2013

County of Santa Barbara

Legislative Platform

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

CALIFORNIA

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

CALIFORNIA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Dear Reader,

The 2013 Santa Barbara County Legislative Platform (hereafter "platform") identifies the funding, legislative and policy priorities of the Board of Supervisors. Guided by legislative principles, the 2013 platform continues the focus begun last year on improving the under-performing local job market and the need for the public sector to increase efficiency and effectiveness of its service delivery. This year's platform contains both broad policy goals as well as specific legislative and funding proposals. The Legislative Program Committee of the Board will monitor the progress of implementing the platform and consider any additional opportunities to achieve the legislative principles throughout 2013.

Santa Barbara County provides many public services on behalf of the State of California and the federal government. For many residents, the County is the most likely to be the provider of roads, public safety, health and human services. We don't deliver these services in isolation. Funding choices, program rules and regulations and broader policy decisions made in Sacramento or Washington directly affect residents of Santa Barbara County. Local governments, particularly counties, rely heavily on strong collaborative relationships with state and federal policymakers.

As counties continue to align limited resources to meet the greatest needs, Santa Barbara County's legislative initiatives will include working directly with the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) in securing required ongoing funding for the realignment of public safety. Additional relief from onerous and unfunded state mandates and state and federal program funding caps must also be addressed. The County will continue to work closely with both CSAC and the National Association of Counties (NACo) to effectively communicate the impact of budget balancing proposals, yet offer other options to continue to allow the County the ability to provide direct services, targeted programs and the essential capital infrastructure improvements local governments deliver exceptionally well.

As the County implements the 2013 platform, the Board of Supervisors and County staff wish to extend their appreciation for the assistance received from our federal and state delegations, governmental agencies, and the National Association of Counties and California State Association of Counties. Their ongoing commitment to work with Santa Barbara County on the unique issues facing our residents and their offering of constructive solutions on legislative matters is much appreciated. We look forward to continued collaboration in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Salud Carbajal
Chair, Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara

Chandra L. Wallar
County Executive Officer
County of Santa Barbara

FEDERAL PRIORITIES AT A GLANCE

Funding Requests

- Federal Transportation - Regional
- Goleta Beach County Park
- Historic Santa Barbara County Courthouse
- Multimodal Transportation
- Parks/Open Space
- Resource Recover Project
- Rural Road Transportation
- Santa Barbara Health & Human Services Campus Improvements
- Veterans Memorial Buildings
- Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization

Targeted Advocacy

- 2012 Farm Bill & Disease Management
- Air Quality Marine Vessel Emissions
- Disaster Preparedness/Bioterrorism
- Economic Enhancement/Revenue Diversification
- Firefighters Assistance Grant
- Funding for Exclusion and Early Pest Detection Programs Against High Risk Pests
- Homelessness
- *Lake Cachuma*
- Lower Mission Creek
- Public Safety
- Safety Net Preservation
- Senior Services – Older Americans Act Reauthorization
- Social Services TANF Reauthorization
- Telecommunications Legislation
- Tribal Gaming Compacts & Land Use

STATE PRIORITIES AT A GLANCE

Funding Requests

- County Library Services and Capital
- Goleta Beach County Park
- Parks/Open Space
- Safety Improvements Public Beach Access
- Santa Barbara Health & Human Services Campus Improvements

Proposed Legislation

- Cachuma Lake – Boater Safety and Enforcement Financial Aid
- District Attorney Legislative Enhancements

Targeted Advocacy

- Agriculture/Williamson Act Subvention Funding
- Child Care
- Economic Enhancement/Revenue Diversification
- Funding for Exclusion and Early Pest Detection Programs Against High Risk Pests
- Highway 154 Safety Improvements
- Homelessness
- Land Use: Housing Element Regional Housing Needs Assessment
- Preservation of Mobile Homes/Affordable Housing Rent Control
- Public Safety
- Safety Net Preservation
- Social Services Child Welfare Services
- Social Services In-Home Supportive Services - Funding
- State Children's Health Insurance Program
- State Social Services Funding
- Tribal Gaming Compacts & Land Use
- Violation Fines

2013 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/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/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), the 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; food stamps and unemployment assistance and workforce development. The County supports collaboration between the federal, state and local governments in the delivery and funding of such services. The County opposes the further erosion in federal and state funding of these vital services.

- **COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY:** Support efforts to foster communitywide sustainability by promoting economic stability and environmental 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. These collective efforts aim to engender healthy communities by balancing social well-being, economic prosperity, and environmental responsibility.

Funding Requests

COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES AND CAPITAL

Funding Requests
State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County of Santa Barbara funds Library services and operations for 15 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, Solvang, Santa Ynez and Los Olivos.

