

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA



2011 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

CONTACTS

All Priorities/ Inquiries:

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Terri Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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FEDERAL PRIORITIES/ INQUIRIES: THOMAS WALTERS AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

Thomas Walters
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 570
Washington, D.C. 20001
Tel: 202.737.7523 • Fax: 202.737.6788

STATE PRIORITIES/INQUIRIES: GOVERNMENTAL ADVOCATES, INC.

Cliff Berg and Monica Miller
1127 11th Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SALUD CARBAJAL, FIRST DISTRICT

105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Tel: 805.568.2186
Fax: 805.568.2534

JANET WOLF, SECOND DISTRICT

105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Tel: 805.568.2191
Fax: 805.568.2283

DOREEN FARR, THIRD DISTRICT (VICE CHAIR)

105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Tel: 805.568.2192
Fax: 805.568.2883

JONI GRAY, FOURTH DISTRICT (CHAIR)

410 E. Cypress Avenue
Lompoc, CA 93436
Tel: 805.737.7700
Fax: 805.737.7703

STEVE LAVAGNINO, FIFTH DISTRICT

511 E. Lakeside Parkway, Suite 141
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Tel: 805.346.8400
Fax: 805.346.8404



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2011 PRIORITIES

Appropriation Requests: The County submits appropriation requests to the federal government for various infrastructure projects and programs. Usually, these projects have a federal nexus. Requests include the cost of completing a phase or portion of a project rather than the entire project.

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Proposed Legislation: The County proposes ideas for new legislation or amendments to existing law that would help improve the effectiveness and efficiency of departmental operations and service delivery. These may be issues that hinder a department’s ability to provide services and/or generate revenue.

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COUNTY AT A GLANCE

THE PEOPLE

- Population: (7/1/2009)
-432,981
- Gender: (2009)
-50% Male
-50% Female
- Ethnicity: (2010)
-55% White
-38% Hispanic
-2% Black
-5% Other
- Median Age: (2009)
-34.0

THE COMMUNITY

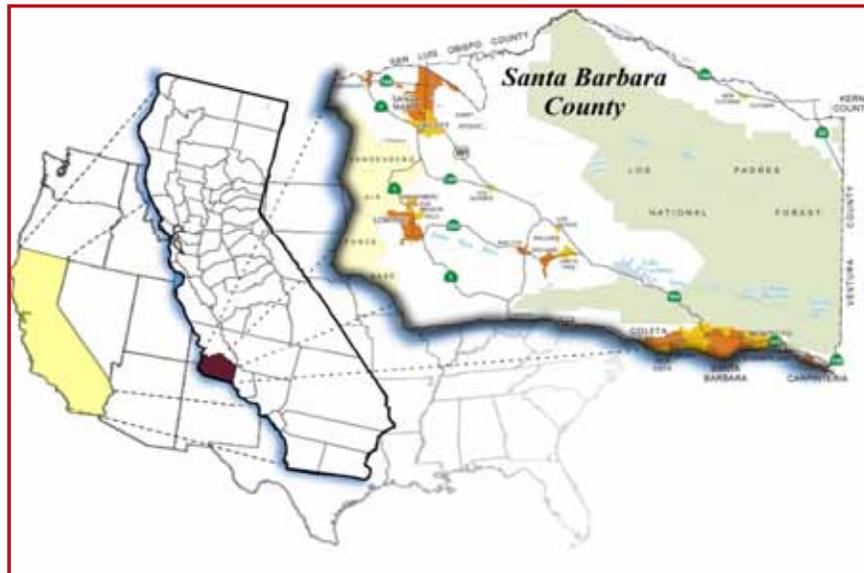
- 114 parks
- 18 beaches
- 16 open space preserves
- 16 public libraries
- 17 golf courses
- Civic Participation (4/2010)
 - Number of Precincts: 318
 - Number of Eligible Voters: 279,114
 - Number of Registered Voters: 198,556
 - Percent of Registered Voters: 71.1%
 - Percent of Registered Voters voting at polls: 47.2%
 - Percent of Registered Voters voting by mail: 52.8%

THE GOVERNMENT

- General law County founded in 1850
- 8 cities
- 17 school districts
- 26 special districts
- 4 airports
- 5 members on Board of Supervisors
- 5 elected County officials:
 - Auditor-Controller
 - Clerk-Recorder-Assessor
 - District Attorney
 - Sheriff
 - Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator
- Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors
 - Salud Carbajal
1st District, 805.568.2186
 - Janet Wolf
2nd District, 805.568.2191
 - Doreen Farr, Vice-Chair
3rd District, 805.568.2192 & 805.686.5095
 - Joni Gray, Chair
4th District, 805.737.7700 & 805.346.8407
 - Steve Lavagnino
5th District, 805.346.8400

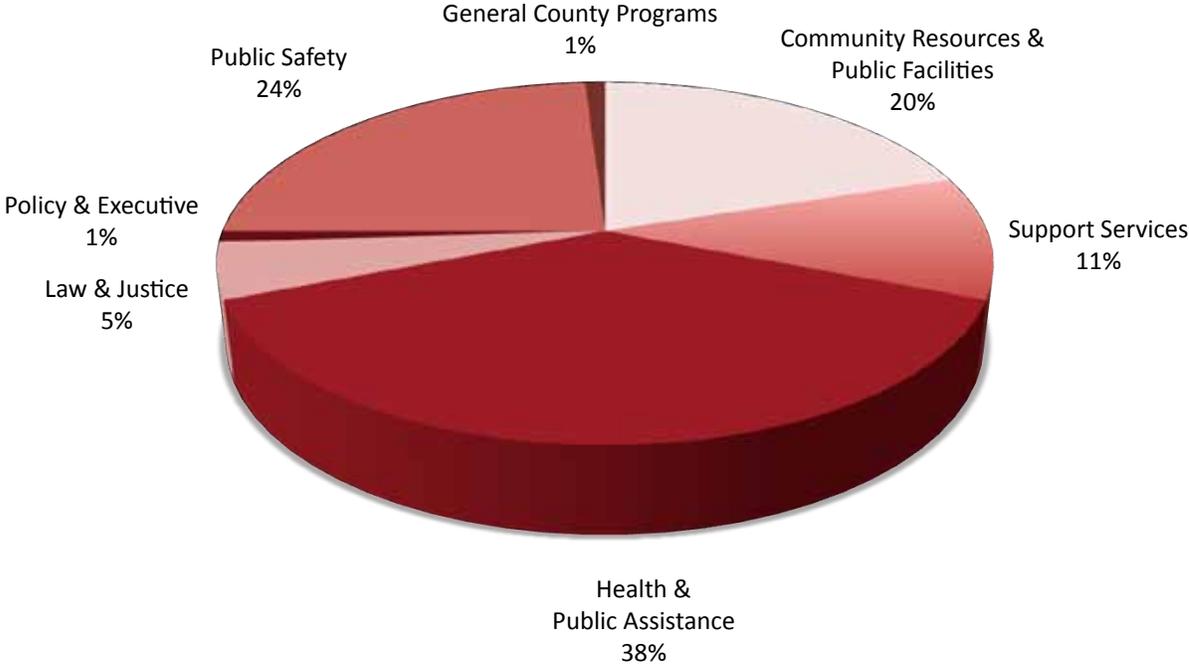
THE LAND

- 2,774 square miles (1/3 located within the Los Padres National Forest)
- 150 square miles Vandenberg Air Force Base
- 110 miles of beaches
- Average temperature 64 degrees F
- Average 300 days of sunshine a year

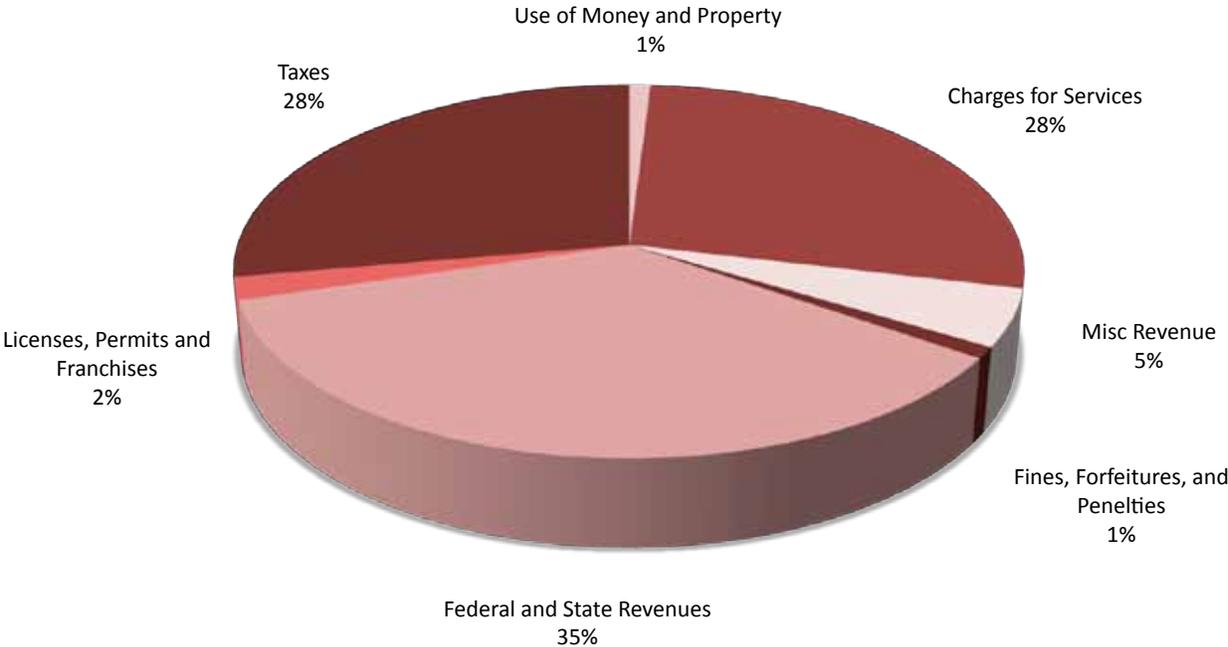


COUNTY BUDGET AT A GLANCE

SOURCE OF COUNTY EXPENDITURES BY TYPE
(\$864.3 Million FY 2010-11 Recommended)



COUNTY REVENUE BY FUNCTIONAL AREA
(\$864.3 Million* FY 2010-11 Recommended)



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY **FEDERAL AND**



President Barack Hussein Obama II, 44th President of the US
whitehouse.gov

Bio- Previous occupation: US Senator. Elected in 2008.

Key Issues- revitalizing the economy, ending the war in Iraq, healthcare, US global leadership and homeland security.



United States Senator Barbara Boxer, 112th Congress
boxer.senate.gov

Bio- Previous occupation: Politician-10 years as member of the US House of Representatives. Elected to Senate in 1993. Committee assignments include Commerce, Science and Technology, Environment and Public Works (Chair), Foreign Relations and Ethics.

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



United States Senator Dianne Feinstein, 112th Congress
feinstein.senate.gov/public

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

Key Issues- crime victims rights, healthcare, economy, national security/homeland security, environmental issues including water supply and agriculture and education.



Congresswoman Lois Capps, 23rd District
capps.house.gov

Bio- Previous occupation: Nurse, educator. Elected to Congress in 1998. Committee assignments include Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Natural Resources Committee.

Key Issues- budget, education, energy and environmental issues, public health, ending the war in Iraq, immigration, gas prices and health care issues.



Congressman Elton Gallegly, 24th District
house.gov/gallegly

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

Key Issues- energy, national security/homeland security, illegal immigration and veterans' issues.

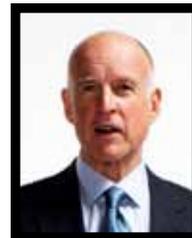
STATE OFFICIALS

Governor Jerry Brown, 39th Governor

gov.ca.gov

Bio- Previous occupation: Elected Governor of California in 2010, elected California Attorney General in 2006, elected Mayor of Oakland in 1998 and reelected in 2002, elected Governor of California in 1974 and reelected in 1978, elected California Secretary of State in 1970.

Key issues- jobs for california's future, education, budget , environment, clean energy jobs plan, pension reform, water for the 21st century, and fighting to protect civil rights.



California State Senator Sam Blakeslee, 15th District

cssrc.us/web/15

Bio- Previous occupation: Research scientist, owner of an investment firm. Elected to California Assembly in 2004. Assembly Minority Leader.

Key Issues- energy planning/policy and environmental/conservation issues, fiscal issues, budget, tax and electoral reform, renewable energy portfolio and seismic safety.



California State Senator Tony Strickland, 19th District

cssrc.us/web/19

Bio- Previous occupation: CA State Assemblymember, business owner for renewable energy development. Elected to California Senate in 2008.

Key Issues- protecting consumers, fiscal reform, two-year budget reform, redirecting our dependence on foreign oil and education.



California State Assemblyman Katcho Archadjian, 33rd District

arc.asm.ca.gov/member/33

Bio- Previous occupation: Business owner, elected County Supervisor in 1998, appointed to California Coastal Commission in 2006, Elected CA Assemblymember in 2010.

Key Issues- health care, public safety, community improvement, fiscal reform and education.



California State Assemblyman Das Williams, 35th District

asmdc.org/members/a35

Bio- Previous occupation: CA State Assemblymember, City Councilmember, Educator, and Legislative Aide.

Key issues- state budget, higher education improvement, fiscal issues and off-shore oil drilling.



COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



First District Supervisor Salud Carbajal

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. National Association of Counties (NACO) 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. California State Association of Counties (CSAC) alternative representative.



Third District Supervisor Doreen Farr (Vice-Chair)

District includes the Cities of Buellton, (portions of) Goleta, Solvang, and the unincorporated portions of the Gaviota Coast, Los Alamos and Santa Ynez Valley.



Fourth District Supervisor Joni Gray (Chair)

District includes the Cities of Guadalupe and Lompoc and portions of the unincorporated areas of Santa Maria Valley, including Casmalia and Orcutt. California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Treasurer and County representative.



Fifth District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino

District includes the City of Santa Maria and the unincorporated areas of Sisquoc and Cuyama Valleys.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Dear Reader:

Santa Barbara County presents its 2011 Legislative Platform for consideration. The legislative platform identifies core County programs and capital projects (“the legislative priorities”) in need of support from the federal and state governments. Similar to the challenges facing many local governments, Santa Barbara County’s platform places a strong emphasis on ensuring the appropriate level of federal and state funding for County-administered programs and services such as elections, public health, public safety, social services and transportation. These programs illustrate the advantages of locally designed and delivered services, especially when these services are accompanied by sufficient funding and inter-governmental accountability.



In addition to core functions, the platform identifies issues unique to Santa Barbara. These issues include funding for roadways, flood control projects, beach access and safety, parks and open space and community facilities. As in previous years, the County continues to advocate for funding support for Lower Mission Creek and the Santa Maria Levee to ensure its South Coast and North County residents are adequately protected from flooding. Funding support for Goleta Beach County Park, Lake Cachuma and Safety Improvements and Beach Access at Santa Claus Lane remain among the County’s top legislative priorities.

This year, the County is also committed to working with the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments to address safety concerns on Highway 154 and to support the widening of US Highway 101 and the first high occupancy vehicle lanes on the Central Coast of California. The County’s interest in public health, public safety and transportation is also evident by the inclusion of the Maddy Emergency Medical Services Fund in the platform. This Fund reimburses local hospitals and healthcare providers for emergency medical and trauma care services through revenue generated by fines from certain motor vehicle and criminal violations and the County will advocate for these funds to continue beyond the stated sunset dates.

