

TABLE OF CONTENTS

About Santa Barbara County Legislative Program Committee

Legislative Program Committee Principles

2017 Legislative Planks Preparation:

Principle	Plank	Notes
Job Growth and Economic Vitality	Marketplace Equity and Consumer Protection	Update
Fiscal Stability	Pesticide Law Enforcement Activities	Update
Inter-Agency Collaboration	Funding for Exclusion and Early Pest Detection Programs Against High-Risk Pests Invasive Species Program Funding	Update
Local Control	Land Use: Enforcement Fines for Land Use Violations	Update
	Telecommunications Legislation	Update
Health and Human Services	Health in Our Community	Update
Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection	Agriculture/Williamson Act Subvention	Update
	Energy and Climate Action	Update
	Historic Santa Barbara County Courthouse	Update
	Oil Research and Infrastructure Oil & Gas Infrastructure Safety and Compliance (Renamed)	Update

MARKETPLACE EQUITY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Principle	
Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection Job Growth and Economic Vitality	
Strategy	Target
Funding Legislative	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

REQUESTED ACTION

- Support legislation that preserves and enhances funding resources for weights and measures programs at the state (DMS) and local (Sealer) level for consumer protection.
- Encourage the use of state general funds for the Division of Measurement Standards.
- Support legislation which assures clear labeling and accuracy of the net quantity of package packaged products to promote value comparison and to ensure the consumer receives the correct product and the quantity of product for which they pay.
- Oppose legislation that would exempt certain allow for industry self-certification of 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 or computed by Point of Sale systems.
- 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

Cathleen M. Fisher, Agricultural Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, (805) 681-5600
Joseph Toney, Deputy County Executive Officer, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

PESTICIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

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

REQUESTED ACTION

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

~~During the 2014 Legislative Session, the budget trailer bill (Chapter 741, Statutes of 2003; SB 1049) intent language indicates that the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) should fund County Agricultural Commissioners' local pesticide regulatory programs with \$22 million annually. The Legislature failed to appropriate adequate funding to DPR to meet this level. 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. Long-term stable funding is needed from legislative and state budgetary proposals through the pesticide mill fee that would sufficiently cover county general fund costs for pesticide regulatory activities.~~

CONTACT

Cathleen M. Fisher, Agricultural Commissioner, Department of Agriculture (805) 681-5600
Joseph Toney, Deputy County Executive Officer, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

~~FUNDING FOR EXCLUSION AND INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM FUNDING~~

Principle	
Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection Inter-Agency Collaboration	
Strategy	Target
Funding	Fed/State

~~EARLY PEST DETECTION PROGRAMS AGAINST HIGH RISK PESTS~~

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 25,569,001 total 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~~ are routinely introduced and detected in California that threaten agriculture and the environment. Continued funding of Pest Exclusion, Pest Detection ~~trapping~~ 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.~~

REQUESTED ACTION

- 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.
- 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~~ legislation and/or state and federal programs that provide for effective pest management and eradication activities.
- Provide local flexibility to enhance the abilities of Agricultural Commissioner's ability Commissioners to respond to pest emergencies and high priority local pest exclusion pathways.
- Support budgetary efforts to restore funding for agricultural border stations.
- Support research on invasive species pathways as well as funding mechanisms to close potential pathways.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

CONTACT

Cathleen M. Fisher, Agricultural Commissioner. Department of Agriculture, (805)681-5600.
Joseph Toney, Deputy County Executive Officer, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

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

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

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

REQUESTED 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/zoning ordinances~~. For one-time violations ~~where a permit is available~~, the County requests that maximum fines that could be imposed be set at ~~the discretion of the local agency, and up to ten times the maximum significantly higher levels than currently allowed by State code. The County would choose an actual fine amount of permit fees allowable under the agency's adopted fee schedules. Where a permit is not available~~ appropriate for the ~~offending activity, the fines should be set at no less than \$1,000 per violation, with a~~ and would not automatically use the 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, zoning ordinances.~~ Increased penalties for one-time violations would be a greater disincentive and promote greater compliance with County ~~ordinances, zoning regulations.~~ This would ~~help to 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

Glenn S. Russell, PhD., Director, Planning and Development Department, (805) 568-2085
Joseph Toney, Deputy County Executive Officer, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

TELECOMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION

Principle	
Local Control	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Federal/Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

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

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

REQUESTED ACTION

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~~ federal and state law that infringe upon the authority of local governments to regulate the placement, construction, and modification of telecommunications towers and other personal wireless service facilities on the basis of the health and environmental effects of these facilities. 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 proposed projects under CEQA to address siting and design options to minimize visual and site disturbance impacts and protect a high quality visual environment. ~~Santa Barbara- The 2016-17NACo American County Platform and Resolutions supports the 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 need to be concerned about retaining authority as trustees of public property and as protectors of public safety and welfare, to retain authority over telecommunication facilities. NACO's platform states, The 1996 Telecommunications Act acknowledges the balance among federal, primarily through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and state and local authority. NACO opposes any actions that Counties have an obligation to their constituents to ensure that the public health, safety, and welfare are not endangered would undermine this shared responsibility and any federal or otherwise compromised by the construction, modification, or installation of wireless communications facilities. Santa Barbara County shares state preemption of counties' traditional powers in these concerns and NACO's advocacy position areas."~~

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

CONTACT

Glenn Russell, Ph.D., Director, Planning and Development, (805) 568-2085
Joseph Toney, Deputy County Executive Officer, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

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>

HEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

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

REQUESTED ACTION

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, [mental health](#), and ensure access to needed health care.