Zone 2: Lompoc. Services provided to the cities and unincorporated areas located within or in close proximity to Buellton, 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, 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).

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 $2.5M annually, for library services and operations countywide. These limited funds have caused hours of operations at our library facilities to decrease over the last few years. The cost to maintain library operating hours, replace materials, books, and technology far exceeds our current ability to provide funding. The County seeks additional annually funding, to allow for replacement of out dated equipment, furnishings, technology and materials and increase library hours of operation.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

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

CONTACT

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FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION – REGIONAL

Funding Requests
Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Highway 101 Lane Regional Widening Project

As the No. 1 Regional funding priority for the County, the "Highway 101 Lane Regional Widening Project" will increase U.S. Highway 101 from 4 to 6 lanes by adding High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes between the Cities of Carpinteria and Santa Barbara to improve safety, reduce traffic congestion and match the 6 lane highway south of Carpinteria and north of Santa Barbara. US 101 is one of two north-south highways in California that connect the Los Angeles basin, with a population of 13 million, and the greater San Francisco Bay Area, with a population of 7 million. The other north-south highway, Interstate 5, is periodically closed due to inclement weather and US 101 serves as the primary north-south route in California during those periods. The corridor provides access from Central Coast agricultural operations to markets around the country. US 101 also provides critical access to Vandenberg Air Force Base in central Santa Barbara County. The entire project corridor is within the Santa Barbara urbanized area that includes the University of California at Santa Barbara, defense-related businesses, and hundreds of businesses related to the tourism industry. On a daily basis, commuters from neighboring Ventura County, interregional truck traffic, and tourists contribute to the facility's average daily traffic of 90,000 vehicles per day, exceeding the capacity of the four-lane facility for hours at a time, bringing this 10 mile segment of highway to a crawl. Upon completion of the project, the corridor will be a part of a continuous 40 mile, 6-lane facility, extending from the City of Ventura in Ventura County to the City of Goleta in Santa Barbara County. The corridor will include 16 miles of continuous HOV lanes. This 10 mile segment, and an adjacent 6 mile segment to the south at the Ventura\Santa Barbara County line that will be constructed in 2011, will be the first HOV lanes on the Central Coast of California.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COSTS TO THE GOVERNMENT

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

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

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

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GOLETA BEACH COUNTY PARK

Funding Requests
State/Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Goleta Beach County Park is a 29-acre park located in the unincorporated area of Goleta near the University of California at Santa Barbara. With over 1.5 million visitors a year Goleta Beach attracts the most visitors of all the County's 23 parks. Several major storms have eroded the beach at the park, resulting in the loss of coastal recreation and other park amenities. A significant segment of the California Coastal Trail and major utility lines are threatened by continued erosion. The County adopted a long-term solution in July 2010, Goleta Beach 2.0, which will relocate threatened infrastructure, restore a beach environment at the park's western end, and expand recreational, cultural, and interpretive programming.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The Park includes a 1,400 foot pier, boat launch and storage, safe swimming beach, restaurant and snack bar, three sets of restrooms, picnic and barbeque facilities, play equipment, parking, and coastal recreation amenities for persons with disabilities. In response to prior year storm events, emergency rock revetments were constructed and the beach nourished and temporarily residual by depositing sand dredged from local streams and Santa Barbara Harbor onto the beach in order to continue to maintain the park as a resource.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The cost of short-term and long-term solutions to protect the park could include costs for design and engineering, preparing and filing permit applications, monitoring associated field conditions, conducting public outreach, and preparing environmental documents. The total project cost associated with implementing of the long-term option is approximately $5 million of which $3.5 million is actual construction. The United States Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service has provided a $1.5 million California Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) Grant for the preparation of environmental documents, design and engineering, and permit applications.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

Construction of Goleta Beach 2.0 involves interaction and/or request for funding with such agencies as the Army Corp of Engineers, California Coastal Commission, Regional Water Quality Control Board, State Lands Commission and BEACON. The County requests funding support in the amount of $3.5 million for the costs associated with construction of the Goleta Beach 2.0 project.

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HISTORIC SANTA BARBARA COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Funding Requests
Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

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

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

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

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

CONTACT

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MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION

Funding Requests
Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Santa Barbara County recognizes the importance of facilitating the movement of all modes of transportation through our many unique communities. Transportation corridors that accommodate pedestrians, bicycles, motorized vehicles and transit are imperative to promote a unified sense of community, improve public health and welfare, streamline circulation, and stimulate economic development throughout the County. Funding sources dedicated to enhance the transportation experience for all modes must be preserved and continue to be available to local communities to ensure their future viability.

