2016 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Adopted by the Board of Supervisors on January 12, 2016

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SANTA BARBARA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

PURPOSE

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

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

2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Legislative Program for Santa Barbara County, in conjunction with its State and Federal advocates, successfully advanced the 2015 Platform Principles, including but not limited to the following:

Job Growth and Economic Vitality

- Supported the Community Development Block Grant, HOME and other Federal housing and economic development funding streams to successfully oppose significant cuts to these programs.

Efficient Service Delivery and Operations

- Introduced AB 514 through Assemblymember Das Williams to increase fines for out of compliance permits relevant to one-time events, construction, and other violations. The bill was ultimately vetoed by the Governor, but this will be advocated for again in 2016.
- Successfully supported legislation to reauthorize Federal surface transportation programs, including maintenance of local bridges.

Fiscal Stability

- Full funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program was successfully advocated for and provided Santa Barbara County with $1.6 million in funding.

Inter-Agency Collaboration

- In conjunction with CSAC, successfully supported increased funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance (SCAAP) Program.

Local Control

- Supported AB 3 – the Isla Vista Community Services District to allow for Isla Vista, in conjunction with the Board of Supervisors, to determine if they should have a special district to support the needs of the community.

Health and Human Services

- Worked to ensure that undocumented children would be eligible for care under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to take the pressure off of local resources in our health care delivery system.
- Reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) was successfully supported.

Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection

- Supported SB 788 – California Coastal Protection Act of 2015, which eliminates the exception in the California Coastal Sanctuary Act of 1994 (AB 2444, O'Connell) that allows the State Lands Commission to issue an offshore oil lease if state oil or gas deposits are being drained by wells on federal lands and the lease is in the best interests of the state.
- Brought in Federal resources through the annual appropriations process for pest detection and management activities, food and safety inspection, and Specialty Crop Pests.

2016 LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2016
LEGISLATIVE PLANKS

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

In Santa Barbara County, women comprise 39% of the workforce, but earn $0.81 for every dollar their male counterparts earn. Women are more likely than their male counterparts to live in poverty, both among peer groups in the workforce and for those who are unemployed. And while cases of domestic violence and human trafficking are lower in Santa Barbara County than across the state, much can be done to better aid survivors and punish the perpetrators of violence against women.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☐Funding Request ☒Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action:
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors requests the county's state and federal delegation to aggressively seek and secure legislation and funding for programs and services that improves the lives of women and girls in the following areas:

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Supporting women and girls is essential. It has been proven that women make special and unique contributions to governing bodies and boards (public, private and not-for-profit), and that they offer perspectives often overlooked. The more opportunities women and girls are afforded, the more our society will benefit.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

No direct cost at this time. Nevertheless, for all of the stated items any financial cost will be more than recovered when women can meet their full capacity. Economic empowerment, legislation that helps working families, access to health equity and addressing human trafficking and violence will make women more productive and lead them to higher paying work and success. In turn, they will be earning and spending more money and expand their tax contribution.

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ARTS COMMISSION

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The role of Arts and Culture in the community can be a force in developing economic vitality. Recent studies and arts-grant funding initiatives at the National and State level are helping to demonstrate the vital impact arts & culture have on the economy and on civic engagement. Art includes, but is not limited to literary, visual and performing arts, dance, drama, film and new media.

Arts as a tool for creating economic vitality and stimulating job growth
Nationally, Creative Placemaking has proven to be invaluable as a tool in stimulating and creating economic development, job growth, neighborhood revitalization, greater vitality, while building safer communities and neighborhoods.

Creating a workforce for the 21st Century- Support for Arts Education in Schools
Studies have proven that workforce needs are dramatically shifting. The Business Sector and companies are looking for employees with new skill sets that focus on "out of the box" thinking and solutions; and workers that do well as part of a team. Studies show that arts in schools help develop these skills and better prepare youth for the job market and new career paths. Studies show that students exposed to arts in school stay in school and are less likely to drop out.

Arts as a tool for addressing Social Service Issues
A number of recent initiatives are employing arts to solve social issues. Examples are programs that engage veterans and their families in arts programs and arts in prison that are aimed to decrease recidivism.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☐Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action: Support legislative efforts to increase funding support from the **National Endowment for the Arts** (NEA) and the **California Arts Council** (CAC) in particular. The NEA and CAC agencies are committed to supporting the Arts and increasing access to the arts for all. Programs for literary, visual and performing arts, as well as intra-disciplinary arts are included. A number of initiatives and grants focus on the arts as a tool for creating economic vitality. Additionally, each do Economic Impact Studies and research to indicate the economic impact of art and culture which have been powerful tools in shaping public opinion and policy. Support legislative efforts to increase funding support for Arts Education in the Schools/Preparing next generation workforce.

Support for Public Art Programs and Creative Placemaking grant opportunities that link the public and private sectors, and programs that link Arts to addressing Social Services (i.e., Arts linked to veteran's families, people with disabilities and, the incarcerated).

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

- Quality of life and lifelong learning
- Building alliances between the public and private sector
- Increased access to art results in community engagement
- Public spaces and parks activated through the arts
- Increased public safety
- Preserving cultural assets and practices and increasing cross-cultural understanding
- Providing youth with opportunities and skills for careers to meet a changing workforce

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Grant funds from National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and California Arts Council (CAC) are used to attract private sector support and to leverage matching public sector funds. As an example, the Arts

Commission's recently awarded $43,500 California Creative Community Grant for the LightWorks Isla Vista Project in collaboration with the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB) Arts Department, and Isla Vista Recreation & Parks Department.

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COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Principle	
Job Growth and Economic Vitality	
Strategy	**Target**
Advocacy	Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☐Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action:
The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors urges Congress and the President to enact comprehensive immigration reform this year that:

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

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ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT/ REVENUE DIVERSIFICATION

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☒Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action: The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors requests the county's state and federal delegation in aggressively seeking and securing legislation to provide for enhanced funding and streamlined processes that will encourage the diversification, development, incubation, and growth of business determined to be of priority to California counties in general and Santa Barbara County specifically.
Funding and process improvements should include, but not be limited to, County's access to:

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

This funding will enhance opportunities to increase economic vitality and diversify the county's revenue base. In addition, the County supports efforts to secure, where appropriate, direct distribution of federal funds to local governments rather than state pass-throughs.

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

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

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LOWER MISSION CREEK

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

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

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

REQUEST STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☒Funding Request ☒Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action:

Fund the completion of Design and Construction; include language in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) to keep Lower Mission Creek a viable project; Advocate for continued Corps funding. The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors requests that the Corps of Engineers be funded to complete the design of the Lower Mission Creek Project and continue into construction. Both the Corps and local agencies have spent decades developing the current project and each has spent significant dollars on getting to a viable project.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Previous costs estimates put the project costs at about $80 million which would leave approximately $40 million local share. Local funding for this project would take decades without federal assistance. Local costs could be further mitigated by subventions of the federal project with state funding.

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LOWER MISSION CREEK: COUNTY FUNDING TABLE*

Fund 2610 -- So Coast Flood Zone 2		
SC8042 LOWER MISSION CREEK CIP	Expenditures	
FISCAL YEAR		
1997-98	$	390,300
1998-99	$	145,000
1999-00	$	4,600
2000-01	$	47,700
2001-02	$	6,200
2002-03	$	203,200
2003-04	$	95,200
2004-05	$	142,300
2005-06	$	25,000
2006-07	$	61,800
2007-08	$	359,300
2008-09	$	2,013,000
2009-10	$	517,500
2010-11	$	539,300
2011-12	$	3,700,000
2012-13	$	3,300,000
2013-14	$	1,081,600
2014-15	$	584,600
totals	$	13,216,600

*Data only available back to 1997-98

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT FUNDING

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Two groundwater bills became effective January 1, 2015 (SB 1168, and SB 1319). Together these bills comprise the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The intent of the Act, which is being implemented by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), is the sustainable management of California's groundwater within about 25 years. Basins that are subject to the legislation include all medium and high priority basins as defined by DWR that have not previously been adjudicated. Within Santa Barbara County, there are three such basins. They are the Cuyama Valley, San Antonio, and Santa Ynez Groundwater Basins.