There is a widely-held belief that 2011 will be characterized by continued economic and budgetary constraints. During such challenges times, it is even more important for the various levels of government to recognize the nature of the intergovernmental relationship and possible repercussions that decisions made in Washington DC and Sacramento may have in Santa Barbara County. For instance, the timely passage of a balanced budget by the federal and State governments will have a significant impact on the County. Any shifting of responsibilities among governments, especially without the appropriate funding, will also affect the County.

As the County embarks on implementing its platform for 2011, the Board of Supervisors and County staff wish to extend their appreciation for the assistance received by the County’s federal and State delegation, governmental agencies and organizations such as the National Association of Counties and the California State Association of Counties. Their collective effort to understand the County’s position on issues, advocate on behalf of the County and offer solutions to legislative matters was invaluable. The County looks forward to continued collaboration with its representatives and affiliated associations in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chandra L. Wallar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chandra L. Wallar
County Executive Officer

Federal Priorities at a Glance

- Reduce air pollution from marine vessels' emissions
- CDC Disaster Preparedness Grants
- Provide for enhanced funding and streamlined processes to encourage the diversification, development, incubation, and growth of business
- Enhance the level of funding for gang prevention programs, assistance to Firefighters, COPS and Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants to fund public safety and criminal justice
- Fund design of Goleta Beach 2.0
- Restoration of the historic Santa Barbara County Courthouse
- Support reauthorization of McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- Replacement of facilities and upgrades at Lake Cachuma
- Invasive species funding targeted to the quagga mussel prevention program at Lake Cachuma
- Protection from flooding via Lower Mission Creek and Santa Maria Levee
- Protection of open space at the Gaviota Coast
- Public access to Point Sal Reserve
- Development of Walter Capps County Park
- Safe public beach access at Santa Claus Lane
- Protection of funding for children age 0-5 (Proposition 10)
- Revise Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF -known as CalWORKS) funding performance targets
- Funding for Summer Youth Programs under the Workforce Investment Act
- Support legislation to allow Workforce Investment Boards to seek approval for waivers
- Support reauthorization of State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and improved children's health coverage
- Funding for Transportation projects as part of the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU for surface treatment, circulation, and safety improvement projects
- Renovations and repairs to the Lompoc and Santa Barbara Veterans Memorial Buildings
- Funding for Santa Barbara Health and Human Service Campus ADA upgrades
- Support legislation to repeal limitations on state and local authority to regulate the placement, construction, and modification of telecommunications towers
- Support federal funding for agriculture and related programs



State Priorities at a Glance

- Reduce air pollution from marine vessels' emissions
- Ensure that Child Support collections for Probation are eligible for IV-D funding
- Extend the Emergency Medical Services Fund beyond its sunset date
- Provide for enhanced funding and streamlined processes to encourage the diversification, development, incubation, and growth of business
- Support District Attorney legislative enhancements regarding truancy, cyber bullying, and sexual crimes
- Allow counties to conduct elections by mail under such circumstances as a special election
- Enhance the level of funding for gang prevention programs, and public safety programs
- Fund design of Goleta Beach 2.0
- Implement Highway 154 safety improvements
- Funding for Homeless programs and supportive programs related to housing, mental health and transitional youth
- Replacement of facilities and upgrades at Lake Cachuma
- Invasive species funding targeted to the quagga mussel prevention program at Lake Cachuma
- Protection from flooding via Lower Mission Creek channel improvements and Santa Maria Levee
- Protection of open space at Gaviota Coast
- Public access to Point Sal Reserve
- Development of Walter Capps County Park
- Safe public beach access at Santa Claus Lane
- Maximize local control of speed limits
- Protection of funding for children age 0-5 (Proposition 10)
- Support legislation to ensure mobile home park residents are not involuntarily removed from local rent control or otherwise economically impacted if parks are subdivided or converted
- Oppose implementation of centralized privatized statewide eligibility determination and case management system for Medi-Cal, Food Stamps and CalWORKS
- Restore Child Welfare Services funding levels
- Restore In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) funding levels and eliminate fingerprinting requirements
- Restore State Social Services funding
- Revise Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF -known as CalWORKS) funding performance targets
- Restore Stage 3 child care funding
- Support reauthorization of State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and improved children's health coverage
- Protection of Transportation funding- Highway Users Tax Account (HUTA)
- Restore and increase Williamson Act subvention payments

LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

The Legislative Program adheres to the County's legislative principles, which serve as a guide for the County in developing a position on any forthcoming federal and state legislation.

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.

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

INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION: Partner with neighboring cities and counties on infrastructure and other large-scale projects when possible. Support the advocacy efforts of local, regional, statewide and national organizations such as First 5 Santa Barbara, the Kid's Network, Air Pollution Control District (APCD), Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the National Association of Counties (NACO). Collaborate with other institutions and entities on mutually beneficial issues that align with the legislative principles. Utilize regional coordination to communicate and strengthen advocacy efforts that impact the County and its partners.

LOCAL CONTROL: Advocate for local authority and control over governance issues, land use policies and service delivery. Support efforts to encourage collaboration and frequent communication among all levels of government. Support efforts that create opportunities for local jurisdictions to provide frequent and timely feedback on the potential impacts of proposed policies, programmatic and/or regulatory changes on the community. Encourage flexible and adaptive approaches to the implementation of federal and state policies and programs. Such an approach should balance the need to achieve compliance, standardization and uniformity with community preferences.

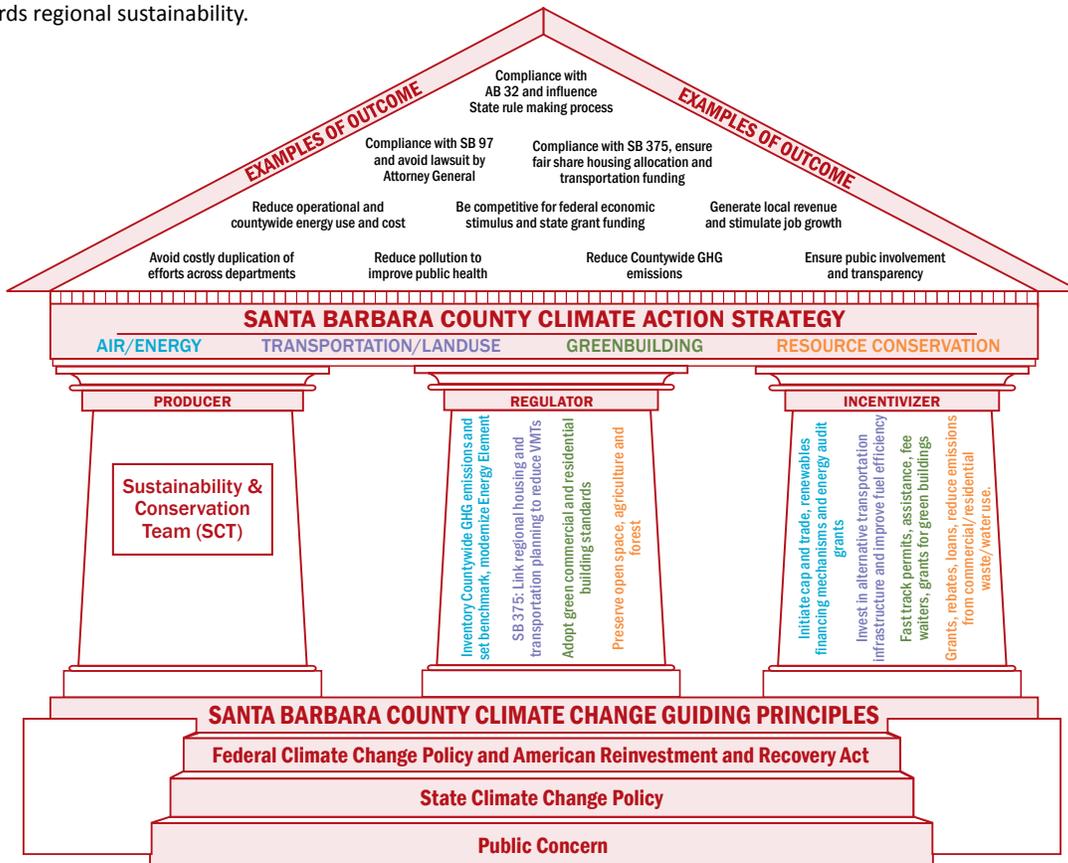
PROTECTION OF SAFETY NET SERVICES: Support efforts to maintain and enhance "safety net" services that protect the most vulnerable within a community, including, but not limited to, children, the elderly and other "at risk" populations. Such services in the area of health and human assistance include,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

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY / ECONOMIC STABILITY: Support efforts to foster communitywide sustainability by promoting economic stability and environmental stewardship through participation in the growing green economy. Continue to engage in related federal and state deliberations to ensure that local government receives the economic and financial benefits associated with new policies. Support efforts to catalyze community renewal, redevelopment and reinvestment, incubate and support innovative businesses, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, incentivize energy efficiency, water conservation, and the use of renewable energy. To maintain and protect agricultural and rural resources, coastal areas, and bio-diversity, the County recognizes the need to promote mutually beneficial partnerships with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors across the region. These collective efforts aim to engender healthy communities by balancing social well-being, economic prosperity, and environmental responsibility.

COUNTY'S CLIMATE CHANGE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Board of Supervisors adopted the County's Climate Change Guiding Principles on March 17, 2009 to establish a foundation for a climate strategy, as follows:

- (1) Protecting the community from the effects of climate change is a high priority;
- (2) The County recognizes the State's climate change goals, regulations, and requirements set forth by AB 32 to reduce Statewide GHG emissions and will implement programs to comply with these requirements;
- (3) The benefits of investing in actions to reduce GHG emissions can outweigh the costs in numerous ways, including: economic vitality, public health and safety, natural resource protection, and infrastructure stability;
- (4) In order to maintain long-term regional well-being, health and prosperity of current residents, as well as future generations of residents, the County will preserve and balance its shared social wellbeing, economic prosperity, environmental resources, and biodiversity;
- (5) The County recognizes that challenges associated with climate change are regional in nature and can best be addressed in partnership with both public and private sectors;
- (6) The County has three strategic roles to play in reducing GHG emissions as a producer, a regulator and an incentivizer;
- (7) The County will preserve its fiscal health by conserving resources and promoting renewable resources, thereby reducing costs;
- (8) The County will enhance its local economy through the incubation of clean technology, by attracting innovative firms and talent through private sector incentives, and by creating opportunities for local residents to attain jobs and training in the growing regional green economy;
- (9) A key component in a successful climate strategy is the development of an effective and inclusive decision making process that promotes the sharing of information and encourages diverse public input; and,
- (10) Through coordinated planning, measurement, evaluation, and reporting, the County will continue to address State requirements, capitalize on economic opportunities, and protect the regional quality of life while strategically progressing towards regional sustainability.





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APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

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APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

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 1.5 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 coastal recreation and other park amenities. A significant segment of the California Coastal Trail and major utility lines are threatened by continued erosion. The County adopted a long-term solution in July 2010, which will relocate threatened infrastructure, restore a beach environment at the park's western end, and expand recreational, cultural, and interpretive programming.



PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The Park includes a 1,400 ft pier, boat launch and storage, safe swimming beach, a restaurant and snack bar, three sets of restrooms, picnic and barbecue facilities, play equipment, parking, and coastal recreation amenities for persons with disabilities. In response to storm events, emergency rock revetments have been constructed and the beach nourished by depositing sand dredged from local streams and Santa Barbara Harbor onto the beach.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The cost of short-term and long-term solutions to protect the park could include costs for design and engineering, preparing and filing permit applications, monitoring associated field conditions, conducting public outreach, and preparing environmental documents. Costs associated with long-term options will vary from \$5.0 million to \$7.5 million depending on the final approved project.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests support from its delegation as it continues to analyze potential long-term options. Any forthcoming project involves interaction and/or request for funding with such agencies as the Army Corp of Engineers, California Coastal Commission, Regional Water Quality Control Board, State Lands Commission and BEACON. The County requests funding support in the amount of \$150,000 for the costs associated with updating the environmental document to reflect Goleta Beach 2.0 project.

CONTACT

Thomas D. Fayram, Interim Director, Parks Department, 805.568.2461; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400.

Historic Santa Barbara County Courthouse

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Santa Barbara Courthouse is owned by the County of Santa Barbara and serves as a community resource for the area's civic groups, non-profit groups and other residents. However, this aging building is in need of funding to correct deficiencies and undertake historic rehabilitation of the structure.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The historic (City Landmark, State Historic Landmark and National Historic Landmark) Santa Barbara Courthouse, constructed in 1929, is a 156,000 square foot building home to the Superior Court of California and Civic Government. It is comprised of multiple offices, courtrooms, and historic rooms that are able to accommodate hundreds of people. Moreover, it serves as a vital component of civic society, primarily as a gathering place for community celebrations in the area.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The County has estimated the cost of renovation to be approximately \$38.845 million, which includes:

- ADA upgrades including lift installation, restroom upgrade, handrail and signage installation (\$1,235,000)
- Architectural / Safety upgrades including installation of exit sign, fire rated doors and related hardware and fire alarm and fire sprinkler system, stone and cast store restoration, leather and furniture restoration, painted ceiling restoration, draperies and textile restoration, insulation, restroom addition, roof tile and downspout repair (\$22,000,000)
- Structural upgrades including structural analysis and retrofitting of structural elements (\$1,775,000)
- Mechanical upgrades to existing heating and plumbing systems (\$6,475,000)
- Electrical upgrades including replacement of circuitry and re-wiring of building (\$2,760,000)
- Hazardous Material abatement including asbestos and lead paint abatement, and termite inspection report (\$4,600,000)
- Exterior modifications including repair of existing sidewalks, curbs and gutters and enhanced landscaping (\$3,118,000)

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

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

CONTACT

Bob Nisbet, Director, General Services, 805.560.1011; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400



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 (Bureau) has evaluated the impacts of raising the water level at Lake Cachuma to protect the endangered steelhead trout. The increased water level, coupled with the need to replace outdated and aging infrastructure, is the catalyst for funding requests to continue Parks operations listed below

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 approximately 800,000 visitors year-round

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The Bureau owns all "project" facilities and operates Bradbury Dam, which was constructed under contract with the Santa Barbara County Water Agency to provide irrigation and water supplies

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests its Congressional delegation support new appropriations requests as follows: New water treatment plant - \$2.3 million; Fire flow improvements and water distribution system improvements - \$1.8 million; Sewage treatment - \$250,000 and Live Oak ADA showers, restrooms, and electrical upgrades - \$150,000

CONTACT

Thomas D. Fayram, Interim Director, Parks Department, 805.568.2461; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400.