Santa Barbara County has three unique multimodal projects under development in need of funding:

1) Hollister Avenue/State Street Corridor Improvements
   This project will improve the flow of multimodal transportation through one of the highest volume corridors in the region. The corridor starts as State Street on the east end and turns into Hollister Avenue as it runs west. It is a critical travel path for both residential and commercial traffic from within the immediate vicinity as well as those passing through the area to and from other regions. It parallels US 101 and serves as an alternate route during community emergencies and high flow times. While there are widening projects on US 101 south of this location to accommodate future traffic, there are no current plans to widen US 101 through this area due to physical constraints. As a result, Hollister Avenue and State Street must be improved to support future demand for both local travelers and those moving through the region.

   Improvements consist of widening the corridor for 1.25 miles from State Highway 154 west to San Antonio Road. The project will add pedestrian boulevards, Class 2 bike lanes, bus accommodation, transportation enhancements, and replacement of a railroad overhead crossing. The Union Pacific Railroad Bridge over Hollister Ave near Modoc Road will be replaced with a longer structure to accommodate the widening. This includes replacement of an aging railroad bridge and possibly increasing capacity by constructing a siding for Union Pacific Railroad, Amtrak, and has potential for other commuter rail in the future ($5M for Design and Environmental Review).

2) Old Town Orcutt Corridor Improvement Project
   This project provides a unique opportunity to use existing right of way to improve the flow of pedestrian and bicycle circulation through this historic business district. Existing road right of way is approximately 80 feet throughout this area. Approximately 40 feet is needed for vehicles. This leaves room to improve parking, bicycle flow, and pedestrian access. An Old Town Orcutt Plan was developed and approved. A demonstration project was constructed to implement the plan at one intersection in the downtown area. The project provided ADA compliant pedestrian access and created a unified theme for the downtown area. Future work includes constructing similar improvements along Clark Avenue to create a unified Old Town Orcutt Corridor friendly to all modes of transportation. ($2M for Design and Construction).

3) Santa Claus Lane Circulation Improvement Project
   Santa Claus Lane lies immediately adjacent to one of the most popular beaches in Santa Barbara County. Millions of visitors park along the lane and cross the railroad tracks to enjoy a wide sandy beach with beginner-friendly surf breaks and temperate weather. A small business district within walking distance houses rental equipment shops, restaurants, event centers, and other local businesses. This project will formalize parking and provide ADA compliant pedestrian facilities to access the beach and businesses. It will improve traffic circulation and create a unified, cohesive theme and flow to the area. ($2.5M for Construction).

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

These projects provide the following public benefits: promote a unified sense of community; improve public health and welfare, especially among our senior and school age populations; promote economic development; improve air quality; and reduce traffic congestion.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Hollister Avenue Corridor Improvements and Railroad Bridge Project: $5M for design and environmental work; total construction cost is estimated to be $28M. A project study report is nearing completion using SAFETEA-LU funds.

Old Town Orcutt Corridor Improvement Project: $2M for construction. Local match funds are available in the form of design work and potentially for some portion of construction.

Santa Claus Lane Circulation Improvement Project: $2.5M for construction. Design is being completed using local funds.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

Participation in funding and any advances to streamlining federal design and environmental approval processes.

CONTACT

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PARKS/OPEN SPACE

Funding Requests
State/Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Santa Barbara County Parks provides services to approximately 5.6 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 2013 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 $3.2 Million to update the management plan ($50,000), implement public access including land acquisition and vehicle improvements to the trail-head and pedestrian trail ($2.8 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 and permit applications.

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 $50,000 California Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) Grant to facilitate securing access rights.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

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

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

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

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RESOURCE RECOVERY PROJECT

Funding Requests
Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Resource Recovery Project is a promising new way for Santa Barbara County to further enhance the region's recycling programs while reducing our community's carbon footprint.

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

For the past five years, County Staff has been looking to dramatically increase recycling and convert "leftover" mixed municipal solid waste (through non-combustion thermal, chemical or biological means) into green energy.
The County has determined a preferred vendor for this project that uses both a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) Facility. The MRF will enable us to divert recyclables that are still ending up at our landfill. This MRF will also allow us to sort out our organics, which is the common cause of methane gas generation in landfills worldwide. Once the organic waste is separated from our waste, we can speed up the decomposition process of this material in an air-tight container. This is called anaerobic digestion or "AD." This process captures all of the methane potential of our organic material, generates green energy, and greatly reduces our future greenhouse gas impact. The organics processed by the AD facility are composted into a product that can be used as a soil amendment. The MRF and AD Facility working together are projected to reduce the amount of waste currently landfilled at Tajiguas by 60%.