The Act requires the completion of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for each basin. The general components of GSPs will include technical information about aquifer yield, use, and balance, measurable objectives for sustainability, and actions to meet the sustainable yield. The entity responsible for complying with the requirements of the Act is the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). Counties are the presumed GSAs in the absence of other entities assuming the role.

Although the Proposition 1 includes $100 million in grant funds for SGMA, it is a relatively small amount for the number of basins subject to the Legislation and it is currently unknown how the funds will be distributed or prioritized. Therefore, we desire the State to provide additional funding mechanisms for SGMA implementation as compliance will require the expenditure of significant resources over a period of decades.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☒Funding Request ☒Legislative Proposal ☐Targeted Advocacy

Action: The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors requests that the Government, State Legislature and the Department of Water Resources develop additional funding mechanisms for Santa Barbara County to implement the requirements of SGMA, which is, in essence, a mandate for comprehensive analysis and management of the three largest groundwater basins in Santa Barbara County.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

California is one of the last remaining States that has not required some form of sustainable management of groundwater. As a result, many of the State's basins are in a state of critical imbalance which has resulted in degradation of water quality, land subsidence, loss of surface water interaction, and economic hardship among users. In addition, it has reduced the water available for use during periods of drought such as the current one. Creating additional funding mechanisms for the implementation of SGMA will allow for sustainable management of the County's basins which will ultimately benefit several of the 2015 Legislative Principles including Economic Vitality, Community Stability, and Health and Human Services. It will allow basins to retain their value as sources of emergency water supply, agricultural vitality, and environmental resources.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

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US HIGHWAY 101 - REGIONAL

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Highway 101 Lane Widening is the No. 1 Regional funding priority for the County. The project will increase U.S. Highway 101 from 4 to 6 lanes by adding High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes between the Cities of Carpinteria and Santa Barbara, a distance of 10 miles, to improve safety, reduce traffic congestion and match the 6-lane highway south of Carpinteria and north of Santa Barbara. US 101 is one of two north-south highways in California that connect the Los Angeles basin, with a population of 13 million, and the greater San Francisco Bay Area, with a population of 7 million. The other north-south highway, Interstate 5, is periodically closed due to inclement weather and US 101 serves as the primary alternate route in California during those periods.

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

Upon completion of the project, the corridor will be a part of a continuous 40-mile, 6-lane facility, extending from the City of Ventura in Ventura County to the City of Goleta in Santa Barbara County. The corridor will include 16 miles of continuous HOV lanes. This 10-mile segment, and an adjacent 6-mile segment to the south at the Ventura/Santa Barbara County line currently under construction, will be the first HOV lanes on the Central Coast of California.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☒Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action: Santa Barbara County and the eight cities within the County support 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 Governments to promote the critical nature of the project at the State and Federal level.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

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COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County of Santa Barbara funds Library services and operations for 17 city and county libraries. Library services in the County are administered via contracts with the City of Santa Barbara, the City of Santa Maria and the City of Lompoc. Through this arrangement, the county partners with local cities to provide library facilities, services and materials in a cost effective manner. Library services are provided through the following established zones:

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

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

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

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

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☒Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☐Targeted Advocacy

Action:

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors requests state funding for our library system. The first priority is to fund needed new library technology, books and materials. In addition, the County seeks funding for equipment, furnishings and to expand hours of operations at various library locations.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

CONTACT

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IMPROVING LOCAL GOVERNANCE: UNINCORPORATED POWERS

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

In many counties in California, more than half of a county's population is in an unincorporated area, as opposed to an incorporated city. Therefore, the county government is responsible for the provision of services and addressing infrastructure needs. Counties, however, do not enjoy the same taxing, revenue generation, and governing authorities as cities. AB2119 signed by Governor Brown on July 18, 2014, is intended to provide more flexibility to counties to raise certain revenues to fund local services in unincorporated areas consistent with incorporated areas. Specifically, AB 2119 allows voters in the unincorporated areas of a county to vote on a tax measure that would apply within an unincorporated area only. AB 2119 requires the revenue derived from the imposition of the tax to only be used within the area from which the tax was approved by the voters. While this new legislation provides for the imposition of sales and use tax, within a specific unincorporated area, increasing of the opportunities available for revenue generation, a general law county's ability to enjoy the full spectrum of governance powers provided to general law cities remains limited.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☐Funding Request ☒Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

CONTACT

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Joseph Toney, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

BRIDGES

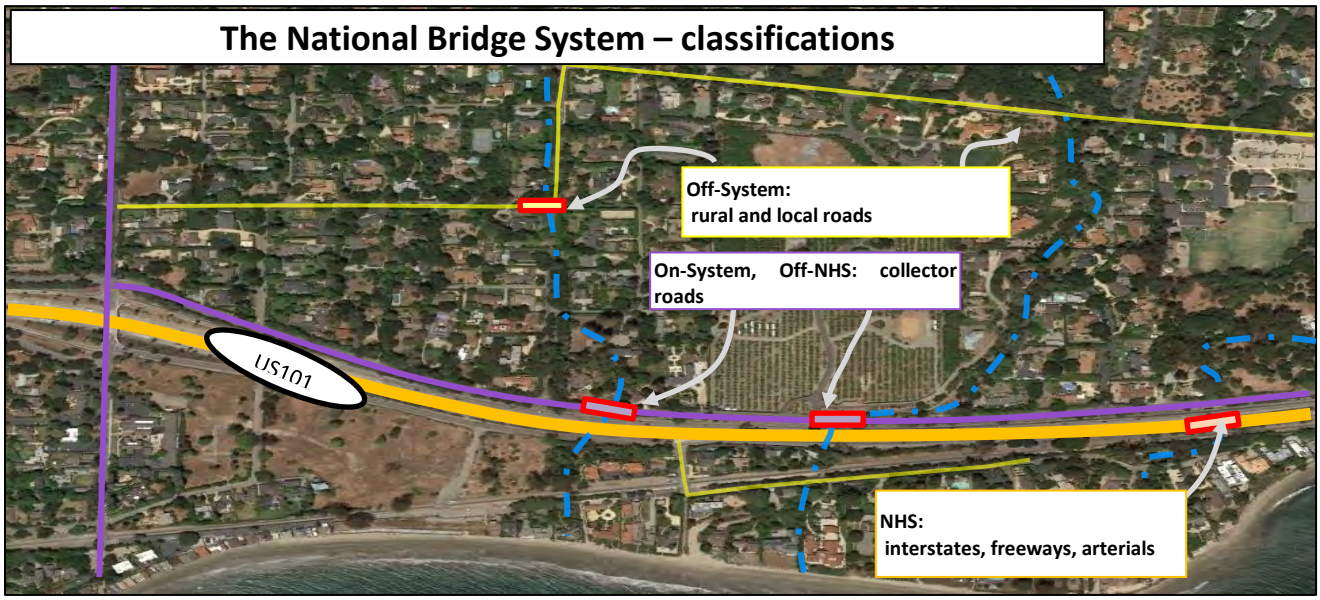
Principle	
Fiscal Stability	
Strategy	Target
Funding, Legislative, & Advocacy	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Reauthorization of the transportation bill must prioritize funding for locally-owned bridges and include a dedicated funding set aside for all bridge classifications.

There are three major classifications for bridges in the national bridge inventory (see illustrations below):

- National Highway System (NHS) bridges – those on major freeways, expressways, and interstates, etc.
- off-NHS, on federal aid route (on-system, off-NHS) bridges on major and minor collectors; and
- local and rural road bridges (off-system).