PROJECT	TOTAL COST	AMOUNT FUNDED	SOURCE OF AMOUNT FUNDED	UNFUNDED AMOUNT	STRATEGY TO SECURE FUNDING
BIOLOGICAL OPINION / SURCHARGE INITIATED PROJECTS					
New Water Treatment Plant*	\$ 2,800,800	\$ 529,000	BOR	\$2,271,800	Balance of BOR grant (\$2,000,000), SBC (\$271,800)
New Fire Suppression Water Storage Reservoir *	\$ 1,400,000	\$1,061,859	ARRA	\$ 338,141	BOR \$300,000** + Force Labor
Existing Water Reservoir Re-roofing*	\$ 469,803	\$ 428,098	BOR/SBC	\$ -	COMPLETE
Fire Flow Improvements*	\$ 1,183,010	\$ 280,000	BOR/SBC	\$ 903,010	BOR (\$769,500) – SBC (\$133,510) + Force Labor
Water Distribution System Improvements*	\$ 1,244,509	\$ 284,321	BOR/SBC	\$ 960,188	BOR (\$826,500) – SBC (\$133,688) + Force Labor
Sewer Lift Stations	\$ 1,138,500	\$1,138,500	BOR/SBC	\$ -	COMPLETE
Sewage Treatment	\$ 2,007,000	\$ -	-	\$2,007,000	BOR (\$2,007,000)
Construction Road Repair & Access Improvements.	\$ 599,000	\$ -	-	\$ 599,000	BOR (\$257,900) SBC(\$342,000)
Boat Launch Ramp	\$ 2,626,140	\$2,626,140	DB&W	\$ -	COMPLETE
Boat Ramp Extension	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	DB&W	\$1,000,000	DB&W \$1.0 M
TOTAL	<u>\$14,468,762</u>	<u>\$6,347,918</u>	-	<u>\$8,079,139</u>	
OTHER CAPITAL FACILITIES PROJECTS					
Live Oak ADA Showers, Restrooms & Electrical Upgrades	\$730,000	\$433,000	BOR/OGALS/SBC	\$350,000	BOR\$150,000 - SBC \$200,000
Mohawk Bathrooms ADA*	\$780,000	\$472,300	BOR/SBC / ARRA	\$0	COMPLETE
TOTAL	<u>\$1,510,000</u>	<u>\$905,300</u>	-	<u>\$350,000</u>	
GRAND TOTAL FOR ALL PROJECTS	<u>\$15,978,762</u>	<u>\$7,253,218</u>	-	<u>\$8,429,139</u>	

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 \$57 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 and Corps are nearing the completion of the design phase as a result of a 2007 appropriation request of \$215,000 and a 2009 ARRA allocation of \$600,000. The 2011 Transportation bill also contains a \$250,000 appropriation which has yet to be passed by Congress and signed into law. 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 through the Energy and Water Appropriations bill. It will also seek the support of its State delegation for possible funding from Proposition 84 monies.

CONTACT

Scott McGolpin, Director, Public Works Department, 805.568.3010; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400

Parks/Open Space

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Santa Barbara County Parks provides services to approximately 5.6 million annual visitors to 71 day use parks and open space locations and two camping parks, as well as to a network of trails and coastal access easements. The County is interested in preserving and expanding the amount of open space located within its boundary. As such, the County is supportive of funding opportunities that enable local governments: (1) to maintain existing facilities (i.e. funding for park and trail maintenance); (2) to acquire additional land for open space preservation and (3) to ensure safe access to beaches, parks and open space. Examples of these projects are listed below as well as in other areas of the 2011 platform.

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

Point Sal Access and Management Plan and Implementation: This project will provide public access to Point Sal “Reserve”, which consists of 2,600 acres of publicly and privately-owned lands located in the northwestern corner of the County, along the coast of the Pacific Ocean. In 1991, an original management plan was developed and revised in 2002 under an internal administrative draft, to include parcels acquired by the County since the original 1991 plan. Costs total \$2.4 Million to update the management plan (\$50,000), implement public access including vehicle improvements to the trail-head (\$2 Million) and pedestrian trail, signage and cattle control (\$350,000).

Walter Capps County Park: This project will develop a passive park facility with walks, benches, public restroom, turf play area and a natural native coastal species habitat restoration area on a 2-acre bluff top in the community of Isla Vista. A Coastal Development Permit was issued for this project in June 2010. No further permitting is required. The County has secured \$395,312 of the \$772,000 total project cost and requests a \$200,000 federal appropriation to help fund this project.

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 additional funding to complete these projects.

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

Thomas D. Fayram, Interim Director, Parks Department, 805.568.2461; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400.

Safety Improvements Public Beach Access

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Santa Claus Lane Safety Improvements, Parking and Circulation, and Public Beach Access project proposes to provide safe, formalized, and legal public access to the beach and improve multi-modal circulation and parking at Santa Claus Lane. The Toro Canyon Community Plan provides direction to the County to address deficiencies in current access, use patterns, and facilities to enhance the opportunity for public use.

The goals of the project follow:

- Ensure safe, legal public access across the railroad to the beach through construction of an at-grade crossing;
- Construct needed public improvements (e.g., circulation improvements and aesthetic features) and provide amenities for beach users (e.g. off street beach parking on Caltrans property, restroom, shower, etc.); and
- Work with local constituents, residents and commercial owners to identify and provide for the operational and maintenance needs of the recreational and commercial area.

Progress on this project to date includes:

- Public acquisition of beach parcels for the at-grade crossing
- Securing funding and consultants to prepare street improvements and beach parking plans and initiate the permitting process for the railroad crossing
- Outreach to residents and commercial property owners.

The next phase consists of additional engineering design, environmental review, continued public outreach and permit processing.



PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Santa Claus Lane is a popular beach access location for the local community as well as the traveling public due to its adjacent location to Highway 101. With the current access, the public crosses an active railroad line with no legal crossing or warning system of oncoming trains. With improved safety, access, and visitor serving amenities, the project is envisioned to increase visitor use of the commercial area as well as the beach, thus providing economic and recreational benefits to the area.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

Due to the complex nature of the project, including the creation of a new vehicle crossing of the railroad, beach side improvements, road and drainage improvements, associated engineering design, local, state and environmental permits, it is estimated that the project will cost \$6.9 million to implement. The initial \$400,000 allocated to this effort (acquisition and preliminary planning) included the County's General Fund, local mitigation funds, as well as local and state grant funds. The anticipated need for 2011 includes \$400,000 for engineered designs and permitting efforts, including parking, railroad crossing, street improvements and visitor serving amenities.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests \$400,000 in support of this project to provide for safe access to, and use of, this popular beach area. Other regulatory agencies that have permit authority over this proposed project include the California Coastal Commission, State Public Utilities Commission, Army Corps of Engineers and local regulatory agencies, including agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad.

CONTACT

Glenn Russell, Director, Planning and Development, 805.568-2085, Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400

Santa Barbara Health & Human Services Campus Upgrades

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Santa Barbara Health & Human Services Campus has been the center of services for Public Health, Mental Health, and Social Services for the County of Santa Barbara since 1918. The Campus is situated on a 300-acre parcel with vertical grade changes of 100 feet. These grade changes make it a challenge for those with disabilities to navigate from building to building to receive public services. In many cases, clients of the Health & Human Services departments must drive from building to building—even though those buildings are adjacent to each other. This project will install a series of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access ramps and walkways to bridge the large changes in elevations on the property. Some locations will require large earth retaining walls to facilitate the installation of access ramps and walkways. This allows persons with disabilities and clients with children to travel from parking lots and bus stops to destinations on campus without the need to drive or travel the maze of buildings and elevators to access higher or lower sections of the campus. The will also include the installation of low voltage LED lighting for the new walk ways to improve winter season navigation.



PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The largest numbers of patients seen at the Santa Barbara Health & Human Services Campus are community members who live at or below the poverty level or are disadvantaged in some other way. Their main method of commuting to receive healthcare is by public transportation, or walking to this somewhat remote campus. The public transit system drop-off points at the campus are located at the lower levels of campus. This, in turn, requires these individuals to walk to each building, navigating the access obstacles in search of care. By creating direct pathways between the buildings for the mobility challenged or those with small children in strollers navigating the elevation changes without using stairs or internal elevators, services become more accessible. The improved accessibility will shorten the amount of time it takes to receive care services, lower the vehicle traffic and confusion, wear on existing elevators, and reduce energy consumption.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

Project cost is currently estimated at \$1 million.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

Requested federal appropriation of \$1 million for the project which will provide energy, resource, and labor savings to the County in the future, as well as providing a safe and efficient health care experience for County residents.

CONTACT

Bob Nisbet, Director, General Services Department, 805.560-1011; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400

Santa Maria River Levee —Reach 3 Extension of Improvements

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County owns and operates the Santa Maria River Levee, which is a Federally constructed 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.

Completed Work to Date:

The Corps has completed reaches 1, 2, and 3 which encompass a 6.3 Mile reach of Levee that serves to protect the City of Santa Maria. This work was completed at 100% Federal funding (ARRA).

Additional Work Needed to Finish Project:

During design of Reaches 1, 2, and 3, further studies indicated that an extension of the Levee improvements of an additional 3,700 feet is needed to completely encompass the 100-year floodplain, provide the intended protection for the City of Santa Maria, and to resolve the FEMA 100-year flood mapping issue. Potential flood mapping could put a significant portion of the City in the 100-year floodplain if the additional 3,700 feet of improvements are not completed. This would cost the community millions of dollars in required insurance premiums and possibly contribute to foreclosures if homeowners cannot afford the insurance.

The County, in partnership with the City of Santa Maria, is seeking a federal appropriation for the last 3,700 feet of the levee. This work, while small compared to the work completed, will need to be cost shared at 35% local funds with the City and County acting as joint partners.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

- Protects a significant portion of the City of Santa Maria, including schools, the regional hospital, and emergency services providers (Fire and Police).
- Would eliminate the need for expensive flood insurance for the City that has already suffered a significant foreclosure rate.
- Provides full and supplemental irrigation to 35,000 acres of agricultural land.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

Initial cost estimates put the remaining 3,700 feet at \$6 - \$7 Million for construction.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests legislative authorization of an additional \$5 - \$6 Million for the ACOE to complete final design and bid the repair project. Alternatively, if expedited, an amendment to the existing Reach 3 contractor could be negotiated which may allow for a more costs effective and timely repair of the remaining section of the levee.

CONTACT

Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Director, Public Works Department, Water Resources, 805.568.3436

Veterans Memorial Building —Santa Barbara and Lompoc

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Santa Barbara and Lompoc Veterans Memorial Buildings are owned by the County of Santa Barbara and serve as a community resource for the area's veterans, non-profit groups and other residents.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Santa Barbara Building

This 83-year old building built in 1927 is located on historic Santa Barbara's premier waterfront. It is heavily used by the Veterans and the community alike. It has been designated a "Structure of Merit" by the City of Santa Barbara. Historically, Veterans Memorial Buildings came into being through the counties of California, which provided publicly-owned or donated land for the construction of memorial sites to be built in their cities. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, memorial halls and structures were constructed and dedicated as a tribute to those who fought in World War I. The usage of these spaces is guided and governed by the California Military and Veterans Code, which provides for the use of such facilities by persons or organizations other than veterans, either free of charge or for stated compensation to aid in defraying the cost of maintenance. These facilities are being closed in many counties. It is desired to save this building and ensure the usage for many years to come.



Lompoc Building



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

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

Santa Barbara Building

The County has estimated the cost of renovation to be approximately \$900,000, which includes:

- **Elevator:** This includes demolition, remodeling and installation for the elevator. Total cost estimated for this work is \$360,000.
- **Seismic Safety:** This includes seismic retrofitting, foundation stabilization, and deteriorated wood framing components. Total cost estimated for this work is \$250,000.
- **Electrical Systems:** This includes main panel, subpanel upgrades, internal wiring systems and aging light fixtures. Total cost estimated for this work is \$150,000.
- **Energy:** This includes water distribution systems, HVAC, utility regulation equipment and window upgrades. Total cost estimated for this work is \$140,000.

Lompoc Building

The County has estimated the total cost of renovation to be approximately \$3,816,471.

The County has estimated costs for restoration to be \$700,000, which includes:

- **Architectural:** This section includes exiting, fire protection, accessibility for the disabled and other life-safety related projects; roofing, replacement of doors and windows and related buildings systems upgrades. Federal Share request is \$400,000.
- **Hazardous Materials:** This section includes removal of lead based paints and asbestos materials. Federal Share request is \$300,000.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests assistance from its delegation to fund projects through an appropriations request.

CONTACT

Bob Nisbet, Director, General Services, 805.560-1011; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400

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PROPOSED LEGISLATION

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PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Alcohol Licensing Restrictions

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

In 2010, the California Legislature adopted AB1470 that allowed wine tasting rooms to sell wine by the glass rather than just selling “tastes” of wine. Wine tasting facilities do not require the same licensing and local government review as other alcohol outlets which also sell wine for consumption on their premises (i.e. wine bars). In 1994, the California Legislature adopted the Caldera Bill which authorizes local governments to control the number of bars and retail outlets in their communities. These rules apply to Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) license requests in areas that have an overconcentration of licenses and/or have high crime rates. Santa Barbara County is over concentrated in a variety of census tracts. When an overconcentration of licenses or a high crime rate exists, ABC must deny a license unless there is a finding of need or a Public Convenience of Necessity (PCN) by the local government. This finding is required for wine bars when wine is consumed on the premises by the glass. However, this finding does not apply to wine tasting facilities which now, via the adoption of AB1470, may also sell wine on the premises for consumption. Therefore, the necessary review of wine tasting facilities by local governments to ensure a thorough health and public safety review and where appropriate, mitigation of impacts, is not provided for by State legislation.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Many studies establish a direct correlation between high alcohol availability and increases in under age drinking, drunk driving, crimes and violence. Providing for a comprehensive review of alcohol outlets, specifically wine tasting rooms, by a local government, similar to the process currently required via a PCN finding, provides the local governing body the opportunity to fully assess potential impacts of alcohol outlets on the community and work in collaboration with the ABC, set forth appropriate mitigation and ensure the overall public safety and welfare of a community.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

That the County of Santa Barbara work with Alcohol Beverage Control Board and interested stakeholders to introduce new legislation and/or expand upon the parameters of the Caldera Bill to provide local jurisdictions with additional oversight regarding establishment of wine tasting rooms within a jurisdiction.

CONTACT

Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400

District Attorney Legislative Enhancements

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The District Attorney (DA) promotes prevention and protection of the rights, and ensures the safety of the residents of Santa Barbara County through criminal prosecution and enforcement remedies. Violent crimes are prosecuted with intensity and focus; a core mission of the DA is to break the cycle of crime and hold offenders accountable. The DA is committed to achieving justice for the most vulnerable residents and providing innovative and efficient solutions to protect victims. In addition, the DA brings actions involving white-collar crime and fraud, gangs and youthful offenders, and crimes against children and the elderly. Thus, ensuring adequate legislative reforms for various initiatives is a priority for the DA in its mission to prosecute offenders and fulfill the responsibility to ensure safety and justice for everyone in Santa Barbara County.

- **Truancy:** Combating truancy is a smart approach to preventing crime. Chronic truancy and involvement in crime go hand in hand. Nationwide, three-fourths of all truant children will eventually drop out of school and nearly two-thirds of all California prison inmates are high school dropouts. By keeping children in school, taxpayers will save billions of dollars in public resources and greatly improve public safety. The DA is committed to reducing truancy in all Santa Barbara County schools and supports legislative efforts to hold parents accountable for truant children.
- **Cyber bullying:** Cyber bullying is a growing crime in the information age. The DA is dedicated to strengthening investigations and prosecutions to reduce cyber bullying and supports efforts to amend Penal Code Section 653.2 to include language that makes it easier to prosecute cyber bullying based on the intent to “harass, humiliate, annoy, or menace.”
- **Sexual crimes:** The District Attorney supports efforts to amend Penal Code Section 243(e)(1) to make it punishable by felony to enter a home for the purpose of committing a sexual act other than rape. In addition, the DA supports efforts to amend Penal Code 261(a)(5) to clarify that committing rape when the victim is induced to believe that the person committing the act is someone else is punishable by felony.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The DA is committed to prosecuting crimes and ensuring safety and justice for everyone in Santa Barbara County.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

Prosecution of crimes results in criminals being taken off the streets and entering the penal system. This cost is borne by the taxpayers and County public safety departments.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County will work in collaboration with law enforcement agencies and in collaboration with CSAC to address issues noted on a statewide basis and that the County’s legislative delegation support efforts to reduce truancy and strengthen laws regarding cyber bullying and sexual crimes.