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 20).

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The estimated capital cost of the project is $60 million. The project will be privately 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 if not lower than its alternatives.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

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. In order to limit financial impact to the ratepayer the County is requesting a grant equaling 25% of capital costs ($15 million).

CONTACT

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RURAL ROAD TRANSPORTATION

Funding Requests
Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

MAP-21 recognized the need to maintain rural bridges by preserving the off-system bridge program. Maintenance and safety improvements on rural roads are also critical needs for Santa Barbara County that are becoming more difficult to address with decreasing revenues and the distribution of federal funding based on population alone. The County maintains more than 1,600 lane miles of public roads, and over half of these roads are rural. Legislation often focuses on increasing capacity at the price of preserving and maintaining existing facilities. Funding for specific, targeted projects and improvements on rural roads, as well as funding for programs and projects that help maintain the current road system using pavement preservation techniques will help ensure that the County's infrastructure continues to provide safety and access to the travelling public.

1) Refugio Road Safety Improvements
This project, located on Refugio Road along the Gaviota Coast, proposes to realign and widen Refugio Road for seven miles starting at Highway 101 and continuing northerly to the summit of the Santa Ynez Mountains. This picturesque portion of Refugio Road provides access to the historic Reagan Ranch and attracts many recreation enthusiasts entering Los Padres National Forest to enjoy a country drive with majestic views, or seeking hiking and biking trails. The project will provide for safer access for bicyclists and equestrians by widening the existing roadway to include two lanes of travel, improving shoulders, increasing sight distances, stabilizing slopes, and improving drainage.

The County previously received funding for a project study report under SAFETEA-LU that is nearing completion. In addition, FHWA funds were received to explore replacement of low water crossings at seven locations along the road. The crossings impede the natural flow of the creek and block passage of coastal steelhead/rainbow trout, a federally protected endangered species. ($3M for design and Phase I Construction: Mile Post 0-3)

2) Purisima Road Widening Improvements
This project would widen Purisima Road from State Highway 1 to State Highway 246 to allow for 5-foot Class II bike lanes adjacent to 11 to 12-foot travel lanes. It would increase safety for bicyclists and encourage regional bicycle travel as a viable form of alternative transportation. The project would include widening approximately 3 miles of roadway on both sides, realigning the roadway and constructing drainage improvements. These improvements will mesh with two proposed regional projects to serve those traveling within and through the region: 1) Caltrans improvements on State Route 246 that include regional bicycle lanes and intersection improvements at the boundary of this project, and 2) a proposed space museum that visitors could access using this route. This area is in close proximity to Vandenberg Air Force Base and to La Purisima Mission, a State Park. ($4.8M)

3) Rural Roads Preservation Program
The County has been a leader in pavement preservation since 1994, which uses a Road Maintenance Annual Plan (RdMAP) process to index, evaluate, and prioritize work on the road system to preserve it at the highest condition level possible given limited resources. Funding for this program would allow a complete evaluation of the rural road network to provide the most current information and targeted treatment to the highest priority rural roads in the mountainous areas near the Los Padres National Forest. ($3M)

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

These projects improve access to rural areas of the county for those who live there and those visiting national forests, tourist destinations, and recreational areas. The projects improve mobility and reduce maintenance and safety liability.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Refugio Road Safety: $3M for design and Phase I Construction: Mile Post 0-3
Purisima Road Widening Improvements: $4.8M for design and construction

Rural Roads Preservation Program: $3M inventory, design and construction

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

Participation in funding and any advances to streamlining federal design and environmental approval processes.

CONTACT

Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, (805)568-3010
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PUBLIC BEACH ACCESS

Funding Requests
State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

The goals of the project follow:

- Ensure safe, legal public access across the railroad to the beach through construction of an at-grade railroad crossing;
- Construct needed public improvements (e.g., circulation improvements and aesthetic features) and provide amenities for beach users (e.g., parking; restroom, shower);
- Work with local constituents, residents and business owners to identify and provide for the operational and maintenance needs of the recreational and commercial areas; and
- Improve vehicle and bicycle circulation, vehicle parking, pedestrian crosswalks and streetscape (e.g., sidewalks, landscaping, and lighting) for the commercial area.

Progress on this project to date includes:

- Public acquisition of beach parcels for the at-grade railroad crossing;
- Initiating the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) permit process for the at-grade railroad crossing;
- Outreach to residents and commercial property owners; and
- Preparing conceptual street improvement, at-grade railroad crossing, parking and landscaping plans for the recreation and commercial areas.