Continuing federal bridge funding as a core formula program is critical to local, state, and federal agencies' ability to maintain the nation's entire bridge network. On-system bridges; those on Federal-Aid routes but not on the NHS, account for over half of California's local bridge inventory. They carry millions of vehicles each day and are an integral part of our arterial and collector road system, delivering goods, services and people across the nation. These bridges are a unique component of our nation's transportation system and there is little room for error when it comes to bridge safety. A failed bridge severs transportation network continuity; while resilient bridges help ensure mobility for the traveling public.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy:

☒Funding Request ☒Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action:

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors requests inclusion of a fully-funded bridge maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement program in the transportation bill for all three categories of bridges: NHS, off-NHS on-system, and off-system.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Roadway bridges are a significant piece of county transportation infrastructure. Without dedicated funding for all three categories of bridges, National Highway System (NHS), on-system, and off-system, local agencies would have to divert billions of dollars from other transportation infrastructure projects and programs, or let bridges degrade, putting our nation's infrastructure at risk and in need of higher-cost repairs in the future.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

If bridge program funding is included as a core formula program in the transportation reauthorization bill with specific set-asides, it could be absorbed in current transportation funding programs.

CONTACT

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SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

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

A multi-year transportation bill is needed that provides certainty for businesses and communities, creates jobs, and makes necessary policy updates to lay the foundation for lasting economic growth. Transportation infrastructure is too essential to suffer continued neglect. We must commit to finding ways to support maintenance of existing infrastructure.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy:

☒Funding Request ☒Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action:

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors calls on Congress, the Governor, and the California State Legislature to commit to a sound, long-term financial solution that will ensure stability of the surface transportation system.

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

CONTACT

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Terri Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

HOLLISTER/STATE STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Principle	
Inter-Agency Collaboration	
Strategy	Target
Funding	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

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

The County requests $8M for design and construction of the portion of Hollister Avenue between San Antonio and Modoc Roads.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy:

☒Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☐Targeted Advocacy

Action:

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors requests participation by providing funds for design and implementation of this project.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

$8M for design and construction of the portion of Hollister Avenue between San Antonio and Modoc Roads.

CONTACT

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LAKE CACHUMA

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

REQUEST STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☒Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action: The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors requests its Congressional delegation support new appropriation requests as follows: Fire flow and water distribution system improvements - $5.6 million; New water treatment plant and related systems - $3.7 million; Sewage treatment - $5.1 million; Recreational improvements - $10.1 million.

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The County provides an array of recreational amenities including boating, fishing, camping (tent, RV, yurts and cabins), seasonal naturalist programs, and nature cruises to approximately 800,000 visitors year-round.

COST TO 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.

CONTACT

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LAND USE: ENFORCEMENT FINES FOR LAND USE VIOLATIONS

Principle	
Local Control	
Strategy	**Target**
Legislative & Advocacy	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

State law governing ordinance violations sets maximum fine amounts for violators of land use codes at a maximum of $100 for the first violation within a one year timeframe, a maximum of $200 for the second violation within a one year timeframe, and a maximum of $500 for each additional violation within a one year timeframe, including one-time violations. One-time violations are violations that cannot be corrected or cured. Similarly, fine amounts for violators of local building codes are set at a maximum of $1,000 for each violation within a one year timeframe.

Santa Barbara County recognizes the need for the State legislature to set maximum fine amounts to ensure fairness and consistency across the State of California. However, the $500 maximum severely hinders the County's ability to adequately enforce land use violations, particularly regarding one-time violations. One-time violations often occur when owners rent out their properties for special events (e.g. weddings). The County's Land Use Codes specifically prohibit this type of use on residentially zoned properties without proper permits. As written, the maximum amount the County may fine the owner for this type of violation is only up to a maximum of $500 in any given year. This substantially undermines the County's Land Use Codes because the maximum allowable fine amount is insufficient to deter owners who rent out their properties for commercial purposes when the profit margin for violating the local ordinance is much greater. For example, a large commercial wedding with over 300 guests was held on residential property without the benefit of permits. Permit review would have addressed public safety and traffic concerns for an event of this magnitude. In this case, the County was only allowed to fine this owner $100 for this purposeful violation. This amount is insufficient to deter property owners who can easily absorb this as part of their routine business operating expense.

Redrafting the applicable state codes to enable the local agency more discretion to impose appropriate fines, and the collection and enforcement of those fines, would greatly enhance the land use and building code enforcement program in Santa Barbara County.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy:

☐Funding Request ☒Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action:

The County requests its delegation to support legislation that would provide the County with more local control and discretion over fines imposed for violations of the County's Land Use and Development Codes. For violations where a permit is available, the County requests that fines imposed be set at the discretion of the local agency, and up to ten times the maximum amount of permit fees allowable under the agency's adopted fee schedules. Where a permit is not available for the offending activity, the fines should be set at no less than $1,000 per violation, with a maximum amount to be set at the discretion of the local agency not to exceed $15,000. Property owners will continue to have rights to appeal any fines imposed and the appeal hearing officer will continue to have the discretion to waive, reduce, or modify the fine. In addition, the one year timeframe should be stricken from the Government Code, or in the alternative, be increased to a five year timeframe, so that fines may further deter repeat offenders.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

that the County's land use codes are enforced thereby ensuring that the County's policies regarding land use and development continue to be met.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

No direct costs to the government are anticipated.

CONTACT

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION

Principle	
Local Control	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

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

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.

In addition, on October 9, 2015, the Governor signed into law AB 57 (Quirk), which provides that an application for collocation or siting of a wireless facility is deemed approved if the city or county fails to approve or disapproved the application within a reasonable period of time as specified in federal law. The new law allows for the tolling of the reasonable period of time by mutual agreement when there is a legitimate need to request information necessary to complete the application.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☐Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action:

The County requests that its delegation seek and support state and federal legislation to repeal limitations on state and local authority imposed by AB 57 and 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. 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. In particular, the County believes it is imperative that the FCC undertake longitudinal health studies to determine whether its existing exposure limits are adequate to protect public health. The longitudinal studies should encompass a broad demographic (i.e. children, people with compromised health, etc.) in order to fully

protect public health. It is significant to note that the exposure limits allowed by the FCC appear to exceed the levels considered permissible by most other countries.[1] Finally, the County requests that the FCC revise the processing deadlines for new telecommunication facilities to insure that local agencies have adequate time to fully evaluate siting and design options to minimize visual impacts and protect a high quality visual environment. Santa Barbara County's stance advocating for improved local regulation over telecommunications facilities aligns with the position taken on this issue by the National Association of Counties (NACO).[2] NACO's platform advocates for Counties, as the trustees of public property and as protectors of public safety and welfare, to retain authority over telecommunication facilities. NACO's platform states that Counties have an obligation to their constituents to ensure that the public health, safety, and welfare are not endangered or otherwise compromised by the construction, modification, or installation of wireless communications facilities. Santa Barbara County shares these concerns and NACO's advocacy position.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

CONTACT

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

[2] See Reference: The American County Platform and Resolutions 2014-2015, at http://www.naco.org/legislation/pages/legislative-affairs.aspx

TRIBAL GAMING COMPACTS & LAND USE

Principle	
Local Control	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County of Santa Barbara supports government-to-government relations that recognize the role and unique interests of tribes, states, counties, and other local governments to protect all members of their communities and to provide governmental services and infrastructure beneficial to all. In addition, the County recognizes and respects the tribal right of self-governance to provide for tribal members and to preserve traditional tribal culture and heritage. In similar fashion, the County recognizes and promotes self-governance by counties to provide for the health, safety, and general welfare of all members of our communities. In order to provide for full participation by all community members, the County supports the full involvement of local government agencies on issues and activities taking place on tribal fee or trust lands which may create impacts to public health, safety or the environment.