CONTACT

Joyce Dudley, District Attorney, 805.568.2308; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400

Elections Process

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. Current laws determine the number of precincts that a county must operate to conduct elections. The County seeks options to achieve efficiencies in managing the number of precincts, or polling places, required by law by either:

- (1) consolidating precincts
- (2) converting precincts to vote-by-mail or
- (3) expanding the vote-by-mail options for counties.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Current Elections Code determines the number of precincts a county must operate during an election. A precinct boundary shall be formed so that the number of voters does not exceed 1,000 on the 88th day prior to the election. If there are 250 or less persons registered to vote in any precinct on the 88th day prior to the election, the elections official may send the voters within that precinct a vote by mail ballot not establish a polling place..



COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The County currently has 221 poll voter precincts and 97 mail voter precincts. The percentage of ballots cast by mail is almost 58% of the registered voters. Each precinct requires its own poll workers, training classes, precinct supplies and ballots. Reducing the number of precincts would decrease operational costs of conducting an election. If the permanent vote-by-mail voters within the County were not included within the 1,000 count of registered voters as required by law, the County could reduce its precinct count by 50-60%.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation sponsor legislation to amend existing Elections Code Sections 12223 and 3005 to:

- Exclude the number of permanent vote-by-mail voters from the 1,000 voter threshold used to determine precinct boundaries to consolidate precincts;
- Exclude the number of permanent vote-by-mail voters from the 250 voter threshold used to determine whether a polling place can be converted to a vote-by-mail center; or
- Allow counties to conduct elections by mail under such circumstances as a special election, when the permanent vote-by-mail voters is greater than 40% of total active voters registered within a county or with the authorization of the local governing body.
- Reimburse local governments for the costs of State special elections.

CONTACT

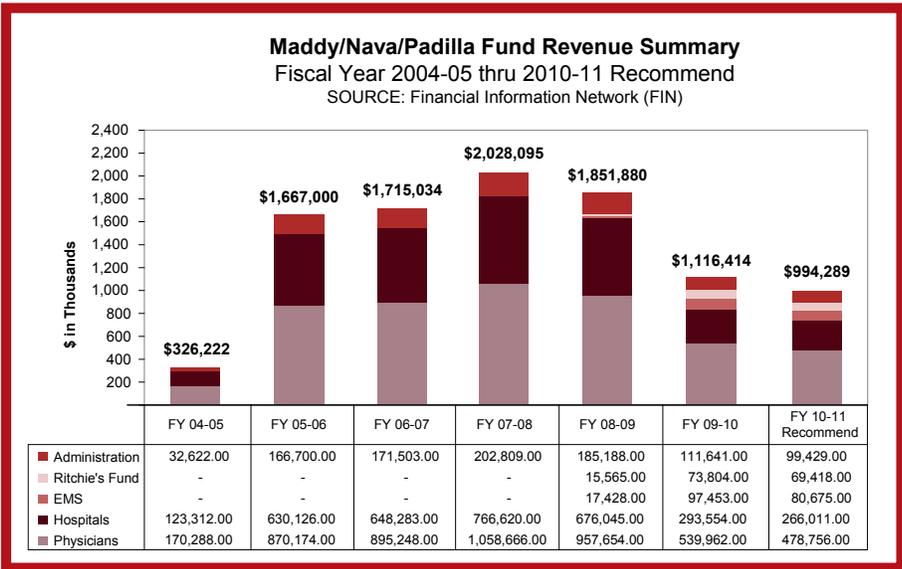
Joe Holland, County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor, 805.568.2558; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Fund

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The “Maddy Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Fund” is a funding mechanism that assesses penalties on motor vehicle and criminal fines and forfeitures to partially compensate health care providers for otherwise uncompensated emergency medical services. Santa Barbara County’s Maddy Fund received revenue through Assembly Bill (AB) 1900, which sunsets on January 1, 2011, and Senate Bill (SB) 1236, which has a sunset date of January 1, 2014. The Maddy Fund is anticipated to lose significant revenue when the collection of fines sunsets.

Since its inception in 2005, the Maddy EMS Fund has generated a total of \$9,698,934 to support emergency medical and trauma care services in Santa Barbara County, including: (1) \$4,970,748 to Physicians (2) \$3,403,951, to Hospitals; (3) \$158,787 to the Ritchie’s Fund (pediatric trauma care) and (4) \$195,556 to the County’s Emergency Medical Service Agency. The highest revenue received in one year was approximately \$2 million. The loss of revenue with the sunset of AB 1900 is estimated to be approximately \$700,000/year.



The legislative bills that provide specific funding to Santa Barbara County contain sunset dates; consequently, these funding sources are not considered to be a long-term financing strategy for Santa Barbara County. However, given the nexus between motor vehicle accidents and trauma care, these fines are able to help the County’s health care providers deliver medical services while more stable financial options are considered.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The EMS Fund provides reimbursement to physicians and hospitals, including Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara that serves as a trauma center for the Central Coast for providing non-compensated emergency medical and trauma care services; maintaining the availability of various on call specialists; supporting pediatric trauma care and supporting the County’s EMS Agency’s required oversight of the emergency medical care system.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

There is no cost to the State for allowing the County’s EMS Fund to continue beyond its 2014 sunset date. The loss of revenue from the sunset of AB 1900 can be partially mitigated through the Intergovernmental Transfer process that leverages local revenues with federal matching dollars. The County has had success in leveraging local revenue (Tobacco Settlement funds) to support hospitals and emergency room physicians with an anticipated \$900,000 and \$200,000 respectively.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY FOR CONSIDERATION

The County requests it delegation advocate for removal or extension of the sunset provision for SB 1236 funding beyond January 1, 2014. The continuation of the fines would complement other County efforts at developing a long-term financial strategy such as the use of Tobacco Settlement funds, the Intergovernmental Transfer or possible voter-approved new tax revenue such as sales tax, parcel tax, transient occupancy tax (hotel), or another type of luxury/alcohol excess tax

CONTACT

Takashi M. Wada, M.D., Director, Public Health Department, 805.681.5105; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400

Highway 154 Safety

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Highway 154 is a State Route within the County of Santa Barbara that is under the jurisdiction of the State of California. According to the California Highway Patrol, restriction of heavy truck traffic will reduce overall accidents this roadway. To date, the State has taken initial measures to address physical safety needs including repaving the highway and installing center line raised pavement markers to prohibit vehicles from passing and alert drivers from crossing the center line. In addition, signage is to be posted by the State to indicate that Highway 154 is not recommended for trucks.



Hazardous waste trucks are currently prohibited on Highway 154. In addition, the California Highway Patrol is also working in partnership with the County and regional stakeholders to prohibit the trucking of hazardous materials on the highway due to the high likelihood of accident and the potential impacts the Lake Cachuma water reservoir. Restriction of hazardous materials transport is provided for in Vehicle Code Section 31304.

The proximity of US-101 to Highway 154 and the fact that US 101 intersects Highway 154 at both ends make the US-101 a preferred route for hazardous material transportation and heavy or oversized truck transportation.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Safety of Highway 154 has been of significant regional concern of jurisdictions and public safety agencies throughout Santa Barbara County for decades. Pursuit of legislation to restrict truck traffic by size and weight as well as administrative actions to impose restrictions on the transport of hazardous materials along the portions of the highway which are within the watershed of Lake Cachuma will serve to greatly enhance overall public safety of residents and travelers as well as ensure protection of a critical water source to the South Coast.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

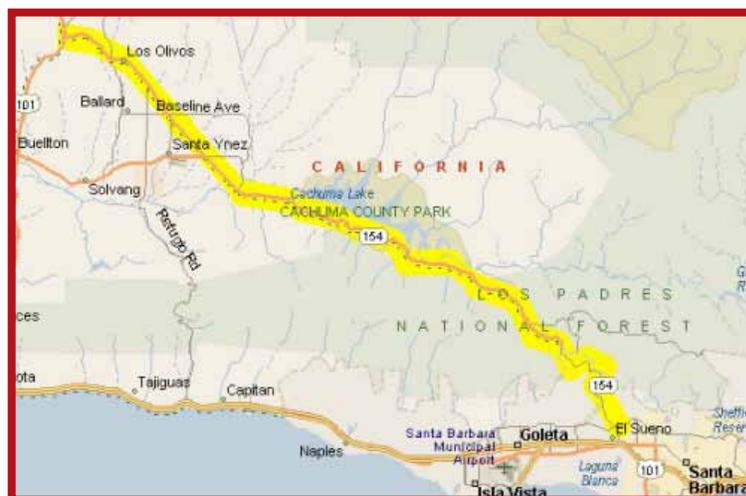
Cost to the government to provide for truck traffic restrictions are minimal.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

That the County of Santa Barbara work with State delegation, California Highway Patrol, and the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments to further restrict trucks on State Route 154 by size and or weight due to the narrow lanes, lack of shoulders and steep grade on the roadway and work with surrounding jurisdictions to imposed restrictions of hazardous material on highways consistent with Vehicle Code Section 31304.

CONTACT

Scott McGolpin Director of Public Works, 805.568.3010; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO 805.569.3400



Lake Cachuma - Quagga Mussel

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Quagga and zebra mussels are non-native aquatic mollusks that threaten freshwater lakes throughout the United States, including Cachuma Lake. Mussel infestation can cause economic and environmental damage to bodies of water and water purveyance systems. The County has implemented inspection and treatment protocols to prevent the introduction of the mussels through infested boats that recreate at Cachuma Lake, rather than disallow boating on the lake. From October 2009- September 2010, the County has inspected 7,414 vessels. However, a comprehensive mussel prevention program is expensive to maintain and requires funding assistance in order to keep the lake open for recreational activities and ensure the viability of the lake as a potable water supply.

No state or federal agency has been identified as the lead agency for this issue, nor has any protocol been mandated for the inspection or quarantine of infected vessels. Legislation sought by the County for this issue would accomplish the following:

- Form an Invasive Species Task Force to develop statewide regulations to eliminate the spread of invasive species in the waters of the state.
- Amend Vehicle Code section 9853 (a) to indicate that the vessel registration fee that would generate funding to accomplish the Task Force directives to include but not be limited to:

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PARKS – Cachuma Lake Boat Launch Data: October 2009 – September 2010			
Inspection Data			
Total Vessels entering Park	7414		
Total Vessels launched	7284		
Total Vessels Quarantined	130	1.75%	
Returning with Boat Launch Tag	5890	81%	
Arriving new: Inspected, washed	1394	19%	

Quarantine Data			
Total Vessels Quarantined	130		
Quarantined 7 days	69		
Quarantined 14 days	60		
Quarantine Reasons*			
From infected areas	38		
From Out-of-state	12		
Quarantined from SB County	53		
Water in bilge	39		
Debris on hull	5		
Plug installed	12		
Boat exceeds 24' length	1		
Ballast Tanks	2		
Unspecified**	28**		

*Quarantine may be for multiple reasons

** Majority is water

- Development and monitoring of a statewide database of vessels that have entered or been exposed to infected waters of the state as determined by the Task Force. The database to be available to all agencies operating fresh water lakes.
- Make available to all agencies operating fresh water boating facilities subvention funds to provide funding for training, equipment and certification for inspection purposes.
- Department of Motor Vehicles to develop a “CF” tag that has a bar code that is scannable by all agencies operating fresh water boating facilities.
- Allow any agency operating a fresh water boating facility to quarantine any vessel that has been exposed or entered into any infected waters of the state.
- Establish a system of certified stations where a vessel can be inspected, treated and tagged to allow entrance to any lake in the state.
- Educate vessel owners and operators of the dangers of transporting invasive species within the state.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Cachuma Lake serves as a potable water source for residential, commercial, and agricultural interests within the County as well as provides various recreational opportunities including boating, fishing, wildlife tours, and camping to residents and visitors. Unlike the majority of lakes in California and the Southern California region, Santa Barbara County has implemented strict inspection/treatment protocols to allow boating on the Lake.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The County may continue to implement this inspection and treatment program at the Lake or opt to close the Lake to private boats. The County Parks Department receives approximately \$72,000 annually through daily and annual boat fees, which is used to help the County pay for the cost of maintaining and operating Cachuma Lake.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation advocate at the State level to develop legislation as outlined in “summary of the issue” above.

CONTACT

Thomas Fayram, Interim Director, Parks Department, 805.568.2461; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400

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TARGETED ADVOCACY

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TARGETED ADVOCACY

Agriculture/ Williamson Act Subvention Funding

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

California's agricultural sector is the most important in the United States, leading the nation's production in over 77 different products including dairy and a number of fruit and vegetable "specialty" crops. The large variety of crops grown allows California to be on the leading edge of agricultural markets and technology. California produces almost twice as much as its closest competitor, Texas, and is the sole U.S. producer of crops such as almonds, artichokes, persimmons, raisins, and walnuts. There are at least four aspects to California's agricultural economy that contributes to its success: its natural resources (land, sunny climate and water resources), its access to markets, its hard-working labor force, and the entrepreneurial nature of California's farm sector.

Agriculture continues to be the County's major producing industry. The 2008 gross production was valued at \$1.1 billion. This is a \$34 million (3.0%) increase in gross value when compared with the 2007 figures and is the third year in a row that agriculture has surpassed the one billion dollar benchmark. The County is the second largest producer in the state for broccoli and cauliflower as well as having a high production of grapes, lettuce, and other vegetables. Farming and ranching operations are also one of the most important industries and economic drivers in the County.

The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, also known as the Williamson Act, allows local governments to enter into ten year contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use. Landowners are assessed property taxes based upon farming and open space uses as opposed to full market value of the land. Local government in exchange receives an annual subvention of forgone property tax revenues from the State via the Open Space Subvention Act of 1971. Approximately 550,000 acres of land are enrolled within the Williamson Act within the County of Santa Barbara.

The FY 2009-10 state budget reduced the Williamson Act Subvention payments from \$39 million to \$1,000, effectively suspending the payments to local governments during an already difficult economic time.

Subsequently, the FY 2010-11 state budget appropriated only \$10 million to subvention payments, which will result in decreased funding to the County. Historically, the County has received an annual subvention payment from the State of approximately \$600,000. The FY 2010-11 allocations estimated at approximately \$177,000.



PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The \$10 million Williamson Act appropriation in the FY 2010-11 state budget is a decrease from past fiscal years, and will result in a decrease in subvention payments to the County.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County respectfully requests its State delegation, the Legislature, and the Administration to restore the funding for subvention payments to local governments as part of future budgets. Further, the County will work with its federal delegation and stakeholders to identify additional related funding opportunities and support programs which provide assistance to agriculture.