The next phase consists of engineering design; environmental review, continued public outreach, PUC permit application, and local permit processing.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

Due to the complex nature of the project, including the creation of a new at-grade railroad crossing, streetscape, road and drainage improvements, associated engineering design, and local and state permits, it is estimated that the project will cost $6.9 million to implement. The initial $500,000 allocated to this effort (acquisition and preliminary planning) included the County's General Fund, local mitigation funds, as well as local and state grant funds. The anticipated need for 2013 includes $400,000 to finish the planning phase of the project, consisting of engineered designs and permitting efforts, including parking, at-grade railroad crossing, street improvements and visitor serving amenities.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests $400,000 to finish the planning/permitting phase of this project that is intended to provide for safe access to, and use of, this popular beach area. Other regulatory agencies that have permit authority over this proposed project may include the California Coastal Commission, California Public Utilities Commission and local regulatory agencies, including agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad.

CONTACT: Glenn Russell, Director, Planning and Development, (805)568-2084; Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

SANTA BARBARA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

Funding Requests
State/Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

Project cost is currently estimated at $1 million as follows:

Design and Project Management	$200,000
ADA Improvements	$500,000
Lighting Upgrades	$300,000

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

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

CONTACT

Director, General Services Department, (805)560-1011
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDINGS

Funding Requests
Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Santa Barbara Building

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

Lompoc Building

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

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

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 costs 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.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests assistance from its delegation to fund projects through Federal Funding opportunities.

CONTACT

Director, General Services, (805)560-1011
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Funding Requests
Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The national, publicly-financed Workforce Development/Workforce Investment system is in the process of being reauthorized and updated for the first time since 1998. This system, authorized by the Workforce Investment Act is a public/private partnership—with the County of Santa Barbara representing the public. The reauthorization is currently before Congress, and Santa Barbara County would like to build upon the best practices of the current system in order to continue to recover from the economic downturn of 2009, and produce better jobs for our citizens, and a stronger community.

During these difficult fiscal times, nationally, we are concerned that funding will be reduced; decision-making will be done at the national or state level—when it should be done at the local level; and, that local flexibility will suffer under new Federal or State mandated set-asides, requirements, priorities. In short, we want a locally-driven workforce system.

PUBLIC BENEFIT / IMPACT

As the publicly-funded workforce system, the community benefits from a well-trained, competitive workforce and a thriving business community. The workforce system also assists local Elected Officials, private foundations, community colleges and others in formulating their priorities for funding, training, and initiatives.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The current funding received is determined via national formula based on unemployment rates, numbers of people in poverty and other factors; with Santa Barbara County's combined WIA funded currently at $4,600,000. This is a decrease from the earlier days of the program—when, it should be noted, the unemployment rates and national economy were in much better shape than they are today. There is no General Fund cost (via a Match or other requirement) to Santa Barbara County in the administration/operation of the program.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

Governance:

- **Regionalization**. Provide incentives for regional collaborations—while, not undermining the foundation of "local control" or attempt to merge WIBs, which is a concession to the inability of the State to manage the program. Collaboration of WIBs that share common industry sectors should be rewarded with additional, new funding.
- **Oversight**. Strengthen the role of the local boards to convene and connect economic vitality, education, and workforce development (including the Wagner-Peyser programs).
- **Local Flexibility**. Retain local flexibility of the WIBs by encouraging the expanded use of "waivers" that foster innovation in program design, service delivery, and collaboration. Waivers that allow for greater use of the self-employment/entrepreneurial training options, enhanced services & collaborations with the private sector businesses, and university-generated start-up businesses should be encouraged.

Structure:

- **One-Stops**. Continue to support the One-Stop system as the *primary* deliverer of WIA services—while leaving the option open for WIBs to work with other delivery systems (e.g., community colleges) on an as-needed basis, and when economically advantageous. Consistent with a re-definition of "Mandated Partners" require that the Mandated Partners not only co-locate at the One-Stops but also provide financial support for the "basic" operational costs.
- **Business Services**. Consistent with Business being recognized as an equal customer (along with job-seekers), allow WIBs increased flexibility in serving the business community—including allowing Dislocated Worker funding to be used for incumbent worker/up-grade training, as a deterrent to lay-offs (modeled after the California ETP program). Also, a new, separate funding stream should be created to fund Business Services (*separate* from the Rapid Response funding), including several categories of performance measurements. In addition, encourage the alignment of the Small Business Development Center programs, SBA loan programs, and incubator programs *under the WIBs oversight*.