The County of Santa Barbara recognizes that gaming on tribal land in California is governed by a unique structure that combines federal, state, and tribal law. While the impacts of gaming fall primarily on local communities and governments, policy is largely directed and controlled at the state and federal level. However, consistent with the legislative platform adopted by the California Association of Counties (CSAC), many impacted counties find that the compacts as well as distribution of funds via the Special Distribution Fund (SDF) fail to adequately address these impacts and/or to provide meaningful and enforceable mechanisms to prevent or mitigate impacts.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☐Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action:

Support the restoration of full funding of the county share as a direct contribution of the annual Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund with letters of support, as well as, the appearance and testimony of County lobbyists.

In the spirit of developing and continuing government-to-government relationships between federal, tribal, state, and local governments; the County of Santa Barbara will coordinate work with CSAC, NACo, and the legislative delegation to improve existing and future Compact language in the following areas:

1. A Tribal Government constructing or expanding a casino or other related businesses or development that impacts off-reservation land will seek review and approval of the local jurisdiction to construct off-reservation improvements consistent with state law and local ordinances including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
2. A Tribal Government operating a casino or other related businesses or development will mitigate all off-reservation impacts caused by project. In order to ensure consistent regulation, public participation, and maximum environmental protection, Tribes will promulgate and publish environmental protection laws that are at least as stringent as those of the surrounding local community and comply with CEQA.
3. A Tribal Government operating a casino or other related businesses or development will be subject to the authority of a local jurisdiction over health and safety issues including, but not limited to, water service, sewer service, fire inspection and protection, rescue/ambulance service, food inspection, and law enforcement, and reach written agreement on such points.
4. A Tribal Government operating a casino or other related businesses or development will pay to the local jurisdiction the Tribe's fair share of appropriate costs for local government services. These services include, but are not limited to, water, sewer, fire inspection and protection, rescue/ambulance, food inspection, health and social services, law enforcement, roads, transit, flood control, and other public infrastructure.

5. The Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund, created by Section 5 of the Tribal-State Compact will not be the exclusive source of mitigation, but will ensure that counties receive some funding to mitigate off-reservation impacts caused by tribal gaming.

The County of Santa Barbara continues to support the policy and platform positions of CSAC and NACo stating that judicially enforceable agreements between counties and tribal governments must be required in order to ensure that potential impacts resulting from projects are fully analyzed and mitigated to the satisfaction of the surrounding local governments. These agreements would fully mitigate local impacts from a tribal government's business and development activities and fully identify the governmental services to be provided by the county to that tribe. Furthermore, the County will continue to work in conjunction with the CSAC Housing, Land Use & Transportation Committee to assist in the development of information and policy positions for consideration by CSAC.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Involvement of the local government, general public and technical consultants in matters pertaining to future land use and potential development is critical to the overall review of any project to ensure compliance with Community Plans and the County's General Plan. Failure to fully engage critical stakeholders in project development and review impairs the ability of a local government to seek appropriate mitigation and/or provide critical public services which may have long term impacts on a region as a whole.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The County of Santa Barbara previously enjoyed a distribution from the SDF of approximately $1.4 million annually. Recent reports from the state Legislative Analyst's Office and Controllers office indicate that funds are unlikely to be available for gaming impact mitigation grants. These funds were previously utilized to fund fire, law enforcement, and capital projects. In addition development which occurs on lands taken fee to trust are taken off property tax rolls thus critical revenue to address service and infrastructure related impacts are lost to a local government in perpetuity.

CONTACT

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ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☐Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action:

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors support measures which establish, enhance or fund policies, programs, research, standards, educational material and public awareness campaigns that prevent disease, promote wellness and ensure access to needed health care.

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

Support should include no decreases in current funding levels in these health related programs.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

There is no immediate or additional cost incurred directly.

CONTACT

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Terri Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

HEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

We can be successful in improving the health of all residents by supporting legislation that prevents chronic disease, prevents the spread of illness, promotes healthy behaviors and promotes wellness. Legislative, policy, environmental changes and education can influence behavior and thus impact health and health outcomes. Three behaviors (poor diet, physical activity levels and tobacco use) contribute to four chronic diseases (vascular disease, cancer, lung disease and type 2 diabetes) that cause more than 50 percent of the deaths in Santa Barbara County. We can directly impact behaviors that drive chronic and communicable diseases and poor health outcomes. We can also directly impact health with access to services, preparedness, and our response to health conditions.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☐Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action:

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors support measures which establish, enhance or fund policies, programs, research, standards, educational material and public awareness campaigns that prevent disease, promote wellness and ensure access to needed health care.

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

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

There is no immediate or additional cost incurred directly.

CONTACT

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HOMELESSNESS

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

REQUEST STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy:

☒Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action:

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors requests that its state and federal delegations 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 the Federal delegation's support for funding McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants, including the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program, and the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. These programs are authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended by the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009. The County recommends the inclusion of provisions which allow for additional flexibility in the use of Federal funds on the local level to address housing for the homeless. The County also requests continuing support for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the HOME program. These two programs provide additional public services, capital improvements, and new affordable housing, which work together to reduce homelessness and prevent additional persons and families from becoming homeless.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

CONTACT

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OCEAN WATER TESTING

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Funding	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☒Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☐Targeted Advocacy

Action:

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

During Fiscal Year 2014-15, the Public Health laboratory testing cost $73,000 under the existing testing methodology. The new Method 1609qPCR testing is projected to increase costs one-time by $70,500 for the first year of implementation because of the parallel testing required. This projected one-time cost is currently unfunded.

CONTACT

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SAFETY NET PRESERVATION

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

According to 2013 Census figures, in Santa Barbara County 68,116 people (16% of residents) are still living below the federal poverty level (compared to 11.9% in 2007). There are approximately 19,866 (21%) of the County's children living in poverty (compared to 13.5% in 2007). Our poverty rates reflect the impacts of a weakened economy and the slow and prolonged recovery from the Great Recession, and drastic cuts in health and human services programs at the State and Federal levels. All of these factors have disproportionately affected low income seniors as well as children and families, leaving their "basic" needs of food, shelter, personal and financial security, health and welfare at risk of being unmet and leading to food insecurity, diminished health, and homelessness.

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

REQUEST STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☐Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action: In order to preserve the safety net for the County's most vulnerable citizens we request that its delegation advocate to preserve existing safety net program funding levels at both the State and Federal levels and restore cuts to safety net programs in future budgets.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

CONTACT

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SENIOR SERVICES- OLDER AMERICANS ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Older Americans Act provides federal funding to Area Agencies on Aging (AAA's) to help low-income seniors live independently in their communities through supportive, nutrition and health promotion programs and services. According to 2013 Census data there are over 59,000 seniors age 65 and older within the County of Santa Barbara (14% of the County's population). This number is expected to double by the year 2050 placing additional demands on a variety of health and human services programs. Key issues facing seniors within the County are in-home care housing as well as public assistance needs for those that live below the poverty level. Therefore, it is imperative to ensure that the services and programs currently in place are reauthorized to meet the growing population and needs of low-income seniors.

REQUEST STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☐Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action: That the County work with its federal and state legislative delegations and key representatives to support reauthorization of the Older Americans Act and increase funding (federal and state) for senior related services. Support critical components of the Older American's Act which promotes the health and well-being of low-income seniors by providing funding for Area Agencies on Aging for nutrition services and prevention and health promotions services enhancing the quality of life of low-income seniors.

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 homes and thus must resort to assisted living facilities at extraordinary costs or rely on family members and professional or informal caregivers for continued care. In addition, as a result of increasing medical needs, seniors utilize emergency rooms and public clinics at an increasing rate as a result of lack of appropriate health coverage. A comprehensive program of safety net services provided via community providers and governmental agencies, provides for the opportunity for seniors to remain independent for a longer period and provides for the spectrum of health and human services needs required to age with dignity.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

For many older adults, a few hours a week of in-home services provided by the Older Americans Act can delay or prevent costly nursing home care for low-income seniors who are not eligible for In-Home Supportive Services administered by the Department of Social Services. Evidence confirms that good nutrition is important in maintaining the health and functional independence of older adults. It can reduce costly hospital admissions and delay nursing home placement. A majority of older adults in the US have diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol or a combination of these chronic conditions. These conditions can be successfully managed with appropriate nutrition interventions that will improve health and quality of life. Left unchecked, these conditions result in increased costs.