CONTACT

Cathleen Fisher, Director, Agriculture and Cooperative Extension, 805.681.5600;
Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400

Air Quality Marine Vessel Emissions

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

In Santa Barbara, the marine shipping emissions inventory (2007) illustrated that 7,277 marine vessels traveled along the 130 miles coastline of the County produced 17,746 tons of nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions, or 55% of the total NOx emission that year. The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District has estimated that by 2020, marine vessel traffic in the Santa Barbara Channel (Channel) will produce nearly 66% of the NOx emission in the County. Emissions threaten air quality and public health and constrain the County's ability to meet federal and state standards pertaining to ozone and particulates. While progress has been made in achieving regulations such as the Environmental Protection Act introducing standards for new engines starting in 2016 and the International Maritime Organization designating 200 miles off the coast of North America as an Emission Control Area, there are three areas that still need to be addressed namely:

- (1) Efforts to reduce emission from existing engines;
- (2) Air quality impacts associated with the existing shipping lanes in the Channel; and
- (3) Air quality benefits associated with implementing a vessel speed reductions plan in the Channel.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Marine shipping represents a major source of uncontrolled air pollution as ships contribute to worldwide emissions of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, sulfur, air toxics, greenhouse gases, and ozone-depleting substances. These emissions represent a serious threat to air quality and public health. Moreover, local control is diminished as federal and state laws (Federal and California Clean Air Acts) require adherence to air quality standards and local jurisdictions have limited authority over regulating shipping vessels.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

This is largely a regulatory function, although there are proposals to provide financial incentives to vessel operators as a way to reduce emissions. There may be indirect costs to local governments that are required to maintain federal and state standards for air quality and greenhouse gas reductions, despite having no local control over shipping vessels' emissions.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests its delegation support efforts to reduce emissions from marine vessels through economic incentives to accelerate the retrofit of engines and funding for research and development of new technologies to control shipping emissions.

The County also requests its delegation support efforts related to analyzing the current shipping lanes and traffic outside of the Channel Islands and the speed at which vessels travel. The California Air Resources Board is conducting regional air quality modeling analyses to assess air quality impacts of vessel traffic scenarios, both inside and outside the Santa Barbara Channel. Implementing a vessel speed reduction requirement in the Santa Barbara Channel of 12 knots could reduce emissions from these large marine vessels by 60% or more. This modeling and/or other similar analyses needs to be reviewed and considered to determine the air quality benefits associated with an alternative routing scheme. An alternative route outside the Channel should be implemented if public health is improved.

CONTACT

Terry Dressler, Director and Air Pollution Control Officer, Air Pollution Control District, 805.961.8853;
Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400



Child Care

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

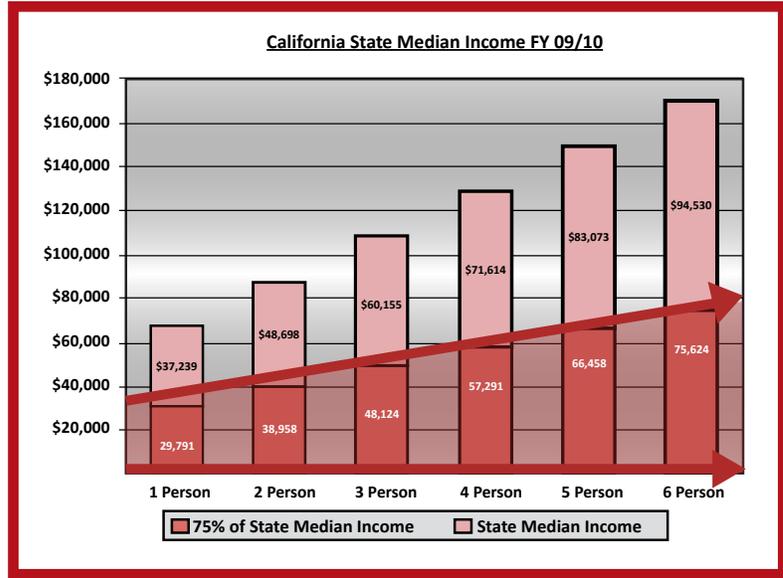
On October 8, 2010, Governor Schwarzenegger eliminated CalWORKs Stage 3 child care in the FY 2010-11 State budget. Without child care subsidies, low-income working parents may be forced to quit their jobs as the costs of child care becomes too expensive and staying at home to provide child care affects their ability to work. Santa Barbara County receives \$3.2 million to fund the Stage 3 child care program for nearly 500 children. The County is advocating for the restoration of this funding.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Researchers and economists have documented that high quality early care and education programs offer a high return on investment (\$4.00 to \$17.00/ per dollar spent). Reductions in juvenile crime, teen pregnancy, high school drop-out rates and intervention services are well documented for children who attended such programs. The child care industry contributes significantly to the local economy both in their workforce, and the ability for parents to be gainfully employed.

Stage 3 child care subsidies help low-income working parents who are no longer on welfare pay for child care until their child turns 13 or the parental income exceeds a certain amount. Eligibility for the subsidy means that the parent is earning less than 75% of the State Median Income (SMI), as depicted in this chart.

A single mom with two children earning \$23.15 per hour and working 40 hours per week ceases to qualify for Stage 3 child care. According to the California Budget Project’s report, “Making Ends Meet,” a single parent family in Santa Barbara County needs \$32.36 per hour to make ends meet, well below 75% of SMI, and well above the wages that cause families to no longer be eligible.



Stage 3 funding affects 60,000 children who are currently in the program, and another 32,000 children who receive Stage 2 child care assistance and would otherwise move to Stage 3 over the next year and a half. 92,000 children will lose child care by mid-2012 unless Stage 3 child care funding is restored.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

Those who are not “timed out” of the welfare program (TANF/CalWORKs has a 60 month lifetime limit) could end up back on aid receiving a cash grant, food stamps, Medi-Cal insurance and child care assistance through Stage 1 child care funding. This action shifts costs from a relatively reasonable cost for keeping people employed to a more expensive model in which the State and Counties pay for people to remain on public assistance.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation advocate at the State level to reinstate funding for CalWORKs Stage 3 child care. In addition, the County requests that its delegation advocate for a universal preschool system that provides quality early care and education as part of an education continuum.

CONTACT

Kathy Gallagher, Director, Department of Social Services, 805.681.4451; Pat Wheatley, Executive Director, First 5 Santa Barbara County, 805.884.8087; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400

Child Welfare Services

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Governor eliminated \$80 million from Child Welfare Services (CWS) in the FY 2009-10 state budget. The Legislature restored the funding in the FY 2010-11 state budget. On October 8, 2010, the Governor utilized his veto power and again unfunded the \$80 million General Fund appropriation to CWS. This results in “lost” federal matching funds, amounting to a total program cut of \$124 million. The impact to the County is \$1 million.



These cuts exacerbate historic under-funding to an antiquated CWS budgeting and funding methodology that was established in the mid 1980s. Since that time, dramatic changes in child welfare policy and mandates have occurred, as well as demographic and societal changes impacting the workload demands of the current system. The SB 2030 Workload Study established minimum and optimal caseload standards in 2000, and subsequent legislation required the development of a plan to implement the findings of the study. However, budget constraints have since prevented the state from allocating sufficient funding to implement the study’s recommendations even to the minimum level recommended at the time. Additional mandates subsequent to the Workload Study continue to tax social worker resources.

Thus, with increasing caseloads, decreased funding, and decreased staffing, the County’s Department of Social Services’ ability to meet federal and state mandates in serving children and families impacted by abuse and neglect is threatened. The existing staffing pattern contributes to a vicious cycle of an overburdened system that cannot adequately protect the children that we serve while at the same time pushing counties to improve State and Federal outcome measures for children as set forth in AB636 – California’s Outcomes and Accountability System.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Reducing funding without eliminating any of the mandates that counties must meet passes the responsibility for providing services to the counties without providing adequate resources, policy direction, or priorities on how to implement cuts. This forces local child welfare agencies and county Board of Supervisors to make difficult decisions that could harm children - for example, eliminating investigations for general neglect cases and triaging other abuse cases, increasing response times that exceed the immediate and 10-day required response, not seeing children on a monthly basis, or reducing Independent Living Program services for emancipating foster youth - all of which puts vulnerable children at risk. Further, absent services and proactive intervention, the cycle of child abuse expands to subsequent generations.



COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The State not only places counties in the untenable position of deciding what not to do by passing on program cuts to local agencies and providing no relief from current requirements, but it also ultimately abdicates its responsibility to protect abused and neglected children.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation seek to restore Child Welfare Services funding to pre-FY 2008-09 status during the FY 2011-12 state budget and explore the possibility of seeking options to relieve counties from mandates in FY 2010-11 and FY 2011-12 if funding is not restored

CONTACT

Kathy Gallagher, Director, Department of Social Services, 805.681.4451; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400

Conversion Technology Project

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Conversion Technology (CT) is a way for Santa Barbara County to further enhance the region's recycling programs while reducing our community's carbon footprint.

Established in March 2007, under the direction of the Board of Supervisors, this project is a coordinated effort of the County of Santa Barbara and the Cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Solvang, and Buellton.

CT is a process – through non-combustion thermal, chemical or biological means – to convert “leftover” mixed municipal solid waste, from which recyclable material already have been substantially diverted or removed, to then produce electricity, alternative fuels, chemicals or other products that meet quality environmental standards for use in marketplace.

The County has determined a number of CTs to be feasible and released an RFP in the Fall of 2009. Four different vendors have responded to the County's RFP and are currently under consideration.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

A local CT facility would have several sustainable and beneficial impacts:

- Extending the permitted capacity at Tajiguas Landfill and maintaining local control;
- Increasing the amount of material recycled;
- Providing green energy;
- Eliminating possible air and water contaminants.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The total estimated cost of the project is \$45 to \$130 million. The project will be privately financed through a tipping fee at the facility. The cost will then be passed onto the ratepayers as it is under the current County owned and operated landfill. The local government will be required to provide for a match to the effort. The estimated match for the effort is \$10 million - \$15 million.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

Santa Barbara County along with the four partnering cities have been pursuing CT as an environmentally beneficial alternative to landfilling of our municipal solid waste. In order to limit financial impact to the ratepayer the County is requesting a grant equaling 25% of capital costs or \$10 to \$15 million dollars.

CONTACT

Mark Schleich, Deputy Director of Public Works, 805.568.3000; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400



Photo: BEKON anaerobic digestion facility in Germany – one of the proposals being considered.

Disaster Preparedness/ Bioterrorism Funding

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County's Public Health Department (PHD) has received funding for public health preparedness and response to public health emergencies and other types of health disasters from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). This has enabled the County to improve its disaster response infrastructure for H1N1 pandemics, bioterrorism incidents and other disasters that impact the public's health. In order to meet federal and state benchmarks for preparedness, PHD has put public health plans and supplies in place and trained staff and healthcare providers in a coordinated response to disasters. CDC and State general funding provided additional one-time funding for 09/10 to assist with H1N1 planning and vaccination efforts. Maintaining readiness for healthcare response 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; conducted 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. The needs of vulnerable populations and medically fragile is of critical concern. A reduction in funding will result in less frequent or intensive training and response exercises and inability to maintain disaster medical caches and equipment.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

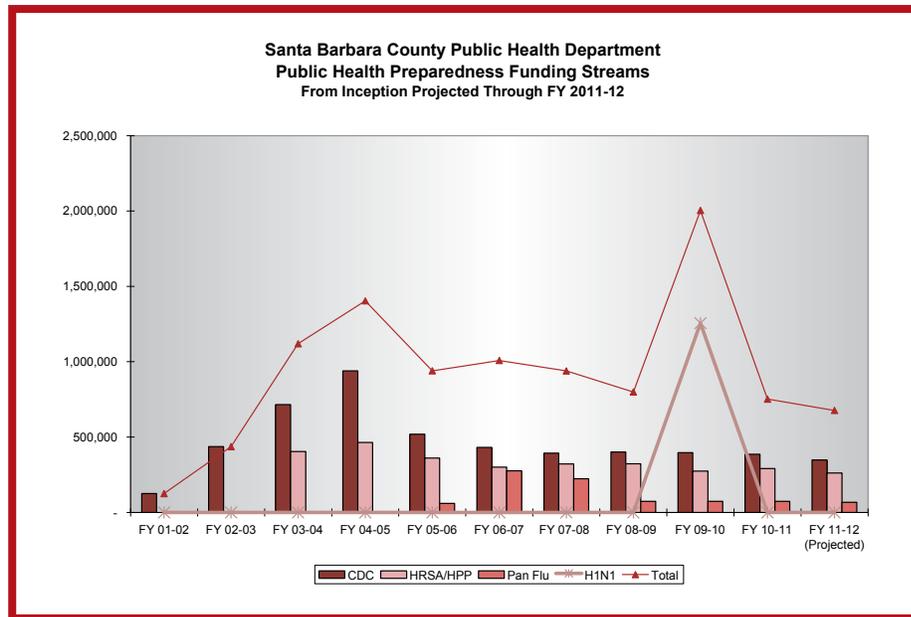
PHD anticipates that it requires \$400,000 per year in public health funds and \$325,000 in pass through hospital preparedness funds in order to maintain communication systems, disaster caches, and personnel training and exercises to insure ongoing preparedness for public health emergencies/disasters, bioterrorism, and pandemics. Additional funds would be required if there is a need for a public health response similar to the H1N1 pandemic mass vaccination effort.

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 specifically for this purpose within the federal budget.

CONTACT

Takashi Wada, M.D., Director, Public Health Department, 805.681.5102; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400



Economic Enhancement/ Revenue Diversification

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Economic enhancement offers local government, the private sector, the non profit sectors and the local community the opportunity to work together to improve the local economy. It aims to enhance competitiveness and thus encourage sustainable economic growth that is inclusive and achieves the priorities for a given area. The purpose of economic enhancement programs is to build up the economic capacity of a local area to improve its economic future and the quality of life for all. It is a process by which public, business and non-governmental sector partners work collectively to create better conditions for economic growth and employment generation.

PUBLIC BENEFIT / IMPACT

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

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

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

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

That the County of Santa Barbara aggressively seek and engage its state and federal delegation in securing legislation to provide for enhanced funding and streamlined processes to encourage the diversification, development, incubation, and growth of business determined to be of priority to California counties in general and Santa Barbara County specifically. Funding should include but not be limited to: establishing or expanding revolving loan funds, small business loans CRA loan pool, equity capital and tax relief for start up businesses to facilitate economic enhancement opportunities and diversify county revenue base. In addition, the County supports efforts to secure, where appropriate, direct distribution of federal funds to local governments rather than state pass-throughs.

Priority focus areas for Santa Barbra County include but are not limited to:

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

CONTACT

Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400

Firefighters Assistance Grant

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Public safety is a core function of the County as it administers programs designed to prevent and respond to fires, disasters, and other public safety threats. Ensuring the adequate funding of various public safety programs is of importance to the County.

Public Safety Grants are an important method of providing funding for this core function, even more so in the current economic climate. Grants are awarded to fire departments to enhance their ability to protect the public and fire service personnel from fire and related hazards. Specifically, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program and other grants can aid fire departments with obtaining equipment, fire station construction, fire training facility construction, prevention programs and personnel training and safety.

Many of the grants available for public safety have sunset dates, limited funding amounts and tight restrictions. The AFG is due to expire in 2010 and will no longer be available unless it is reauthorized by Congress for an additional number of years.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The AFG and other grants will assist in meeting the firefighting and emergency response needs of the fire department. The AFG provides funding to obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards. To date the AFG has assisted in the purchase of over \$1M worth of equipment for County Fire including equipment for medical emergencies, technical rescues, vehicle accidents and personnel safety to name just a few.

The Assistance to Firefighters Fire Station Construction Grant (SCG) was derived from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 and was designed to provide financial assistance directly to fire departments to build new or modify existing fire stations in order for departments to enhance their response capability and protect the community they serve from fire and fire-related hazards. Fire stations are essential public safety facilities and training facilities strengthen fire department competencies and capabilities. County Fire currently has nearly \$60M in planned capital improvements for aging infrastructure. The continuation of the SCG program could be instrumental in providing County Fire with the ability to offset the expenditures for some of these capital projects.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

County government in general and County Fire in particular is responsible for the costs associated with the purchase of emergency equipment and capital improvements. Without the continued benefit of these grants there would be an increasing possibility that the purchase of necessary equipment and the completion of capital improvements would not occur without severely impacting the County General Fund, and some may not occur at all.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation actively seek:

- a. The continued provision of the AFG Program and other public safety grant programs beyond 2010;
- b. The continuance of the SCG Program again in 2011;
- c. Enhancing the level of funding;
- d. Expanding the categories for reimbursement and funding;
- e. Full reimbursement of matching costs for the construction of essential public safety facilities and public safety personnel training programs; and
- f. Ensuring timely reimbursement to local government.