- **Sequence of Services**. Relax requirements for the sequencing of "core", "intensive" and "training" services in order to allow job-seekers to receive the services they need as expeditiously as possible. As part of this relaxation, there must be WIB policies and guidelines around any exception to the basic triage delivery model.
- **Youth Councils**. Continue the Youth Councils, with the following modifications: greater flexibility by local WIBs on the membership; strong encouragement of youth as members of the council; expand the role of the council as "conveners" of meetings, forums, conferences on youth issues; require an annual Work Plan and a Report of Accomplishments from the council to the WIB.

Accountability Measures:

- Add performance standards for Business Services to WIA performance measurements.
- Require an Annual Work Plan from the One-Stop Operator to the WIB; and an Annual "One-Stop Assessment" performed on behalf of the WIB to identify items for continuous improvement—and validate the continued use of the Operator.

Eligibility:

- Add additional funding to the WIA (out-of-school) Youth Program to target "transitional youth" who are 21-24 years old. There should be no income criteria associated with this group—but eligibility should be based upon documentation of local WIB defined "barriers." These funds and program design must focus on job skills acquisition, soft skills and job-keeping skills. These funds may also be used for OJT for transitional youth. The performance measurement associated with this new eligibility group, should be obtaining and retention in employment.
- Recognizing what is already occurring, the "Adult" and "Dislocated Worker" funding should be combined to serve one overall target group of "Adults." The combining of both funding streams should be a "local decision" and option that would be included in the local WIB Plan. [If the funding streams are combined, the funding could be used for incumbent worker training, as outlined above.]

Funding & Formula:

- Re-establish a separate funding stream for Summer Youth Jobs Programs. Similar to ARRA, this funding would recognize that because of year-around school calendars, summer is not restricted to the traditional May thru August months. WIBs would need to designate, in their Plan to the State, which months they will use Summer Youth Jobs funding for (Note: there can be more than one "summer" period within a LWIA). Also, again as in ARRA, summer jobs programs will be exempt from the established 10 Elements of WIA Youth Programs. And, eligibility will be broaden to include up to 30% of participates NOT meeting any income criteria.
- Small WIB Flexibility/Waivers. Because we believe in the value of all WIBs, and the local point-of-view that even the smallest WIBs provide, we believe there should be additional flexibilities—and Rule Waivers—available to those WIBs with total (all programs) allocations of $5 million or less. Targeted Small WIB waivers may include: greater flexibility to transfer funds between adult funding streams (not Youth); greater ability to use Rapid Response funds for program activities; and, modification of Federal (and State) imposed "training mandates" or requirements. *One size does not fit all.*

CONTACT

Director, Department of Social Services; (805)681-4451; Ray McDonald, Director, WIB
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

Proposed Legislation

CACHUMA LAKE–BOATER SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT FINANCIAL AID

Proposed Legislation
State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County of Santa Barbara enforces safe boating protocol, as well as enforcing the rules and regulations on Cachuma Lake for over 50 years. The California State Department of Boating and Water Ways has a financial aid program to help offset the costs of boating safety and enforcement (Boating Safety and Enforcement Financial Aid Program). Currently, there are 38 counties participating in this program. However, due to program and legal constraints, any new counties wishing to sign up for the program are put on a waiting list. The current program will allow any county to receive up to 20% of the program funds, which is allowing one county to monopolize the majority of funding. The current program has $10.6 million per year in funding, of which over $2.1 million go to one county agency, leaving the other 37 counties to split the remaining $8.5 million, for an average of $229,000 each.

The Boating Safety and Enforcement (BS&E) Financial Aid Program was established in 1969 by Assembly Bill 1827, which became Section 663.7 of the Harbors and Navigation Code (H&N) once enacted. Section 6593 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) was developed in 2002 to further implement this program. The purpose of the BS&E Financial Aid Program is to provide State financial aid to local governments. The program is intended to augment existing local resources for boating safety and enforcement activities.

PUBLIC BENEFIT / IMPACT

Cachuma Lake serves over 600,000 visitors each year and the majority of visitors use the lake for recreational boating. Access to the boating and safety enforcement financial aid program will help the county offset the costs of providing safety and enforcement on Cachuma Lake.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

While the County does currently receive funding for safety and enforcement from recreational boat licensing fees collected by the state, any costs occurred above this amount is done so at the expense of the County.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

That the County work with appropriate counties and stakeholders to pursue legislation or other administrative remedies to adjust requirements for the boating and safety enforcement financial aid program to allow more counties access to the funding and also allow for more even distributions of the funds available.