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SOCIAL SERVICES TANF REAUTHORIZATION

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

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

REQUEST STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☐Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Since TANF Reauthorization in 2005, the current required Federal participation rate of 50% has 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.

CONTACT

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SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

As the California legislature responded to the state's budget deficits over the past 7 years, cuts were made virtually across the board, but subsidized child care services and supports funded through the Department of Education's Child Development Division (now Early Education Support Services) were reduced disproportionately. These services for low income families include CalWORKs and Alternative Payment child care subsidies, "General Child Care" subsidy contracts with centers and State Preschools, as well as critical support services such as Child Care Planning Council and Children's Resource and Referral. Without child care subsidies, low income working parents are either forced to quit their jobs or put their children in substandard care which impacts children's futures and our communities' viability. And, without adequate investment in the child care infrastructure, providers and parents lack the supports necessary for a strong system. The state legislature is beginning to restore funding and the County is advocating for further restoration of funding to increase quality, child care slots, reimbursement rates and infrastructure.

REQUEST STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☐Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action: The County requests that its delegation advocate at the State level to strategically increase funding for child care subsidies, rates and support services to align with current programming and trends in the early care and education field.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

In FY 2014-15 Santa Barbara County received $3,310,139 in stage 1 child care funding, as compared to $3,695,410 in FY 2013-14, translating to a 10% decrease in funding. In addition to the decreased funding, in October 2015, the Regional Market Rate will increase 4.5% for child care reimbursements. This will result in additional expenditures for the CalWORKs and Alternative Payment programs.

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

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AGRICULTURE/ WILLIAMSON ACT SUBVENTION

Principle	
Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection	
Strategy	**Target**
Funding	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

Locally, agriculture continues to be the County's major producing industry. The 2014 gross production was valued at $1.5 billion. This is a $53 million (3.71%) increase in gross value when compared with the 2013 figures and is the ninth year in a row that agriculture has surpassed the one billion dollar benchmark. The County is the second largest producer in the state for broccoli and cauliflower as well as having a high production of strawberries, wine grapes, lettuce, and other produce. Farming and ranching operations are also one of the most important industries and economic drivers in the County.

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

REQUEST STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy:

☒Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☐Targeted Advocacy

Action: The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors requests its State delegation, the Legislature, and the Administration to restore the funding for subvention reimbursement to counties who continue to have a Williamson Act program.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

CONTACT

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AIR QUALITY – MARINE VESSEL EMISSIONS

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

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

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

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy:

☐Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action:

The County requests its delegation support efforts to reduce emissions from marine vessels through securing economic incentives to accelerate the retrofit of engines and funding for research and development of new technologies and strategies to control shipping emissions. The County also requests its delegation support efforts related to analyzing the current shipping lanes and traffic north and south of the Channel Islands and the speed at which vessels travel, and to support funding for a large-scale vessel speed reduction program in the Santa Barbara Channel. Such a program could be structured as a voluntary incentive program (with an identified source of funding, for example, State Cap-and-Trade auction revenues). Implementing a full-scale vessel speed reduction program in the Santa Barbara Channel of 12 knots or less could reduce emissions from these large marine vessels and reduce lethality of ship strikes on endangered whale species.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

CONTACT

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The National Association of Homebuilders reported Santa Barbara County as the 5th least affordable small housing market in the nation. The elimination of redevelopment agency funding at the state level and reductions in federal affordable housing funds puts greater emphasis on finding other funding streams to help create and preserve both affordable rental and ownership housing. There is a need for improvement in community resources, services, and infrastructure to improve the economic, social and community well-being of the County. The impact of the lack of affordable housing, social services, and accessible employment was underscored by the County's 2013 Poverty Study, which found an unacceptably high percentage of County residents living below the federal poverty threshold, including an increasing incidence of child poverty. Federal resources, such as the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) programs have continually been subject to appropriation reductions; since 2010, the County's funding for these programs dropped 43%. Such reductions negatively impact our community as this funding provides an important resource to address County needs in the areas of capital infrastructure, public service, micro-economic development and affordable housing. Such funding is critical in maintaining a level of community sustainability that provides for a growing and vibrant economy. The County also supports creative strategies to preserve, build, and make affordable housing available for individual and family households countywide.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☒Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action:

The County supports community development program efforts at the local, state, and national level to: 1) provide resources to address the housing needs of elderly persons, persons with disabilities (including developmental disabilities), low-moderate income households, workforce households, large families, farmworker households, single parent headed households, persons needing emergency shelter, transitional housing and supportive housing, and veteran households; and 2) create public-private partnerships to develop housing and services. At the state level, the County supports advocacy for housing finance bills in the Legislature to create a dedicated source of revenue to produce new housing. At the federal level, the County supports continued advocacy for affordable housing and community development programs including, but not limited to, CDBG, HOME, the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program and the new National Housing Trust Fund, which will begin in 2016. The County also supports full funding of HUD's homeless assistance programs, such as the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and the Continuum of Care (CoC) programs.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The development of affordable housing at all income levels will not only help mitigate the County's housing crisis, but will increase construction jobs and tax revenues. Federal and state efforts to develop creative funding strategies, such as a $75 recordation fee on real estate transactions, the LIHTC Program, and the National Housing Trust Fund, among other federal and state programs, will help to address housing needs. The availability of housing and community services supports stronger communities, improved outcomes in schools, and work-ready community residents. Federal and state legislation in support of housing and community infrastructure would stimulate the construction industry, generating tax revenue and positive ripple effects throughout the economy.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The Federal CDBG and HOME programs provide up to 20% and 10%, respectively, of the annual grant amount to offset program administration costs to government. Advocates point out that for every $1 in CDBG or HOME funds expended, the community leverages over $4 from other sources. In terms of the cost benefit to government in providing funding to supportive housing for homeless persons, a 2010 study by the National Alliance to end Homelessness found that the use of permanent supportive housing was cost effective and reduced the use of shelter, ambulance, police/jails, health care, emergency room, behavioral health, and other service costs. Secondary positive impacts include improved outcomes for children and families, low/moderate income households, senior adults, disabled households, and veterans.

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ENERGY AND CLIMATE ACTION

Principle	
Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection	
Strategy	**Target**
Funding, Legislative, & Advocacy	Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

In March 2009, the County of Santa Barbara instituted taking immediate, cost-effective and coordinated steps to reduce the County's collective Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. The County has since accelerated existing or established new sustainability initiatives, including making clean energy and building efficiency improvements to public facilities, and helping residents and businesses do the same. The County recently produced an Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP) to lower GHG emissions 15% below baseline levels (2007) by 2020. The ECAP includes fifty emission reduction measures encompassed in the following 11 categories:

Community Choice Energy	Industrial Energy Efficiency
Sustainable Communities Strategy	Waste Reduction
Land Use Design	Agriculture
Transportation	Water Efficiency
Built Environment	Governmental Operations
Renewable Energy	

While some of the emission reduction measures in the ECAP are already in existence, others require funding for further development. The ability to fully develop the ECAP measures and make sustainable energy programs more robust is integral for countywide reduction of energy consumption in order to meet climate and sustainability goals.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☒Funding Request ☒Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action:

The County supports advocacy for sustainability initiatives and seeks funding to implement emission reduction and sustainability measures; for example, 41% of the emission reductions in the County's ECAP are anticipated to come from voluntary building efficiency initiatives. Executive, regulatory or legislative items that could impact the local climate action planning and implementation efforts are policies related to Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing, net zero or high performance buildings, Community Choice Energy, distributed clean energy, and alternative transportation. Potential funding sources include, but are not limited to grants, rate-payer funded contracts, and revenue generation opportunities.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Co-benefits of climate action implementation and achieving the ECAP goal of lowering GHG emissions 15% below baseline levels by 2020 include:

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Specific emission reduction measures not already in existence will vary in cost; costs for development and implementation of most are anticipated to be good candidates for external funding, while others may require County investment.