CONTACT

Michael W. Dyer, Fire Chief, 805.681.5552; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400

Homelessness

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County participated with various cities and community organizations to draft “Bringing Our Community Home: The Santa Barbara Countywide 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 to help prevent homelessness.



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 federal delegation support full funding of authorized programs under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, including providing more flexibility in the use of Federal funds on the local level to address housing for the homeless. Given the nexus between homelessness and mental illness, the County requests its federal and state delegation support funding for mental health treatment services as well as State programs such as the Transitional Housing Plus (THP+) that provides funding for transitional housing for emancipated youth.

CONTACT

Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, 805.568.3400

Implications of Centralization/Privatization of Public Assistance Programs

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

ABX4 7 was signed into law by the governor as part of the State budget on July 28, 2009. This bill will allow the State Department of Health Care Services and the State Department of Social Services to contract with a private vendor to perform eligibility determinations for Medi-Cal, Food Stamps, and CalWORKs creating a new statewide automation system centralized in Sacramento. Santa Barbara County believes that the centralization of the statewide eligibility determination and case management process for CalWORKs, Medi-Cal and Food Stamp programs may jeopardize the delivery of services to local clients and may not achieve savings.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The County is supportive of efforts to increase efficiencies through the use of automation and other technologies. In fact, counties are already using technology to improve services and the County of Santa Barbara opened the Benefit Service Center (BSC) in September 2008. In Fiscal Year 2009-10, staffing levels have remained static despite a 86% combined Medi-Cal and Food Stamp caseload growth. In addition, the County is supportive of a single statewide automated system. Currently there are four Statewide Automated Welfare Systems (SAWS) that are being used by the 58 counties. Significant financial investment of State and Federal monies were put into these systems that accurately determine eligibility in a consistent manner with very low error rates. However, ABX 4 7's intent to develop a new automated system is tenuous when one of these existing systems could be utilized statewide by all 58 counties to determine eligibility and achieve the desired outcomes of ABX 4 7. Federal agencies may not approve funding to develop a new eligibility determination system to replace systems that are currently funded and reporting eligibility determinations. Moreover, as illustrated by experience in other states, some centralized, privately-administered programs did not achieve effectiveness or efficiencies. Savings did not materialize in similar projects in other states and, in some cases, access to service was reduced and ineligibility errors made.

Potential impacts of this type of system on the public include:

- No local offices for clients to access (for public assistance and emergency services, i.e. expedited food stamps, CalWORKs homeless assistance).
- A privatized state automated system assumes that all applicants have access to a computer and are computer-literate. Access issues may prevent clients from applying or renewing benefits.
- A privatized state automated system will not be able to recognize and adapt to the barriers that exists for varying clients (i.e., mental health issues, physical disabilities).

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

While the State is proposing to implement a centralized automated system to achieve savings, it is unclear whether these savings will materialize and whether services to clients will be hampered. ABX 4 7 appears to duplicate or replace, at a much greater cost on a much longer timeframe, the existing successful systems. Previous state attempts in California to automate similar services have either failed completely or taken an extended period of time to complete at a substantially greater cost than originally estimated. Failed projects in Texas, Indiana, Wisconsin, Ohio and District of Columbia, provide recent examples of cost overruns and overcharges across multiple human services programs. Counties may be placed in a position of continuing to pay a county share for programs governed solely by the State. Should issues arise in terms of determining eligibility and other administrative issues, there will be less opportunity for a "face to face: resolution between a client and a local County employee.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation (1) oppose implementation of a centralized privatized statewide eligibility determination and case management system; (2) propose the use of an existing single statewide eligibility determination system that is county administered rather than implement a new centralized and privately-administered system; (3) retain eligibility determination at the local county level; (4) ensure safeguards are put in place to ensure that client access to service is not jeopardized and (5) increase funding for technology in general. As illustrated in the "Cost of Doing Business" brief, the County Department of Social Services has not been able to devote funding for technology as it currently must use funds to backfill the State's share of the cost of administering various social aid programs.

CONTACT

Kathy Gallagher, Director, Department of Social Services, 805.681.4451; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

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 for caregiver assistance with daily tasks of living, including personal care and household chore services, IHSS maintains independence and quality of life while avoiding the more costly alternative of institutionalization.

AB 1612 was signed into law by the Governor as part of the State budget for FY 10/11. This bill implements a 3.6% reduction in hours for all IHSS recipients across the board, without any exceptions, effective January 19, 2011 and remains in effect through June 30, 2012. Consequently, an IHSS recipient receiving the maximum of 283 hours per month in assistance will experience a cut of 3.6% or 10.2 hours in caregiver assistance, which is a significant reduction for a disabled or elderly individual.



PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

IHSS is a critical program, preventing costly institutionalization and directly affecting the health and safety of its elderly and disabled recipients within our community. Few social services programs have had such an immediate, positive and profound affect on a person's quality of life as IHSS. However, it has long been acknowledged statewide that IHSS is woefully under-funded and has become increasingly complex to administer. Counties continue to struggle to provide these critical services with fewer resources and Santa Barbara County is no exception.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The new mandate to fingerprint IHSS recipients was included in the FY 2009-10 budget but with no funding. In the FY 2010-11 budget, additional funding was identified for this task and pilot counties will start testing equipment to determine the most appropriate way of implementing this requirement. All IHSS recipients (except minors and individuals physically unable to provide fingerprint due to amputation or other physical limitations) will need to provide fingerprints at their initial assessment and reassessments. There is still much debate going on within the Counties and among recipients and stakeholders about the need for such a requirement. The Legislation did not identify any benefit or useful purpose for these fingerprints. Identify if already verified through other means before an application is approved, and there are no data suggesting that IHSS fraud exists in the State due to identify theft.

Savings would accrue to the State and County with the repeal of this unnecessary requirement.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

In order to preserve the safety net for Santa Barbara County's most vulnerable aged and disabled citizens, the County requests that its delegation support legislation to eliminate recipients from the fingerprinting requirement and to advocate to preserve existing IHSS funding and avoid further programmatic and budgetary cuts in the current and upcoming FY 2011-12 budget year.

CONTACT

Kathy Gallagher, Director, Department of Social Services, 805.681.4451; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400

Local Control of Speed Limits

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The California Vehicle Code requires that non-statutory speed limits on roadways be established based on the findings of an Engineering and Traffic Survey (ETS). The study shall include consideration of the prevailing (85th-percentile) speed, collision history and conditions not readily apparent to the driver. In addition to these factors, per California Assembly Bill 2767 (AB2767), local authorities may also consider residential density, pedestrian safety and bicycle safety. California law prohibits the use of radar speed enforcement along such roadways where the speed limits have not been set in accordance with the findings of an ETS within the last seven to ten years, or where significant changes in the roadway or traffic conditions have occurred.

While this approach enables consistency throughout the State, it may not recognize the particular characteristics of a community and the appropriateness of that speed limit for the community. Therefore, there should be more local consideration given to speed limits and the process that is utilized by the State to increase speed limits.



PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Maximizing local control and acknowledging unique community characteristics will ensure safe and effective speed limits

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

This function is largely regulatory; however, the County would assume costs related to the installation of speed limit signs and legends.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County should work in concert with CSAC and the League of California Cities to further research and maximize local government opportunities to impact speed limits, further refine strategy following such discussions and communicate possible options to its State delegation.

CONTACT

Scott McGolpin, Director, Public Works Department, 805.568.3010; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400

Preservation of Mobile Homes/ Affordable Housing/Rent Control

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Mobile home parks comprise an important component of the County's stock of affordable housing. Many mobile home residents rely upon the County to protect the affordability of their homes through the use of a zoning ordinance. Accordingly, local ordinances that protect mobile home park residents parallel similar ordinances that govern the rights and duties of landlords and tenants. Together, these ordinances support broader fair housing programs.

Mobile-home park owners are currently able to convert their parks into resident-owned condominium-type subdivisions. This largely ministerial conversion process effectively enables park owners to circumvent local rent control protection for mobile home park tenants. The California Appeals Court, in *El Dorado v. Palm Springs*, recognized that a loophole in Government Code Section 66427.5 provides a pathway to facilitate sham conversions that can adversely impact persons above protected lower income persons. Subsequent amendments of this section of Government Code have failed to eliminate this threat to mobile-home residents and affordable housing despite the express intent of the legislature.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Many mobile-home residents in the County rely upon local ordinances to protect the affordability of their homes, thus preserving an essential component of the County's affordable housing stock.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The impacts associated with the loss of affordable housing, whether temporary or permanent can be traumatic to both the affected residents and the community, producing unintended consequences with high costs to affected community agencies and institutions.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County encourages the repeal of Section 66427.5 of the California Government Code and other amendments to relevant law for the purpose of ensuring that mobile home park residents are not involuntarily removed from homes or otherwise economically impacted if parks are subdivided or converted. In addition, the County supports legislation which would repeal Section 66427.5 to prevent the conversion of mobile-home parks to resident-owned condominiums or subdivisions and opposes any forthcoming proposed legislation to the contrary.

CONTACT

David Matson, Director, Housing and Community Development, 805.568.3400; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400



Proposition 10

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Proposition 10, “The Children and Families First Act”, was approved by the California voters in 1998 to tax tobacco products to fund early child development. Due to the State’s poor economy and budget shortfalls, legislative bills and budget proposals are continuously under consideration to divert Proposition 10 funds to backfill previously State-funded programs which focus on children and families and use the funds for unrelated services. The County opposes any efforts to divert, reprogram or “borrow” Proposition 10 funds.



PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Santa Barbara County First 5 uses its Proposition 10 funds to promote programs focusing on health and well-being, education, safety and early childhood development for families and children under the age of five. These programs reflect local control and local solutions as programs are designed to address the needs of the Santa Barbara County community. First 5 invests in newborn home visiting, children’s health and safety, early childhood development and education, and family strengthening services for children prenatal through age five, as well as supports placed-based strategies around community collaboratives.

Proposition 10 was passed by voters twelve years ago and since then, young children have received health insurance, timely immunizations, dental care, early identification of special needs and quality child care and preschool services. These services have been customized to the local community and reflect the vision behind local community-based strategic plans. Diverting or reprogramming these funds would allow the State Legislature to determine how to use these funds and may even result in these funds being used for services entirely unrelated to children.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

Diverting or reprogramming these funds would result in significant harm to children ages 0-5, by reducing or eliminating critical prevention and early intervention services. There would be a negative impact on the budgets of both local public agencies and local community-based organizations that depend on the long-term contracts currently in place with First 5. Moreover, funding of prevention and early intervention services may save money in the long-term, by reducing the need for government to provide crisis services or other more long-term costly treatments that may arise without proper prevention and intervention.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests its delegation oppose any efforts to divert, reprogram or “borrow” Proposition 10 funds.

CONTACT

Pat Wheatley, Executive Director, First 5 Santa Barbara County, 805.884.8085; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400

Public Safety

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Public safety is a core function of the County. The Sheriff's Department is responsible for enforcing laws and providing custody and court services. The District Attorney litigates and prosecutes criminal acts on behalf of the County and the Public Defender provides legal representation to individuals being prosecuted. The Probation Department ensures the safety of the community and works toward rehabilitation of adult and juvenile offenders.

Gang violence continues to be a threat to the County and communities served. Arrest and incarceration alone have not proven to be an effective deterrent to criminal gang activity. Innovative prevention and rehabilitation strategies grounded in education, recreation, mentoring, counseling and job training must be blended with ongoing suppression efforts in order to obtain long term solutions. Programs must be available for the wide spectrum of individuals including youth at risk as well as those seeking to leave gangs.

Ensuring the adequate funding of various public safety programs in addition to promoting greater integration of mental health/health programs into safety settings such as jail, juvenile halls and other custody facilities is important to the County.

- Grants: Ensure full funding of programs that prevent and control crime and improve the criminal justice system such as the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, and Community-Oriented Policing grant
- Mental Health/Health Integration: Ensure inmates, including juveniles in detention as applicable, are eligible for Medicaid/Medicare/IHSS/SCHIP entitlements.
- Jail Construction: Partnering with government to construct and operate a new jail/300-bed facility to address overcrowding at the state and local level (continuation of AB 900 implementation).
- SCAAP: Reimbursement for the costs of incarceration of undocumented criminal aliens via the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). SCAAP does not reimburse the Sheriff's Department for its true costs or reimburse the Probation Department for detainees of undocumented minors at juvenile halls/facilities.
- Gang Prevention: Support the reintroduction of S.132 (Senator Feinstein-CA), the Gang Abatement and Prevention Act, which would enhance law enforcement resources committed to investigation and prosecution of violent gangs, revise and enhance criminal penalties for violent crimes, and expand gang prevention programs. Support H.R. 1064 (Congressman Scott-VA), the Youth PROMISE Act, which provides for evidence-based practices for programs related to juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention. Continue to research all funding options to further address the criminal gang problem, including enhanced enforcement efforts and increased prevention and rehabilitation programs emphasizing substance abuse treatment, vocational training, job development, recreation, education and mentoring programs designed to assist at-risk youth.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

These various functions are performed by the District Attorney, Probation, Public Defender and Sheriff Departments to ensure the public health and safety of the community.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

Full funding of programs require the federal and state governments to spend more; however, many of these costs are being bourn by the County even though the function is mandated or is the responsibility of the federal and state governments. Programs that provide prevention and rehabilitation services may achieve savings over time.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation enhance the level of funding for public safety and gang prevention programs, provide for continued grant opportunities, ensure the timely reimbursement of funds to local government, broaden categories for reimbursement/funding as necessary, and promote the integration of health and mental health into custody settings through regulatory reform.

CONTACT

Sheriff Bill Brown, 805.681.4288; Joyce Dudley, District Attorney, 805.568.2308; Patti Stewart, Chief Probation Officer, 805.882.3656; Rai Montes De Oca, Interim Public Defender, 805.568.3499; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400

Senior Services — Support of Older Americans Act

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The senior population within the County of Santa Barbara is continuing to increase. Presently there are over 60,000 individuals (15% of the County's population) over the age of 65 living within Santa Barbara County. This number is expected to double by the year 2050 placing additional demands on a variety of health and human services programs. Key issues facing seniors within the County are in home care housing as well as public assistance needs for those over age 60 that live below the poverty level.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

While seniors are the fastest growing sector of the population, little funding is provided to address overall spectrum of needs faced by individuals as they age. Without assistance, seniors often lack the ability to remain in their own home and thus must resort to assisted living facilities at extraordinary costs or rely on family members and professional or informal caregivers for continued care. In addition, as a result of increasing medical needs, seniors utilize emergency rooms and public clinics at an increasing rate as a result of lack of appropriate health coverage. A comprehensive program of safety net services provided via community providers and governmental agencies, provides for the opportunity for seniors to remain independent for a longer period and provides for the spectrum of health and human services needs required to age with dignity.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

That the County work with its legislative delegation and key representatives to provide funding for senior related services and support critical components of the Older American's Act which protects quality of life of seniors.