CONTACT:

Herman Parker, Director, Community Services Department, (805)568-2467
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEGISLATIVE ENHANCEMENTS

Proposed Legislation
State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Santa Barbara County District Attorney (DA) promotes crime prevention, protects the rights, and ensures the safety of the residents of Santa Barbara County through criminal prosecution and enforcement remedies. Violent crimes are prosecuted with intensity and focus; a core focus of the DA is to break the cycle of crime and hold offenders accountable. The DA is committed to achieving justice for the most vulnerable residents and providing innovative and efficient solutions to protect victims. The mission of the DA is to pursue truth and justice by employing the highest ethical standards in vigorously prosecuting the guilty, protecting the innocent and preventing crime. Ensuring adequate legislative reforms for various initiatives is a top priority for the DA in its mission to prosecute offenders and ensure safety and justice for all.

AB 765

During the 2011 Legislative Session, AB 765 was introduced by Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian on behalf of the Santa Barbara County District Attorney, Joyce E. Dudley. The bill passed unanimously in the State Assembly but was held in the Senate Public Safety Committee. This bill will be reintroduced in the 2013 session.

Assembly Bill 765 would protect victims of rape by clarifying that a perpetrator who induces a victim into sexual activity by impersonation is guilty of felony rape by fraud. Under existing law, felony rape can be prosecuted in cases where a victim submitted to sexual activity "under the belief that the person committing the act is the victim's spouse and this belief is induced by any artifice, pretense, or concealment practiced by the accused, with intent to induce the belief." AB 765 would close the loophole in the law and protect victims of rape by making it clear that a perpetrator who impersonates a victim's spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend in order to commit a sexual act is guilty of felony rape by fraud.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County will work in collaboration with the County's legislative delegation, law enforcement agencies and the California District Attorneys Association to support passage of AB 765 in the 2013 Legislative Session. The County's legislative delegation should support other legislative efforts to strengthen laws regarding sexual crimes.

CONTACT

Joyce Dudley, District Attorney, (805)568-2308
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

Targeted Advocacy

2012 FARM BILL & DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Targeted Advocacy
Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

In 2008 Congress adopted the Food, Conservation and Energy act of 2008 (Farm Bill) (P.L. 110-146) containing important provisions for ongoing efforts to combat pests and diseases in the U.S. Section 10201 of the Farm bill explicitly mandates funding "shall (be made) available to carry out this section," that includes "(b) Early plant pest detection and surveillance…(c) Threat Identification and Mitigation Program…(and)(d) Specialty Crop Certification and Risk Management Systems." Congress authorized a total $407 million in the 10-year agriculture budget baseline for this program.

Upon receiving an apportionment each year from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), USDA is required to make funds available from the Commodity Credit Corporation in the following amounts for respective fiscal years:

- $12 million in FY 2009
- $45 million in FY 2010 and
- $50 million in FY 2011 and thereafter

Congress recognized the challenge and appropriately addressed the issue with targeted funding toward identified high-risk pest pathways. The statute is clear with regard to funding priorities. The funds are to be used for early plant pest detection and surveillance activities that will likely:

- Prevent the introduction and establishment of plant pests and
- Provide a comprehensive approach to compliment Federal detection efforts.

Further the statute is clear with regard to special funding considerations (based on pathways). The Secretary of Agriculture shall provide funds to a state department of agriculture if the Secretary determines that the state department of agriculture is in a state that has a high risk of being affected by one or more plant pests or diseases taking into consideration the following important priorities:

- The number of international ports of entry in the state
- The volume of international passenger and cargo entry into the state
- The geographic location of the state and if the location or types of agricultural commodities produced in the state are conducive to agricultural pests and diseases
- Crop diversity or natural resources (including unique plant species) of the state; and
- Whether the Secretary has determined that an agricultural pest or disease in the state is a federal concern.

2012 Farm Bill: the funds in the 2008 farm bill are targeted and critical and need to be reauthorized in the 2012 Farm Bill. It is widely accepted that additional resources are needed to safeguard America's natural environment and food and fiber systems from the potential destruction caused by invasive pests and diseases. The lesson States have learned from implementing Section 10201 of the 2008 Farm bill is there is a great need to use consistent federal funding to support their efforts not just to discover new pests and diseases that impact agriculture but to

1. Mitigate pests offshore and eliminate pathways of introduction
2. Prepare for the potential introduction of certain pests and
3. Rapidly and effectively respond to introductions when they occur.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Now more than ever, due to increased international trade and travel early pest detection is important to prevent significant economic and environmental damage throughout the U.S. Once a pest becomes established or spreads significantly, the cost to eradicate, suppress, or manage it can be in the millions of dollars not to mention the economic costs in lost crops and damage to native ecosystems. A 1997 General Accounting Office report estimated the national cost to taxpayers from invasive species was close to $41 billion annually in lost production,

prevention, and control expenses. In 1998, the impact due to invasive weeds alone was estimated at about $15 billion.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