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FUNDING FOR EXCLUSION AND EARLY PEST DETECTION PROGRAMS AGAINST HIGH RISK PESTS

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

California's impressive and valuable agricultural production, which California's County Agricultural Commissioners are entrusted to promote and protect include (*based on latest USDA national agricultural statistics information):*

- California is ranked #1 in the United States in cash receipts at $42.6 billion for their output in 2012
- California represents 11.9 percent of total U.S. agricultural revenue
- There are approximately 77,857 farms and ranches and 25,569,001total acres.
- The largest dairy industry in the nation
- More than 400 commodities are grown in California
- California produces about half of the U.S. grown fruits, nuts and vegetables
- Many crops are solely produced in California

There are a number of significant invasive species being introduced and detected in California that threaten agriculture and the environment. Continued funding of Pest Exclusion, Pest Detection trapping and Survey Activities, Rapid Response, Pest Management and Eradication (if feasible), and Public Education Outreach Programs is critical in protecting California's resources. Unique in the United States to California, County Commissioners and Sealers provide the first line of defense against the introduction of injurious plant and animal pests.

REQUEST STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy:

☒Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☐Targeted Advocacy

Action: The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors requests its federal delegation, the Legislature, and the Administration to:

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

CONTACT

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HEALTHY SOILS INITIATIVE

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☒Funding Request ☒Legislative Proposal ☐Targeted Advocacy

Action:

- Support legislation that provides funding resources at the state and local level to develop and implement land management practices to improve soil carbon and soil health.
- Support legislation that creates incentives programs that would provide farmers, ranchers, and organizations with financial incentives to implement carbon-beneficial agricultural practices that sequester carbon.
- Support State funding for Healthy Soils Program and Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation Program from Cap and Trade Revenue.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

No direct costs to the government are anticipated.

CONTACT

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HISTORIC SANTA BARBARA COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☒Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☐Targeted Advocacy

Action:

Fund the continued conservation and preservation of this iconic National Historic Landmark through the Department of the Interior, National Endowment for the Arts, Housing and Community Development, Homeland Security, or direct Budget Appropriation. Five million dollars over the next five years is requested.

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 GOVERNMENT

The County has estimated the cost of renovation to be approximately $40 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, 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)

CONTACT

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MARKET PLACE EQUITY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Principle	
Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection	
Strategy	**Target**
Funding	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Weights and Measures Programs are important to businesses and consumers in California. Weights and Measures ensure there is a "level playing field", maintaining fair competition for business and industries. Likewise, these programs are critical in providing protection for consumers and a method for making value comparisons.

The Division of Measurement Standards (DMS) within the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is the lead agency for weights and measures and works closely with county sealers of weights and measures who carry out the vast majority of weights and measures enforcement activities at the local level. County sealers of weights and measures have a variety of programs that protect consumers and provide an equitable marketplace for local business. Examples of programs consist of Device Registration & Inspection, Price & Quantity Control, Weighmaster, Service Agents, and Petroleum Products. DMS provides the regulatory oversight for county sealers for weights and measures programs in addition to the California Type Evaluation Program and Metrology. The California Type Evaluation Program tests, evaluates and approves all new commercial weighting and measuring devices to be used for commercial purposes in California. The State Metrology laboratory keeps and maintains standards of weight, volume, time, temperature, and length that are used to ensure accuracy for weights and measures in the state of California. These physical standards form the legal and scientific basis for commercial transactions in California involving weights and measure. The values of these standards are traceable to national and international standards. Without these standards, county sealers could not test commercial devices for accuracy and businesses would be at a disadvantage globally without proof of accurate measurement standards. DMS has taken significant general fund reductions that have diminished their role in consumer protection, promoting an equitable marketplace and support services for county sealers. General fund support for all programs except Metrology has been eliminated.

REQUEST STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy:

☒Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☐Targeted Advocacy

Action:

- Support legislation that preserves and enhances funding resources for weights and measures programs at the state (DMS) and local (Sealer) level for consumer protection.
- Encourage the use of state general fund for the Division of Measurement Standards.
- Support legislation which assures clear labeling and accuracy of the net quantity of package products to promote value comparison and to ensure the consumer receives the correct product and the quantity of product for which they pay.
- Oppose legislation that would exempt certain commercial weighing and measuring devices from the California Type Evaluation tests.
- Oppose legislation that would diminish or remove protections now afforded to consumers for transactions measured by weighing or measuring devices.
- Support legislation that establishes funding for quantity control and package inspection.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

CONTACT

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Terri Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

OIL RESEARCH AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☒Funding Request ☒Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action:

- Seek legislation that would incentivize and/or require private oil & gas operating companies to repair/replace aging infrastructure including pipelines and tanks. Also include requirements for the use of best available safety-related technologies with the intent of reducing the frequency and volume of upset events resulting in environmental damage. (funding for improvements would be provided by the affected company)
- Seek legislation that would provide local jurisdictions with increased regulatory authority to oversee inspection and maintenance activities of existing/future oil & gas infrastructure.
- Seek funding for cleanup/removal of historic, abandoned oil & gas wells and equipment where there is no existing responsible party with an urgent priority targeting wells that pollute the marine environment, as well as for equipment that creates public safety/nuisance concerns.
- Seek legislation to strengthen the rules set forth by, and enforcement capabilities of, the Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) and State Lands Commission (SLC) to require timely and proper abandonment of oil & gas facilities which have an existing responsible party.
- Advocate for the above.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Reduce likelihood of oil spills and public safety hazards with the intent of protecting the ecologically sensitive habitats of Santa Barbara including both terrestrial and marine environments.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

CONTACT

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PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Santa Barbara County Parks provides services to over 7 million annual visitors to 71 day use parks, open space locations and two camping parks as well as to a network of trails and coastal access easements. The County is interested in preserving and expanding the amount of open space located within its boundary. As such, the County is supportive of funding opportunities that enable local governments: (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 2016 platform.

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

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

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

Jalama Beach Facility Improvements: This project will improve existing facilities to better serve the public at one of the only overnight camping parks in northern Santa Barbara County. The total project cost is approximately $2.5 million and includes systematic renovations to the restroom and shower facilities to meet major maintenance needs and bring facilities into ADA compliance. The Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund (CREF) has provided $450,000 to facilitate some of the restroom improvements.

REQUEST STRATEGY AND ACTION

☒Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☐Targeted Advocacy

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors 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.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

CONTACT

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PESTICIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITES

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The size and diversity of California agriculture, and the State's increasing urbanization, require a more complex partnership between state and local pesticide regulatory authorities than anywhere else in the nation. The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) is vested with primary authority through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to enforce federal and state laws pertaining to the proper and safe use of pesticides. DPR's enforcement of pesticide use in the field is largely carried out in California's 58 counties by County Agricultural Commissioners (CACs) and their staffs (approximately 400 inspector/biologists). CACs seek compliance through education, including presentations to community and industry groups, training sessions for pesticide users, informal or formal compliance actions (such as warning letters), and corrective interviews. CACs regulate pesticide use to prevent misapplication or drift, and possible contamination of people or the environment. Among a Commissioner's most important responsibilities is investigating pesticide-related illnesses and injuries. All reported pesticide related illnesses and injuries are investigated by the CAC in the county which the illness occurred. If the law was broken and people made ill, the commissioner takes enforcement action. CAC staffs also enforce regulations to protect ground and surface water from pesticide contamination. To do this, they may work with regional waters boards and the State Water Resources Control Board. Farmers must obtain site-specific permits from their CAC to buy or use many agricultural chemicals. The CAC staff must evaluate the proposed use to determine if the pesticide can be used safely, particularly in sensitive areas, such as near residential neighborhoods, schools and other sensitive sites. State law requires CACs to ensure that applicators take precautions to protect people and the environment.