CONTACT

Kathy Gallagher, Director, Department of Social Services, 805.681.4451; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400

State Children's Health Insurance Program

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

According to a 2008 state-wide report by Children Now, 15,000 children, or approximately 14%, are uninsured in Santa Barbara County, which is tied with another county for having the second highest uninsured percentage of children in California. Uninsured and underinsured children cost our communities. A 2007 study in Pediatrics found that communities save \$2,100 for every child they insure or keep insured. Uninsured children are eight times more likely to have delayed medical care or too often end up in the emergency room where treatment can be much more expensive than in the doctor's office. Therefore, the need for children to have access to comprehensive healthcare and become automatically enrolled in health coverage is crucial.

The County has undertaken several efforts to address the issue of uninsured children and supports efforts at the Federal and State levels to provide funding for preventive health services and increase access to affordable healthcare for all children.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Compared to children with health insurance, uninsured children are:

- Three times more likely not to have seen a doctor in the past year
- More than 13 times as likely to lack a usual source of medical care
- Five times more likely to have an unmet health care, dental, vision, prescription drug, or mental health care need
- Two times more likely to die while in the hospital if admitted due to injuries
- Two times more likely to not receive rehabilitative, follow-up, or routine care upon discharge from the hospital



In addition, a community's high rate of un-insurance can adversely affect the overall health status of the community. For example, low immunization rates increase the vulnerability of entire communities to outbreaks of measles and influenza. Childhood and adult immunization levels are correlated with having health insurance.¹ Of all of the costs of providing uncompensated care to the uninsured, hospitals carry the bulk of the burden—approximately 63%.² In addition, since 14% of all uncompensated care is provided to children 0-18¹, the hospitals are also carrying a large proportion of this burden, typically in their emergency departments.

The school-based administration enables the Health Linkages Program, which is under the direction of the Santa Barbara County Education Office, to use the Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) funding to leverage private foundation and public grant dollars. This funding is directed at efforts to identify uninsured children, enroll said children in a subsidized health insurance program, assist families in accessing needed health care services and retain coverage.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

Currently, it is estimated that there are 5,000 children within the County that would qualify for Healthy Families. As of August 2010, the number of Santa Barbara County children enrolled in Healthy Families is 10,510, an increase of over 20% from the 8,722 children enrolled in Healthy Families in September 2006 when the Children's Health Initiative of Santa Barbara (CHISB) instituted its Outreach, Enrollment, Retention and Utilization (OERU) activities. In order to increase the number of children with coverage, the County formed a coalition of agencies (Regional Health Authority, First 5 Santa Barbara County, County Public Health Department, County Department of Social Services, Santa Barbara County Education Office and several public and non-profit organizations) that partnered to form the Children's Health Initiative of Santa Barbara County, and implemented a "Healthy Kids" Insurance Program to provide insurance for children from families having a family income between 250% and 300% of the federal poverty level (FPL), or for children who do not otherwise qualify for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families. The Board of Supervisors allocated \$1 Million in the County's 2007-08 and 2008-09 budgets to increase the number of children that could receive Healthy Kids insurance. Funding from the federal and state governments would enhance local efforts to insure children. While the federal government would incur additional costs in enhancing SCHIP funding, the costs are likely to be offset by the long-term cost advantages of ensuring children have access to health insurance and preventive health services prior to catastrophic health issues.

¹ The Institute of Medicine Washington DC, Uninsurance Facts & Figures (Drawn from Hidden Costs, Value Lost 2003)

² The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, What we spend, Who Pays, and What would full coverage add to Medical Spending? (May 2004)

State Children's Health Insurance Program

First 5 Santa Barbara County was informed in December 2008 that approximately 163,000 children would be dis-enrolled from the State program of Healthy Families given the economic and budgetary challenges facing the State. The 58 First 5 Commissions throughout the State were asked to provide the State a proportional share of the cost of this program based on the number of newly enrolled children age 0-5 enrolled in Healthy Families in each county. For 2009-10, California First 5 pledged nearly half of its reserve to sustain Healthy Families through June 2010. Locally, First 5 Santa Barbara contributed \$114,232.00. In 2010-11, California lawmakers funded the State portion of the Healthy Families insurance product in order to comply with Maintenance of Effort provisions of the federal Affordability and Care Act. In reviewing the 2010-11 State Budget Agreement, families will be experiencing greater hardships in relation to accessing health insurance coverage.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests its delegation support legislation that increases funding for children's health access through Medi-Cal and Healthy Families.

The County also recommends that children's health coverage provide the following:

- Improved training for pediatricians to identify mental health and emotional health needs of children and inclusion of mental health services to children
- Improved coverage for dental health care
- Immunizations
- Regular vision plan
- Promotion of developmental screenings in early childhood development
- Enhanced flexibility for states to increase coverage up to 400% of FPL
- Enhanced flexibility for states to expand coverage to undocumented children, and other services that better meet the needs of the state population

The County also requests that its delegation oppose CMS regulations that prevent the elimination of the Medicaid reimbursements for school-based MAA programs.

CONTACT

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State Social Services Funding

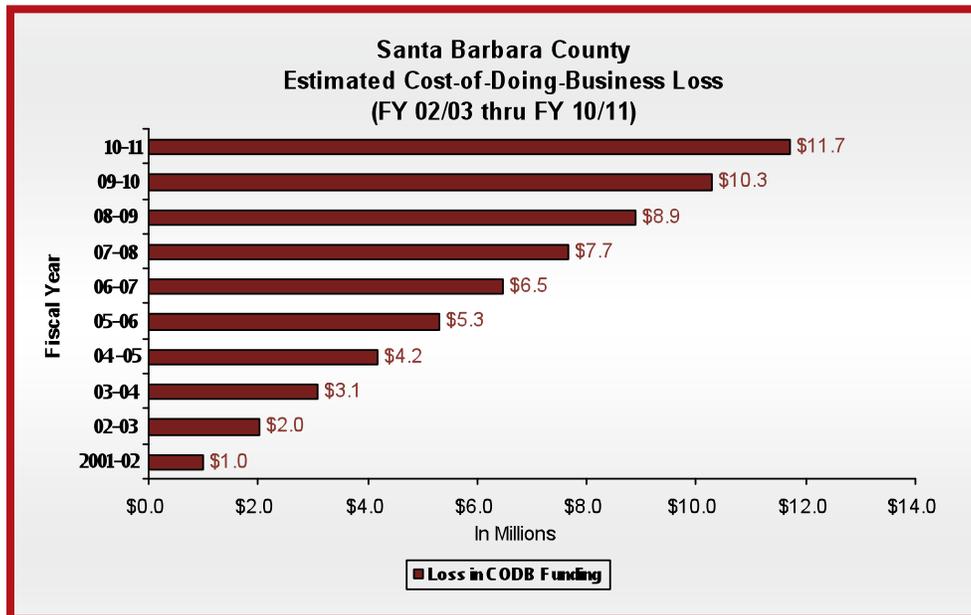
SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

For the County Department of Social Services (DSS), the State pays a portion of the costs associated with providing mandated public assistance programs (“cost of doing business” or “CODB”). However, the State’s contribution to the County has not kept pace with inflation or the actual costs of administering mandated programs for a number of years. Rather, the state has frozen its funding for administration and overhead at the 2001 level. This began prior to the economic downturn that has resulted in unprecedented caseload growth in most programs. Although the department receives funding for caseload growth, absence of CODB funding does not allow the department to pursue new technologies and increased efficiencies, or to achieve staffing levels that adequately address the needs of the clients and fulfill the mandated timelines established by the State and Federal government. The Department has deferred funding other needs in lieu of programmatic cuts, but cannot continue this practice indefinitely if the State does not increase its contribution levels.

The Department has reached the tipping point. The State does not plan to provide these resources in the foreseeable future. Although it has been mitigated by the Department to a degree up to now, the full impact of not getting these resources has negatively impacted the Department’s ability to deliver the services mandated by the State and Federal government.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

DSS programs affected include Adoptions, Adult Protective Services (APS), CalWORKs, Child Welfare Services (CWS), Food Stamps, Foster Care, In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), and because of legislation passed in the final FY 2008-09 State budget, the Medi-Cal CODB is also being withheld. As a result of the many years of withholding CODB and a compounding of the shortfall by adding Medi-Cal CODB withholding to the equation, it has eroded DSS’s ability to maintain adequate staffing levels to meet client demand. Consequently, in the public assistance programs clients are experiencing longer wait times for accessing services and delays in eligibility determinations which has increased food insecurity, homelessness and delayed access to medical coverage. In IHSS, APS and CWS staffing shortfalls result in a delay in investigations which may results in children, elder and dependent adults to be left in an abusive or negligent situation. DSS has had to divert funds from the pursuit of cost-saving technological improvements to increase long-term efficiencies in the delivery of services in order to backfill lost state reimbursement.



State Social Services Funding

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The state's failure to fund actual county cost increases has led to a growing funding gap of nearly \$1 billion annually. Freezing program funding also shifts costs to counties and increases the county share of program costs above statutory sharing ratios. Continued under-funding by the State has resulted in staffing decreases without a comparable decrease in State mandated programs. Should this continue it would mean a significant decrease in service delivery, create inefficiencies in performance and impact the ability to meet mandated timeframes for all programs while simultaneously exposing the county to increased liability particularly in CWS. Additionally, failure to meet mandated performance measures in programs may lead to fiscal sanctions being imposed by the Federal and State governments. Federal and State resources cannot be used to pay fiscal sanctions; therefore, any sanctions would need to be paid by the County's General Fund.

The Department estimates an \$11.7 million funding gap for FY 2010-11 due to costs of administering programs without corresponding increases in State funding. The Department has used reserves and deferred spending on building maintenance, computer and other equipment upgrades, ergonomic furniture, and equity increases to staff as strategies to absorb the funding gap each year. While these strategies may temporarily make up the funding shortfall, there are both short and long-term impacts to the Department's operations.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its state delegation support efforts to restore appropriate funding levels immediately and continuing into the future. Counties do not have the discretionary income to backfill the states responsibilities for funding these programs.

CONTACT

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Summer Employment Youth Programs

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding for Summer Youth Programs has expired. Currently there is no separate funding stream under the existing Workforce Legislation (the Workforce Investment Act - WIA) for summer youth programs. Consequently, local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) must set aside a portion of the overall youth allocation that must serve in-school and out-of-school youth for a summer program. This problem is exacerbated by mandating that all youth who receive summer jobs via WIA funding be counted as part of the Youth Performance Measurements—which restricts the program to the small fraction of young people who participate in the year-round youth program.

Finally, the current WIA youth programs—and thus, the programs that operate in the summer—require that participants pass an “income test” that segregates the youth in the community into those that have little and those who have less. Rather than mix the community’s future leaders—so that young people of all economic backgrounds can benefit from exposure to individuals they would otherwise not interact with—the current program’s income requirements miss out on the opportunity to truly educate and break down barriers. Low-income youth should be considered a target group, but other youth should be served as well.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Police Chiefs and community leaders have all requested the return of a flexible youth summer employment program. This will allow the maximum number of young people to participate and to have a worthwhile summer employment experience. Moreover, many youth who participated in the ARRA-funded Summer Youth Jobs programs during the last two summers indicated that these summer jobs were their first jobs. Summer jobs are where young people learn work expectations and the benefits of working in teams and contributing to their communities.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

Not having a summer youth program is costly to local governments due to increased summer crime and wasted opportunities to groom the future workforce. In Santa Barbara County, funding of \$1.7 million over two years allowed for 423 youth to work during the last two summers.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation urge Congress to (1) provide the approximately \$2.5 billion that had previously been proposed for summer youth funding to local WIBs through the Department of Labor; (2) include a waiver of income eligibility for summer youth participants who are served in the Summer Youth Jobs Program, while retaining low-income youth as a target group.

CONTACT

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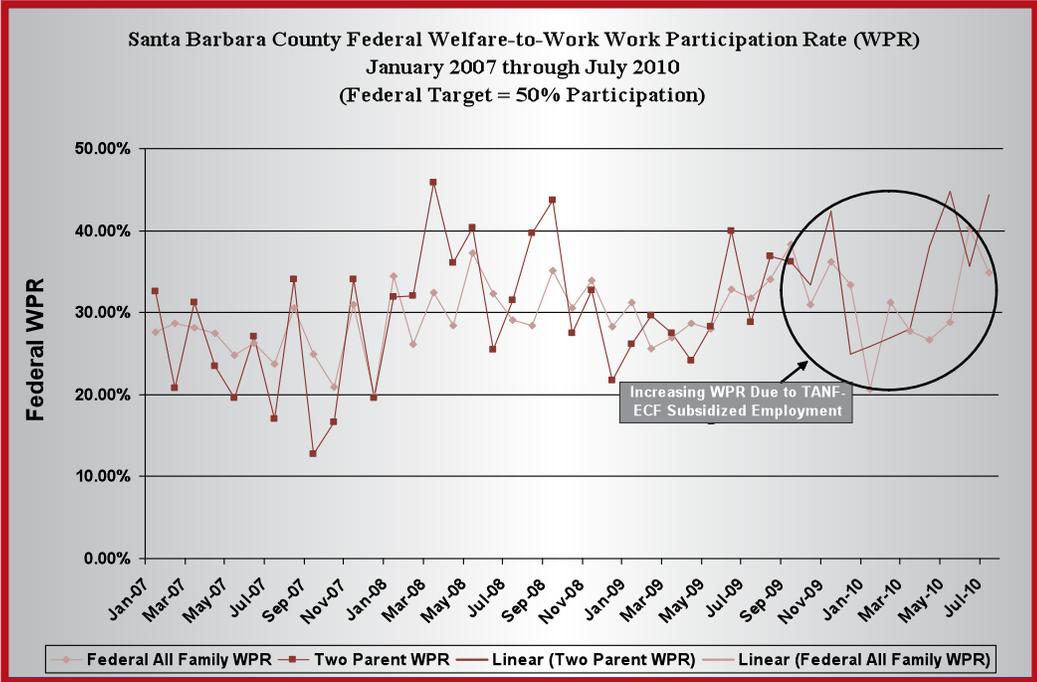
TANF Reauthorization

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

It is a difficult challenge to meet inconsistent performance targets within the regulations issued by the Federal Government for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program (known as CalWORKs in California). The last reauthorization of TANF, which was part of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, was heavily weighted toward Federal oversight and penalties instead of state flexibility – a change that reflected a level of distrust that was unwarranted given the progress states made in reducing the welfare rolls after TANF was initially implemented. The Deficit Reduction Act focused on work-participation while limiting what is considered “work.” TANF has been extended through December 3, 2010 as part of the continuing resolution, but sadly, a key component of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), TANF Emergency Contingency Fund (ECF), once thought to be unanimously supported, failed to be extended with TANF. The TANF ECF primarily provided funding for subsidized employment which, during these difficult economic times, is critical in order to secure meaningful employment experiences, a vital condition for subsequent unsubsidized employment. The loss of these funds returns many motivated, able-bodied employees back to welfare devoid of hope of an imminent return to the workforce without this successful program.

The success of TANF depends on counties’ flexibility to target local needs and support participant’s work activities. Without that flexibility and the funding to implement it, the working families who are struggling toward self sufficiency will lose supportive services and many will be unable to successfully end their reliance on cash assistance. Welfare reform is an ongoing process of supporting working families in gaining self-sufficiency, not a one-time removal of families from the welfare rolls.

TANF funding must be flexible to react quickly to economic downturns and other emerging issues. Many TANF participants struggle to find work, lack work experience, and are susceptible to homelessness and other crisis situations or episodes of need. For these reasons, continued funding via TANF ECF to support subsidized employment programs and non-recurrent short-term benefits (one time benefit designed to deal with a specific crisis situation) established by ARRA are crucial to the success of TANF. Once employment is found, TANF participants continue to need assistance with job retention, transportation, counseling, and other supportive services such as childcare and health care. With congressional reauthorization looming in December 2010, we support flexibility that allows States and Counties to meet the individual needs of their caseloads. The Department of Social Services supports establishing Federal rules that measure the effectiveness of welfare programs by utilizing more outcome-based measures.