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

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

There is no immediate or additional cost incurred directly.

CONTACT

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

| [Alice Gleghorn, Ph.D., Director, Behavioral Wellness, \(805\)568-5233](#)

Joseph Toney, Deputy County Executive Officer, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

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~~2015 gross production was valued at \$1.547 billion. This is a \$5310 million ~~(3.71%) increase~~(.7%) decrease in gross value when compared with the ~~2013~~2014 figures and is the ~~ninth~~tenth year in a row that agriculture has surpassed the one billion dollar benchmark. The County is the second largest producer in the state for broccoli and cauliflower as well as having a high production of strawberries, wine grapes, lettuce, and other produce. Farming and ranching operations are also one of the most important industries and economic drivers in the County.

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.

REQUESTED ACTION

[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

Cathleen M. Fisher, Agricultural Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, (805)681-5600
Joseph Toney, Deputy County Executive Officer, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

ENERGY AND CLIMATE **ACTION**

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

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

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

REQUESTED ACTION

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors County requests support from its delegation to:

- Identify funding opportunities for local and regional energy and climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives, including alternative transportation, energy efficiency, water efficiency, distributed clean energy, and climate change adaptation planning;
- Support more funding for local and regional energy and climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives from Cap and Trade auction revenues and other State programs;
- Support California Public Utility Commission regulatory actions that are favorable to local energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives and Community Choice Energy programs;
- Support federal actions associated with overcoming barriers for Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing;

- Support legislation that sets future State emission targets;
- Advocate for and seek legislation and funding to support County participation in emerging and mature renewable energy development programs, projects and infrastructure; and
- Identify, evaluate and advocate for changes to state and federal regulatory requirements that create unnecessary and/or unintended barriers to implementation of renewable energy programs and projects.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

CONTACT

George Chapjian, Director, Community Services Department ~~Director~~, (805)568-2467
Glenn S. Russell, Ph.D., Director, Planning & Development. (805)568-2085

Joseph Toney, Deputy County Executive Officer, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

HISTORIC SANTA BARBARA COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

REQUESTED ACTION

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The County has estimated the cost of renovationlife-safety, conservation, preservation and restoration projects to be approximately ~~\$40~~55 million, which includes:

- ADA upgrades ~~including lift installations~~shallow ramps, elevator replacements, restroom upgrade, handrail and signage installation (~~\$12~~2,235,000)
- ~~Architectural/Life-Safety~~ upgrades including installation of exit sign, fire rated doors and related hardware, fire alarm and fire sprinkler system; (~~\$6,000,000~~)
- Architectural Conservation: stone and cast stone restoration, leather and furniture restoration, painted ceiling restoration, draperies and textile restoration, ~~insulation, restroom addition, roof tile wrought-iron, ceramic tiles and downspout repair~~ (~~\$22~~general plaster repairs (\$25,000,000))
- Structural upgrades ~~including structural analysis and~~ retrofitting and stabilization of structural non-bearing elements (~~\$12~~2,775,000)
- Mechanical upgrades to existing heating and plumbing systems (\$6,475,000)
- Electrical upgrades including replacement of circuitry and re-wiring of building (~~\$2~~elements (\$3,760,000))
- Hazardous material abatement including asbestos ~~and~~ lead paint abatement, and ~~termite inspection report~~organic material destroying organisms (\$4,600,000)
- Exterior modifications including repair of existing sidewalks, curbs and gutters and ~~enhanced~~hard/soft landscaping (~~\$3,118~~elements (\$4,000,000))

CONTACT

Matt Pontes, Director, General Services (805)560-1011

Joseph Toney, Deputy County Executive Officer, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

OIL RESEARCH AND GAS INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

REQUESTED ACTION

- Seek legislation that ~~would incentivize~~ incentivizes and/or ~~require~~ requires private oil & gas operating companies to repair/replace aging infrastructure including pipelines and tanks. Also include requirements for the use of best available safety-related technologies, with the intent of reducing the frequency and volume of upset events ~~resulting that result~~ in environmental damage. (~~funding~~ Funding for improvements would be provided by the affected company).₂
- Seek legislation that ~~would provide~~ provides local jurisdictions with increased regulatory authority and enforcement capability to oversee inspection and maintenance activities of existing/future oil & gas infrastructure.
- Seek legislation allowing for stronger enforcement actions, including increased penalties, to be imposed by the land use authority for oil & gas operators that are clearly in violation of permits and related entitlements.
- 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 public health and the ecologically sensitive habitats of Santa Barbara (including ~~both~~ terrestrial and marine environments). Increase oil & gas operators' compliance with environmental and health-protective permit requirements.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

CONTACT

Glenn Russell, Ph.D., Director, Planning and Development, (805)568-2085
Joseph Toney, Deputy County Executive Officer, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400