REQUEST STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☒Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☐Targeted Advocacy

Action:
The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors requests its State delegation, the Legislature, and the Administration to:

- Support methods that would provide long-term funding for county pesticide regulatory activities.
- Support the preemptive status of state pesticide laws and authority provided to the Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) and California Agricultural Commissioners.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

During the 2014 Legislative Session, the budget-trailer bill (Chapter 741, Statues of 2003; SB 1049) intent language indicates that the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) should fund County Agricultural Commissioners' local pesticide regulatory programs with $22 million annually. The Legislature failed to appropriate adequate funding to DPR to meet this level. Approximately $15 million in County general funds in California are contributed per fiscal year in order to maintain the integrity and quality of the pesticide regulatory system Californians have grown to expect.

CONTACT

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REGIONAL COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECTS – FEDERAL AUTHORITY FOR CALIFORNIA

Principle	
Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection	
Strategy	**Target**
Advocacy	Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Our coast provides enormous recreational and economic benefits and houses an immense range of ecological resources. However, the California Coast is under severe threat from:

- Coastal erosion
- Storm damage
- Coastal environmental impacts
- Sea level rise

These threats not only impact the ecological, recreational and economic threats to the coast, but the ability to maintain navigation channels as well. Regional Sediment Management solutions to these threats include:

- Recognizing coastal sediment as a natural resource
- Maintaining and enhancing the natural sand (sediment) supply on the coast
- Ensuring regular small-harbor dredging and improving the beneficial reuse of sediment (i.e., use of dredged sand from harbors)
- Linking coastal sand needs with availability
- Undertaking beach nourishment projects and considering other innovative technologies to maintain our coastal beaches

With the exception of harbor dredging, there are no specific Federal Authorities in place designed to fund Regional Sediment Management Projects that can result in a systems approach to a sustainable and resilient California Coast. Over the past eight years, nine separate regions along the California Coast have prepared or are preparing Regional Sediment Management Plans that define appropriate projects and policies to address regional challenges. As a result, California is ready to act.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☐Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action:

Establish Federal Authority that is consistent with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) mission of coastal risk reduction, ecosystem restoration and navigation, and that will fund Regional Sediment Management projects on the California Coast. The purpose of the Federal Authority will be to:

- Implement coastal projects that restore, maintain, and enhance the natural flow of sediments to the coast.
- Ensure regular small-harbor dredging.
- Improve beneficial use of sediment from dredging operations.
- Link coastal sand needs with availability.
- Implement beach nourishment and consider the use of innovative technologies to maintain California's coastal beaches.
- Implement coastal wetland and coastal dune restoration projects.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The 1,100 mile California Coast is one of the most prized natural resources in the nation. It provides enormous recreational and economic benefits and includes an extensive array of ecological resources. However, this vital resource is under constant threat from upland and coastal development, ocean pollution, rising sea-levels, increasingly frequent intense coastal storms, and a reduction in the natural sediment supply. To address these threats, Coastal Regional Sediment Management Plans funded through the USACE and cost shared with the State have resulted in a comprehensive and integrated approach for resolving coastal issues in California.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The total projected cost to implement the BEACON Plan is $175M over 20 to 30 years.

CONTACT

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RESOURCE RECOVERY PROJECT

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County of Santa Barbara, in collaboration with the cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Solvang and Buellton, are pursuing the development of the Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project. This facility is projected to be publically owned and privately operated by contract on the County owned and operated Tajiguas Landfill. All waste currently buried at this public landfill would now be processed first, taking out recyclables to be sold, and organics to be further processed into biogas and digestate. This facility would provide a 20-year waste management system increasing the region's recycling rate, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and generating green energy.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☒Funding Request ☒Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action:

Santa Barbara County, along with the four partnering cities, has been pursuing this project as an environmentally beneficial alternative to landfilling of our municipal solid waste. Costs for this facility range from $100 to $120 million dollars. In order to limit financial impact to the ratepayer the County is looking for funding or other resources to support the development of this important project.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The Resource Recovery Project would have several sustainable and beneficial impacts:

- Providing a comprehensive and flexible 20 year solid waste management solution for the region
- Increasing the amount of material recycled in our region
- Providing a local source of green energy
- Eliminating future greenhouse gases generated by the landfill

Helps the County achieve State mandates on waste diversion (75% by 2020 – AB 341), greenhouse gas reduction (1990 levels achieved by 2020 – AB 32), and green energy production (33% renewable energy by 2020 – SB X1 2).

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The estimated capital cost of the project is approximately $100 to $120 million. The project will be financed through a tipping fee at the facility. This cost will then be passed onto the ratepayers in their monthly bills. The costs for a project that includes a MRF and AD Facility are comparable to the alternatives available to the affected communities (exportation to another facility or expansion of the existing landfill). Any external resources that can be provided will assist in the financial feasibility of the project.

CONTACT

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Terri Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

SEISMIC MONITORING

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The California Integrated Seismic Network is a *collaborative* effort, founded in 2000, to *integrate* existing, separate California earthquake monitoring networks into a single seismic monitoring system. The CISN provides the organizational framework to coordinate these earthquake-monitoring operations. The CISN constitutes the California region within Advanced National Seismic System (ANSS). Santa Barbara County has recently added 7 vault installations contributing towards CISN and looks to implement the beta platform for ShakeAlert which provides Earthquake Early Warning System capabilities. Santa Barbara County Emergency Management Director Ryan Rockabrand currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the CISN Advisory Committee and 1st District Supervisor Salud Carbajal serves on the California Seismic Safety Commission. More information on CISN is available at www.cisn.org.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☒Funding Request ☒Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action: The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors requests funding, legislative and advocacy support for the continued development of CISN. This support will augment the core members which include the California Geological Survey, U.C. Berkeley Seismological Laboratory, Caltech Seismological Laboratory, Menlo Park USGS, Pasadena USGS, USGS National Strong Motion Project and contributing members including the University of California, Santa Barbara; University of California, San Diego; University of Nevada, Reno; University of Washington; California Department of Water Resources; Lawrence Livermore National Lab; and Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Contribute towards the operation of a *reliable* and *robust* statewide system to record earthquake ground motions over the *relevant range of frequencies and shaking levels*. To distribute information about earthquakes *rapidly* after their occurrence for emergency response and public information. Lastly, to create an *easily accessible archive* of California earthquake data for engineering and seismological research, including waveform data and derived products.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The cost of short-term and long-term solutions for CISN include costs for design and engineering, preparing and filing permit applications, monitoring associated vault installations, conducting public outreach, and preparing notification protocols. The total project costs associated with implementing short-term installations statewide of approximately $20 million with a sustained annual cost of approximately $16 million. The United States Geological Survey in conjunction with Caltech has provided a roadmap in the form of an implementation plan outlining these costs in detail. (http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2014/1097/pdf/ofr2014-1097.pdf)

On December 16, 2014, President Obama signed into a law a $1.1 trillion spending bill. Prior to the signing, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Burbank, released a joint statement that $5 million has been allocated to support the continued development of the USGS/Caltech earthquake early warning system. In 2013, California legislators passed a bill asking officials to set up a seismic early warning system. The bill was approved by the Governor however; no funding was attached to the bill. The state has until January 2016 to get funding in place.