TANF Reauthorization

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

As depicted in the adjacent chart, executed strategies have been successful in improving the Work Participation Rate (WPR), but Santa Barbara County, like all counties, continues to struggle with the challenge of complying with Federal regulations. During the past year, TANF ECF funds have enabled the County to implement a subsidized employment program, with great outcomes including an increase in our WPR. At the same time, significant funding cuts have been made by the Governor on CalWORKs and Employment Services funding that impacts staffing levels and supportive services, which hampers the progress made to date. If the current TANF Work Participation Rate methodology remains unchanged, and TANF ECF is not reinstated, Counties will be faced with policy decisions that will impact client services and the WPR and possibly lead to County sanctions. These cuts almost certainly will translate into delays in processing applications and issuing checks; fewer clients finding jobs; and slashing programs such as housing and education help and domestic violence counseling. The latest California budget cuts are at the heart of the welfare-to-work approach, which many fear will be difficult to restore even after the current economic crisis is resolved.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

Since TANF Reauthorization in 2005, the current required Federal participation rate of 50% has not been met statewide and state legislation requires that counties participate in the required fiscal sanction. TANF Reauthorization offers an opportunity to change the current one-size fits all Federal rules that penalize States and Counties instead of offering flexibility and incentives gauged toward effective measures of welfare program success.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation advocate at the Federal level to undue the damaging effects of the 2005 TANF Reauthorization changes to the WPR formula and definition of “work” as TANF is reauthorized. The County is interested in a balanced approach between federal oversight and state flexibility with better and more outcome-based measures of success. The County urges its delegation to seek continued support for the Emergency Contingency Fund authorized under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as a necessary component of TANF Reauthorization.

CONTACT

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Telecommunications Legislation

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

There is ongoing debate within the scientific community regarding how thoroughly the long-term health effects of low-frequency electromagnetic and radio-frequency emissions are understood. Questions remain regarding how well the existing regulations established by the FCC protect more vulnerable populations such as school-aged children, and how well they protect against the cumulative effect of radio-frequency emissions on people who live or work in close proximity to multiple cellular facilities. Currently, the ability of local governments to include a consideration of the health and environmental effects of these facilities when deciding whether or not to approve the construction or modification of a cellular communications facility is limited.

On November 18, 2009, the Cellular Telecommunications Industry of America (CTIA) petitioned the FCC to make certain declaratory rulings related to the local zoning authority of state and local governments, including requesting the FCC establish a review time of 45 and 75 days for wireless tower siting applications; deem applications granted if a government entity does not adhere to these stipulated timeframes; prohibit state and local governments from considering the presence of service by other carriers in evaluating an additional carrier's application and preempt any state or local zoning ordinances that require variances for wireless tower siting applications. As a result, the FCC ruled in favor of the CTIA, thus upholding limitations of local government control.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Health advocates have worried for decades that exposure to frequencies emanating from telecommunications sources might be harmful. There are increasing health and environmental effects resulting from the location of certain cell phone towers and antennas, especially in regards to the cumulative effect of radio-frequency emissions on people who live or work in close proximity to multiple cellular facilities. Citizens would be better served by allowing local government greater flexibility to regulate the placement of cellular facilities near areas such as residences, schools, daycares, or parks.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

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

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation seek and support federal legislation to repeal limitations on state and local authority imposed by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 that infringe upon the authority of local governments to regulate the placement, construction, and modification of telecommunications towers and other personal wireless service facilities on the basis of the health and environmental effects of these facilities. The County opposes sections of the Act that preempt local control and prevent local governments from considering health effects. Finally, the County urges the FCC to work in cooperation with the FDA and other relevant federal agencies to revisit and update studies on potential health concerns arising from wireless emissions in light of the national proliferation of wireless use.

CONTACT

Glenn Russell, Director, Planning and Development, 805.568.2000; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400

Transportation (HUTA)

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Highway Users Tax Account (HUTA) funds are received from a State excise tax on gasoline and diesel intended to fund transportation projects. HUTA revenues generated for local agencies have repeatedly been taken or borrowed to fill State funding gaps. Despite legislation and propositions to preserve this money, it continues to be withheld from local agencies that rely on it for day-to-day operations as well as infrastructure projects and maintenance.

Re-appropriation of funding and efforts made to preserve HUTA include:

- 2002: Proposition 42 - Voters amended the State Constitution to dedicate gas-tax revenue to transportation projects.
- 2004-2008: The State used emergency provisions in Proposition 42 for three years and diverted more than \$5 billion from transportation to other uses.
- 2006: Proposition 1A - Voters amended the State Constitution to require:
 - Proposition 42 diversions to be loans to be paid back within 3 years.
 - No additional borrowing of Proposition 42 funds until previous borrowed amounts were repaid in full.
- 2010: New HUTA - Legislature replaced Proposition 42 with an excise tax that is projected to generate the same funds for local agencies as Proposition 42, but does not have the same sideboards preventing diversion of funds.
- Summer 2010: AB8X 5 - State defers up to \$50 million per month from city and county old HUTA funds in fiscal year 2010-2011 to be repaid by June, 2013.
- Fall 2010: HUTA monies loaned to the State General Fund increase from \$650M to \$761M, raising concerns about a disturbing trend of using HUTA money to fill State funding shortfalls.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Losing HUTA and Proposition 42 money through permanent diversion and borrowing has both immediate and long-term impacts. Diversion of these funds has resulted in deferrals of maintenance work that has been planned for multiple years. In addition, inconsistent funding causes disruption to implementing programs and strategies for day-to-day operational, capital, and maintenance programs. When local agencies lose this funding stream, the impacts are significant to local residents.

The following are examples of the impacts of deferral and loss of HUTA money:

- Deferral of pavement preservation projects and pedestrian facility repairs
- Loss of positions that are responsible for day to day transportation maintenance operations
- No pot hole patching, tree trimming, weed abatement, annual culvert cleaning, or graffiti abatement
- No traffic safety maintenance work
- No traffic signal maintenance, traffic sign and striping maintenance
- No 24-hour call-out requests from public safety personnel, or response to natural disasters
- No new 'no parking' restrictions, new stop signs, updated or new speed surveys
- No Safe Routes to School program
- Inability to meet State and Federal unfunded mandates (ARB Requirements, ADA Requirements, etc.)
- Significant reduction in the public's safety on the State's local road system

Transportation (HUTA)

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

This fiscal year, the County expected to receive approximately \$7 million in HUTA funding. It appears over \$3 million will be deferred until 2013. HUTA money continues to be diverted to offset the increasing State General Fund gap, raising concerns about the deferral of County funding and future receipt of HUTA funds.

Public Works Departments across the State will experience extreme hardship if the State continues its practice of deferring HUTA funds. Reserves and backstops to fill the gap left by deferrals are no longer available. Santa Barbara County Public Works Department alone would have approximately 40 FTE placed in jeopardy if HUTA payments are not continued.

In a typical year HUTA funds can be used to perform pavement preservation treatment to 38 lane miles, which extends the life of these sections of pavement by 7 to 10 years. Without the continued receipt of full HUTA funds, these lane miles will deteriorate and require more costly treatments and repairs in the future when funding becomes available. In addition, the County uses HUTA funds for sidewalk repairs and the installation of curb ramps in residential neighborhoods throughout the County.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation (1) oppose any taking of HUTA funds during future State budget deliberations; (2) support the full funding of HUTA within the upcoming State budget and prevent the Legislature from borrowing these funds to balance the overall State budget; (3) support efforts to increase and index the State gas tax; and (4) place protections on the proposed future taking of HUTA funding.

CONTACT

Scott McGolpin, Director, Public Works Department, 805.568.3010; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568.3400



Transportation (SAFETEA-LU)

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County has several critical transportation projects to be considered as part of the reauthorization of the SAFETEA-LU program.

Pavement Preservation Funding: The County has been a leader in Pavement Preservation since 1994, which includes both preventive and corrective non-structural actions to provide cost-effective alternatives to local roadways. Pavement Preservation treatments require more latitude in the requirements for use of federal funding due to the current service life requirements. Three innovative preservation treatments can be performed for the same cost as one conventional overlay, resulting in better and safer roads. (\$102 million Countywide)

Off Federal System Local Bridge Funding: The County maintains approximately 110 bridges that are currently eligible to receive funding through the Highway Bridge Project. The proposed reauthorization language should include off system bridges—a potential funding source for the replacement of 50% of County-maintained bridges. Language should allow local agencies to utilize federal funding for minor bridge maintenance. (\$46 million Countywide)

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 the unincorporated areas of Santa Ynez, Lompoc, and Santa Maria, and (2) ten Federal Aid Routes in the 23rd Congressional District of the County, which includes 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. (\$4.5 Million - 23rd District, \$6.25 Million – 24th District)

Hollister Avenue Widening and Railroad Siding: This project will improve the flow of multimodal transportation by widening Hollister Avenue for 1.25 miles from State Highway 154 west to San Antonio Road, including roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian circulation betterments. The Union Pacific Railroad Bridge that crosses Hollister Ave will be replaced with a longer structure to accommodate the widening, and an additional bridge will be constructed to provide a siding track for Union Pacific Railroad, Amtrak, and increase capacity for commuter rail service from the Goleta Area to Ventura County. (\$5 Million for Design and Environmental Review)

Old Town Orcutt Streetscape and Circulation Improvements: This project has two components: (1) improving access to Orcutt through improvements to the Clark Avenue on and off ramps at Highway 101 and (2) formalization of temporary striping changes and the construction of missing sidewalk segments along Clark Avenue. As more residents travel to this historic area, traffic will increase at Highway 101 ramps and require traffic signals on the northbound and southbound ramps and minor widening to align the ramps. 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. (\$3.2 Million)

Refugio Road Safety Improvements: This project, located on the Gaviota Coast, proposes to realign and widen Refugio Road to include two lanes of travel, improving shoulders and sight distances for seven miles starting at Highway 101 and continuing northerly to the summit of the Santa Ynez Mountains. Refugio Road provides access to the historic Reagan Ranch and to the Los Padres National Forest and attracts recreation enthusiasts, cyclists, hikers, tourists, and horseback riders. Refugio Road crosses Refugio Creek at six low water crossings and one bridge so the project also proposes new replacement bridge structures to improve creek conveyance and fish (endangered coastal steelhead/rainbow trout) and wildlife habitat. Drainage improvements are proposed to address rainfall run off and safe passage. (\$30 Million total project cost, requesting \$2.9 million for Design and Environmental Review)

Transportation (SAFETEA-LU)

Purissima Road Widening Improvements: This project would widen approximately three miles of roadway on both sides of Purissima Road from State Highway 1 to State Highway 246 to allow for wider shoulders with Class II bike lanes. This will increase safety for bicyclists and encourage regional bicycle travel as a viable form of alternative transportation. Improvements will mesh with two proposed regional projects: 1) Caltrans improvements on State Route 246 that include regional bicycle lanes and intersection improvements at the boundary of this project, and 2) a proposed space museum that visitors could access using this route. This area is close to Vandenberg Air Force Base and La Purissima Mission State Historic Park. (\$4.8 Million)

Union Valley Parkway Corridor Improvements: Several projects have been constructed or are in various stages of design to improve the Union Valley Parkway (UVP) Corridor in Santa Maria, a vital corridor to the region that allows greater and safer movement of people, goods and services throughout the area. Phase I and II were recently constructed, improving the connection between Santa Maria, Orcutt, and State Route 135. The Union Valley Parkway at Bradley Road Intersection Improvement Project was constructed in Fall 2010 to upgrade the intersection for future traffic capacity. The UVP/US 101 Freeway Interchange Project overseen by the State (Caltrans) is in its detailed design phase. The next phase of UVP Extension will create a smooth, full-capacity link between the US 101 Freeway, State Route 135, the City of Santa Maria, and the Orcutt community. Detailed design is under way for this phase and will dovetail with the other corridor projects to complete an important circulation route for passenger and commercial vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles traveling in the region. Corridor improvements include roadway widening, bike lane construction, traffic signals, capacity improvements, sidewalks, drainage, and lighting improvements along UVP. Funds are required to fill a construction funding shortfall. (\$3.8 Million)

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Projects will increase the safety of the various users (motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians) of County roads, increasing the surface conditions of roads and make drainage and structural improvements.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

President Bush signed SAFETEA-LU into law on August 2005, authorizing \$244.1 billion in funding for highways, highway safety, and public transportation. It was set to expire in 2009, but has been temporarily extended while awaiting a new authorization process and accompanying legislation.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests support from its delegation to include these transportation projects in the 2010/11SAFETEA-LU reauthorization as well as seek assistance in identifying other funding opportunities.

CONTACT

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Transportation (SAFETEA-LU)—Regional

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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



provides access from Central Coast agricultural operations to markets around the country. US 101 also provides critical access to Vandenberg Air Force Base in central Santa Barbara County. The entire project corridor is within the Santa Barbara urbanized area that includes the University of California at Santa Barbara, defense-related businesses, and hundreds of businesses related to the tourism industry. On a daily basis, commuters from neighboring Ventura County, interregional truck traffic, and tourists contribute to the facility's average daily traffic of 90,000 vehicles per day, exceeding the capacity of the four-lane facility for hours at a time, bringing this 10 mile segment of highway to a crawl. Upon completion of the project, the corridor will be a part of a continuous 40 mile, 6-lane facility, extending from the City of Ventura in Ventura County to the City of Goleta in Santa Barbara County. The corridor will include 16 miles of continuous HOV lanes. This 10 mile segment, and an adjacent 6 mile segment to the south at the Ventura\Santa Barbara County line that will be constructed in 2011, will be the first HOV lanes on the Central Coast of California.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

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

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

Santa Barbara County and the eight cities within the County previously voted to jointly set forth the Highway 101 Widening Project as the region's top regional roadway priority for Federal funding. Santa Barbara County will work in a support position to the Santa Barbara County Association of Government to offer support and promote the critical nature of the project at the State and Federal level.

CONTACT

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Workforce Investment Board Waivers

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The current workforce legislation, the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), is over ten years old. Although reauthorization of the WIA has been discussed and attempted many times in Congress, there does not appear to be consensus on the specific of how new legislation should be constructed. As a result, it is anticipated that reauthorization will not be accomplished in the near future.

This results in premises being used in 2010 that were conceived in 1998. Without reauthorization, waivers of current law are needed to recognize the unique and evolving needs of local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) and facilitate alternatives to current federal law to promote flexibility in service delivery that will benefit both employers and program participants. Local workforce systems need the flexibility to develop programs in partnership with the private sector to ensure workers are skilled in areas that would facilitate business grow and create new jobs as product lines evolve and customer bases expand.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Waivers would give local workforce systems the needed flexibility to develop effective programs which would meet unique local needs and demographics. It would also allow local workforce systems to deliver programs in new and innovative ways in order to serve increasing numbers of unemployed citizens. The inability for workforce development to supply businesses with workers who have attained the needed skill sets to meet the diverse economic sectors need has a direct impact on business sustainability and competitiveness, which can negatively impact the local economy.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

Waivers would allow local workforce systems to expedite services as well as build on current infrastructure in order to enhance services provided to both employees and employers rather than doing business the same way.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation support legislation that: (1) encourages states and allow local WIBs to seek approval for waivers of current WIA law and (2) encourages the Department of Labor to approve the waivers expeditiously to ensure local WIBs can quickly adapt to evolving workforce needs.

CONTACT

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