefore, the County, in partnership with the City of Santa Maria, is seeking a federal appropriation for repairs once a feasibility study has been completed.

The levee has a history of succumbing to damage due to flooding of the Santa Maria River, starting shortly after its construction date, as noted below:

- 1959-1963: Levee Built
- 1966: Revetment Damage
- 1969: Near Breach
- 1978: Revetment Damage
- 1983: Revetment Damage
- 1995: Revetment Damage
- 1998: Total Breach, Revetment Damage
- 2001: Revetment Damage
- 2007: Zaca Fire Burns 25% of Watershed



Bonita School Road Crossing: March 6, 2001

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The levee protects 100,000 residents living within the City of Santa Maria, including a residential housing tract and school, which are located directly across the portion of the levee that is threatened. It also provides full and supplemental irrigation to 35,000 acres of agricultural land, which is vital to the County's economic livelihood.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The project is estimated to cost \$20 million based on an engineering report. The ACOE cost is between 50 -100% and any remaining project costs will be borne by the County, most likely through a voter approved benefit assessment on residents located within the Santa Maria Flood Zone. Federal appropriations would also help the County take advantage of potential State funding related to flood projects. The County has incurred costs related to "spot treatments" like pipe and wire groins, rock reinforcement and digging pilot channels to reinforce the levee until a more lasting solution has been funded.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County will complete a feasibility study to determine repair options as a result of a 2007 appropriation request. The next phase of the project involves construction and the County will consult with the ACOE and submit an appropriation request to its Congressional delegation that funding for construction be provided in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill. It will also seek the support of its State delegation for possible funding from Proposition 1E and 84 monies as well as any future water infrastructure bond monies.

CONTACT

Tom Fayram, Deputy Director of Flood Control/Water Resources, 805.568.3436

SOCIAL SERVICES- COST OF DOING BUSINESS

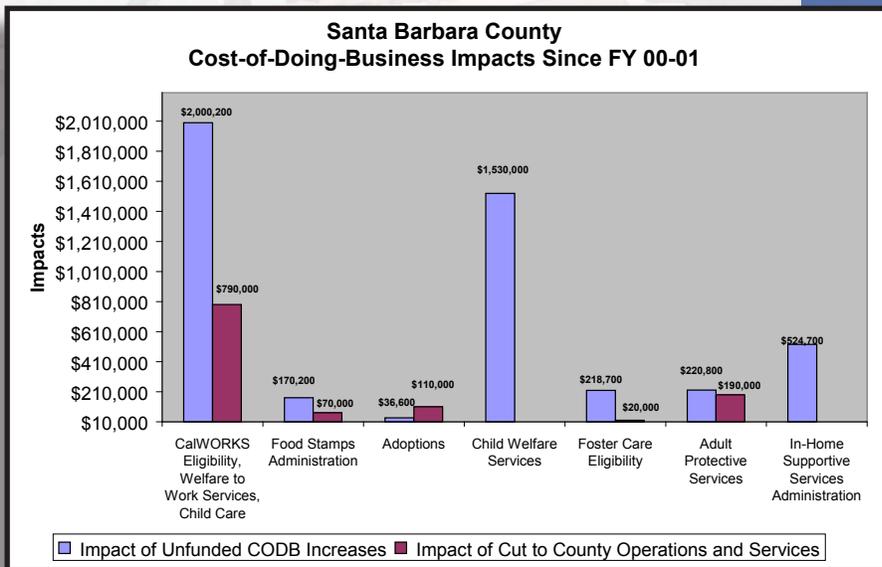
SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The State pays the Department of Social Services a portion of the costs associated with providing mandated public assistance programs. These programs include Adoptions, Adult Protective Services, CalWORKs, Child Welfare Services, Food Stamps, Foster Care and In-Home Supportive Services. The State's contribution to the County has not kept pace with inflation or the actual costs of salaries and benefits for a number of years. Rather, the State has frozen its funding for administration (salaries and benefits) and overhead at the 2001 level.

The County has incurred an estimated cumulative \$6M funding gap over the past seven years as a result of not receiving increases in State funding since 2001.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/ IMPACT

The services that are impacted are primarily delivered to the most vulnerable within a community such as children, families and elder and dependent adults. The Department will either need to continue to absorb these costs or reduce critical service levels and re-prioritize the provision of services among the various mandated programs. Ultimately, the clients receiving these services may suffer. 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 decrease in service delivery and impact the ability to meet mandated timeframes for all programs. Failure to meet mandated performance measures may lead to fiscal sanctions being imposed by the federal and state governments. Federal and State monies cannot be used to pay fiscal sanctions; therefore, any sanctions would need to be paid by the County's General Fund.



COST TO FEDERAL/STATE GOVERNMENT

It is estimated that the State should be paying counties an additional \$85 million a year and that the current funding gap is nearly \$800 million a year.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation and members of the Budget Committee explore the possibility of the State increasing its contribution levels to counties for mandated services and/or the Legislature provide relief to counties from mandates (limit services, extend timelines for service deliveries, minimize penalties for not meeting mandates, etc.). The County will collaborate with CSAC and the CA Welfare Directors Association on strategies to educate the Legislature and the Administration about unfunded or ill-funded mandates.