CONTACT

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SUPPORT FOR WASTE RECOVERY AND REDUCTION PROGRAMS & FACILITIES

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

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

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

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

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy:

☒Funding Request ☒Legislative Proposal ☒Targeted Advocacy

Action:

The County requests that its delegation actively support: 1) funding opportunities such as grant programs or other funding mechanisms related to implementing new waste recovery programs and facilities and 2) existing and new legislation that will help local governments sustainably and cost effectively manage solid waste, such as HHW, including mandated EPR programs, for individual products or groups of products.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

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

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

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

CONTACT

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Terri Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDINGS

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☒Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☐Targeted Advocacy

Action:

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Santa Barbara Building

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

Lompoc Building

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

Carpinteria Building

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

Santa Barbara Building

The County has estimated the cost of renovation to be approximately $800,000, which includes:

1) **Seismic Safety**: This includes seismic retrofitting, foundation stabilization, and deteriorated wood framing components. Total cost estimated for this work is $300,000.
2) **Electrical Systems**: This includes main panel, subpanel upgrades, internal wiring systems, and aging light fixtures. Total cost estimated for this work is $200,000.
3) **Energy**: This includes water distribution systems, HVAC, utility regulation equipment, and window upgrades. Total cost estimated for this work is $300,000.

Lompoc Building

The County has estimated the cost for restoration to be $700,000, which includes:

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

Carpinteria Building

The County has estimated cost for restoration to be $900,000, which includes:

1. **Architectural**: This section includes exiting, fire protection, accessibility for the disabled and other life-safety related projects; roofing, replacement of doors and windows, and related buildings systems upgrades. Federal Share request is $400,000.
2. **Hazardous Materials**: This section includes removal of lead based paints and asbestos materials. Federal Share request is $300,000.
3. **Seismic Safety.** The main spaces and bell tower are in need of seismic stabilization and the building in general requires seismic retrofitting to attach roof, wall, and foundation systems for movement during an earthquake event. Federal Share request is $200,000.

CONTACT

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WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

Principle	
Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection	
Strategy	**Target**
Funding	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

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

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

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Strategy: ☒Funding Request ☐Legislative Proposal ☐Targeted Advocacy

Action:

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

CONTACT

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

CALIFORNIA

Appendix

County at a Glance

The People (U.S. Census Bureau)

Population: (2014 estimate) 440,668

Ethnicity: (2014 estimate)

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

Age: (2014 estimate)

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

The Cities

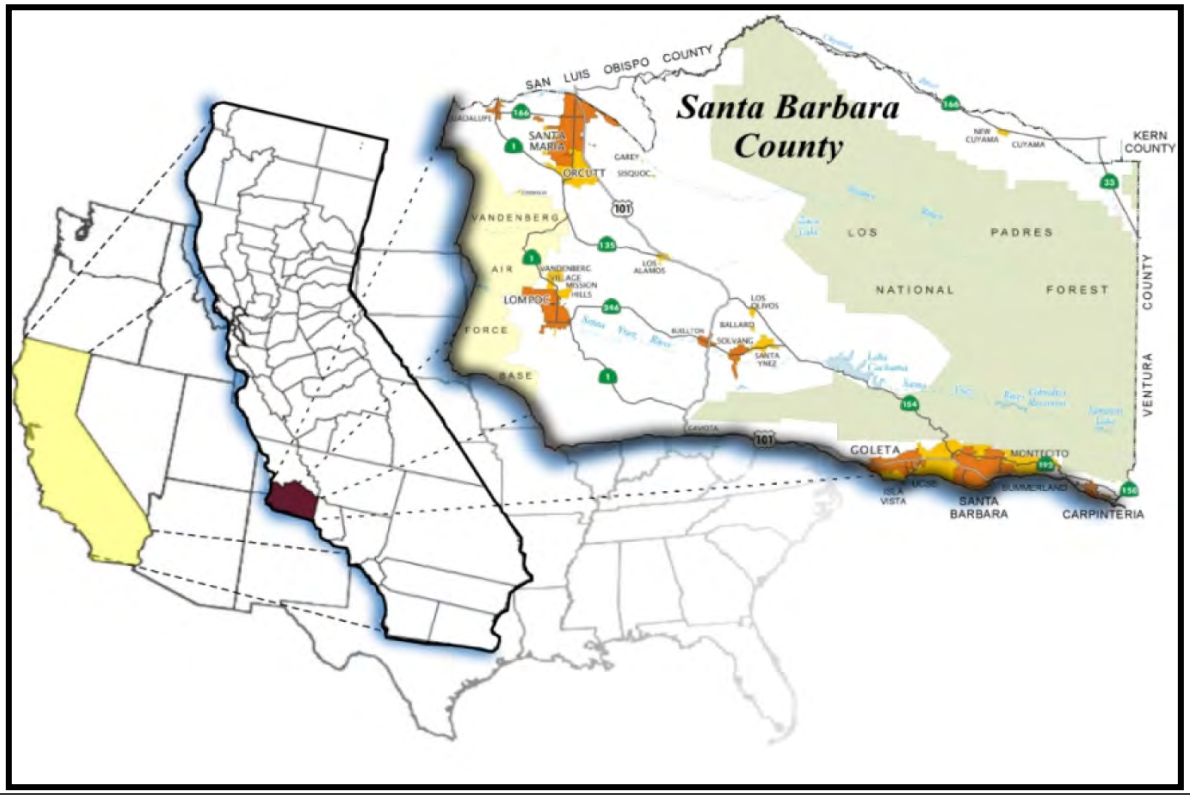
- **Buellton**
- **Carpinteria**
- **Goleta**
- **Guadalupe**
- **Lompoc**
- **Santa Barbara**
- **Santa Maria**
- **Solvang**

The Community

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

The Land

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



Santa Barbara County

Federal Officials	State Officials
President Barack Hussein Obama II, 44th President of the US *whitehouse.gov* Bio - Previous occupation: US Senator. Elected in 2008. **Key Issues: Revitalizing the economy, healthcare, US global leadership and homeland security.** **United States Senator Barbara Boxer, 114th Congress** *boxer.senate.gov* Bio - Previous occupation: Politician-10 years as member of the US House of Representatives. Elected to Senate in 1993. Committee assignments include Commerce, Science and Technology, Environment and Public Works (Chair), Foreign Relations and Ethics. **Key Issues: Public education and after school programs, affordable health care and patient bill of rights and environmental issues including safe drinking water.** **United States Senator Dianne Feinstein, 114th Congress** *feinstein.senate.gov/public* Bio - Previous occupation: Politician- Member Board of Supervisors and Mayor, San Francisco. Elected to Senate in 1992. Committee assignments include Appropriations, Intelligence (Chair), Judiciary, and Rules & Administration. **Key Issues- crime victims' rights, healthcare, economy, national security/homeland security, environmental issues including water supply and agriculture and education.** **Congresswoman Lois Capps, 24th District** *capps.house.gov* Bio - Previous occupation: Nurse, educator. Elected to Congress in 1998. Committee assignments include Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Natural Resources Committee. **Key Issues: Budget, education, energy and environmental issues, public health, immigration, gas prices and health care issues.**	**Governor Jerry Brown, 39th Governor** *gov.ca.gov* Bio - Previous occupation: Elected Governor of California in 2010, elected California Attorney General in 2006, elected Mayor of Oakland in 1998 and reelected in 2002, elected Governor of California in 1974 and reelected in 1978, elected California Secretary of State in 1970. **Key issues- jobs for California's future, education, budget , environment, clean energy jobs plan, pension reform, water for the 21st century, and fighting to protect civil rights.** **California State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th District** *sd19.senate.ca.gov* Bio – Previous occupation: Deputy District Attorney, CA State Assemblymember elected to State Senate in 2012. **Key Issues: Reproductive health, spousal support, economic and wage equality.** **California State Assemblyman Katcho Archadjian, 35th District** *arc.asm.ca.gov/member/AD35* Bio - Previous occupation: Business owner, elected County Supervisor in 1998, appointed to California Coastal Commission in 2006, Elected CA Assemblymember in 2010. **Key Issues: Health care, public safety, community improvement, fiscal reform and education.** **California State Assemblyman Das Williams, 37th District** *asmdc.org/members/a37* Bio- Previous occupation: CA State Assemblymember, City Councilmember, Educator, and Legislative Aide. **Key issues: State budget, higher education improvement, fiscal issues and off-shore oil drilling.**

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
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