CONTACT

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TRANSPORTATION

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County has several transportation projects to be considered as part of the reauthorization of the SAFETEA-LU program. SAFETEA-LU is currently authorized for 2005-2009.

1. ROADWAY SURFACE TREATMENTS AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

This project consists of in place recycling and deep-lift asphalt concrete overlays on (1) four Federal Aid Routes in the 24th Congressional District of the County, which includes various routes within the unincorporated areas of Santa Ynez, Lompoc, and Santa Maria and on (2) ten Federal Aid Routes in the 23rd Congressional District of the County, which includes various routes within the unincorporated areas of Montecito, Summerland, Santa Barbara, Goleta, Guadalupe and Lompoc. Both projects will allow the County to bring the selected roads up to current County standards for safety, ride quality and provides structural and much needed drainage improvements to the road infrastructure (\$5 Million per District).

2. SANTA YNEZ SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

This project, located on Roblar Avenue and Refugio Road in the Santa Ynez Valley, proposes to widen 4 miles of roadway to provide for safer travel. These roads are narrow and heavily traveled by passenger vehicles and large trucks, so increasing the roadway width for shoulders will allow for safer travel for the residents of the Santa Ynez Valley. Slurry seal treatment for Roblar Avenue and asphalt concrete overlay for Refugio Road are also included (\$4 Million).

3. SUMMERLAND CIRCULATION & PARKING IMPROVEMENTS

This project, located on Ortega Hill Road and Lillie Avenue through the town of Summerland, proposes to improve the pedestrian, vehicular and bicycle circulation by constructing curb, gutter and sidewalks, delineating a Class II bike lane and by adding street lighting and angled parking where feasible. The project has received \$2.8 Million in funding and is anticipated to receive \$2 Million in funds through the State Transportation Improvement Plan cycle for portions of the improvements and some improvements are under construction (\$1.4 Million remaining).

4. REFUGIO ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

This project, located on Refugio Road along the Gaviota Coast, proposes to realign and widen Refugio Road for seven miles starting at Highway 101 and continuing northerly to the summit of the Santa Ynez Mountains. This portion of Refugio Road attracts recreation enthusiasts so the project will provide for safer access for bicyclists and equestrians by widening the existing roadway to include two lanes of travel, improving shoulders and sight distances. Refugio Road crosses Refugio Creek at seven locations: six low water crossings and one bridge. The low water crossings consist of concrete encased culverts to convey creek flow which act as a bridge in low flow events. However, under high flow conditions, water runs over the roadway and precludes vehicular traffic. Seasonal rains often fill the culvert openings in the crossings with debris, forcing the creek to flow across the roadway year round. The crossings impede the natural flow of the creek as well as the coastal steelhead/rainbow trout, a federally protected endangered species. The project proposes new replacement bridge structures that will improve creek conveyance and the fish and wildlife habitat. The proposed structures will raise the roadway profile as required by current design standards to allow for high creek flows under the road. Additional drainage improvements are proposed along the project limits to ensure rainfall run off is addressed adequately and safe passage is made available year round (\$30 Million).

5. OLD TOWN ORCUTT STREETScape AND CIRCULATION IMPROVEMENTS

This project, located along Clark Avenue in the town of Orcutt, proposes to revitalize a historic downtown corridor of Clark Ave by improving access to Orcutt from Highway 101 and improving parking and pedestrian access within the historic Old Town Orcutt. This project has two components: (1) improvements to the Clark Avenue on and off ramps at Highway 101 and (2) formalization of temporary striping changes, as well as the construction of missing sidewalk segments along Clark Avenue. As more residents travel to this historic area, it has been shown that the traffic will increase at Highway 101 ramps thereby requiring traffic signals on the northbound and southbound ramps and minor widening to align the on and off ramps at both

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the northbound and southbound ramps of Highway 101. Regarding the striping changes, intersection curb returns will be “bulbed out” with additional sidewalk space for improved pedestrian safety, areas for landscaping and curb cuts that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (\$7.5 Million).

6. PURISIMA ROAD WIDENING IMPROVEMENTS

This project, located along Purisima Road near the City of Lompoc, proposes to widen Purisima Road from State Route 1 to State Route 246. The purpose of this project is to address safety concerns by providing a safer mixed-use roadway system which accommodates both vehicles, bicyclists and equestrians, and thus encourages alternative modes of transportation and increases safety. The project will widen 5 feet on both the north and south side of the road and improve drainage by lengthening/relocating culverts and reconstructing headwalls (\$2.7 Million).

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

These various projects are proposed to increase the safety of the various users of the County’s road system including motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians. Other benefits of these projects include drainage and structural improvements and increasing the surface conditions of roads.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The President signed SAFETEA-LU into law on August 2005, which authorizes \$244.1 billion in funding for highways, highway safety, and public transportation.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests support from its delegation to include these transportation projects in the 2010 SAFETEA-LU reauthorization as well as seeks assistance in identifying other funding opportunities for these projects.

CONTACT

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA
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