To date, funding from Section 10201 of the Farm Bill has provided California a total of:

Fiscal Year	Total Amount Available	Total to California
2009	$12,000,000	$3,067,226
2010	$45,000,000	$19,159,358
2011	$50,000,000	$14,007,044
2012	$50,000,000	TBD

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

- The County respectfully requests its State delegation, the Legislature and the Administration to Support the passage of a 2012 Farm Bill that would continue the provisions and level of funding provided in Section 10201 of P.L. 111-246 (Farm Bill) beyond FY 2012 in the manner and purposes set forth by the statute.
- With budget sequestration imminent and farm policy priorities under review, strong consideration should be given to consistently fund pest and disease management programs by up to $615 million over the ten year budget baseline.

CONTACT

Cathleen M. Fisher, Agricultural Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, (805) 681-5600
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

AGRICULTURE/WILLIAMSON ACT SUBVENTION FUNDING

Targeted Advocacy
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. There are at least four aspects to California's agricultural economy that contributes to its success: its natural resources (land, sunny climate and water resources), its access to markets, its hard-working labor force, and the entrepreneurial nature of California's farm sector.

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

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

The FY 2009-10 state budget reduced the Williamson Act Subvention payments from $39 million to $1,000, effectively suspending the payments to local governments during an already difficult economic time. Subsequently, the FY 2010-11 state budget appropriated only $10 million to subvention payments, which will result in decreased funding to the County. Historically, the County had received an annual subvention payment from the State of approximately $600,000. The subvention payments ended in FY 2011-12.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The $10 million Williamson Act appropriation in the FY 2010-11 state budget was a decrease from past fiscal years.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

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

CONTACT

Cathleen M. Fisher, Agricultural Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, (805) 681-5600
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

AIR QUALITY MARINE VESSEL EMISSIONS

Targeted Advocacy
Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

1. Efforts to reduce emission from existing engines;
2. Reduce ship speeds down to 12 knots (current speed is approximately 20 knots)
3. Air quality impacts associated with the existing shipping lanes in the Channel; and
4. Air quality benefits associated with implementing a vessel speed reductions plan in the Channel.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

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

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

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

CONTACT

Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

CHILD CARE

Targeted Advocacy
State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

As the California legislature responds to the state's continuing budget deficits, cuts have been made virtually across the board, but subsidized child care services and supports funded through the Department of Education's Child Development Division have been 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. The County is advocating against further cuts to child care, and for the restoration of funding.

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

Santa Barbara County receives just over $16 million in state child care contracts, after losing approximately $1.5 million for FY 12-13.

Those families on CalWORKs who cannot work due to the reduction in child care benefits could end up back on aid receiving a cash grant, food stamps, Medi-Cal insurance, and impacts the local economy. This action shifts costs from a relatively reasonable cost for keeping people employed to a more expensive model in which the State and Counties pay for people to remain on public assistance. 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.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation advocate at the State level to reinstate funding for child care subsidies and support services.

CONTACT

Director, Department of Social Services, (805)681-4451
Ben Romo, Executive Director, First 5-Santa Barbara County, (805)884-8087
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS/ BIOTERRORISM FUNDING

Targeted Advocacy
Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County's Public Health Department (PHD) has received funding for public health preparedness and response to emergencies and different types of disasters that affect health from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). This has enabled the County to improve its disaster response infrastructure for H1N1 pandemics, bioterrorism incidents and a variety of other disasters that impact the public's health. In order to meet federal and state benchmarks, PHD has created public health plans, placed emergency supplies in various geographic regions of our county, and trained staff and healthcare providers in a coordinated response to disasters. CDC disaster preparedness funding and State general fund pandemic preparedness funding are critical to maintain planning and vaccination efforts. The current state of readiness cannot be sustained without continued funding for nominal staffing levels, equipment, and systems maintenance.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

PHD has established infrastructure to exchange critical health data; conducted training on disease investigation, pandemic influenza, bioterrorism agents, emergency response procedures and disaster management command structures; written plans and protocol for response, and implemented standardized drill and exercise procedures. The needs of vulnerable populations and medically fragile is of critical concern. A reduction in funding will result in less frequent or intensive training and drilling exercises, deferred purchase and maintenance of critical medical surge equipment and decreased spending on communication.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

PHD anticipates that it requires $400,000 per year in public health funds and $275,000 in pass through of hospital preparedness funds in order to maintain communication systems, disaster caches, and personnel training, build strong healthcare partnership and exercises to insure ongoing preparedness for bioterrorism, pandemics and public health emergencies/disasters. Additional funds would be required if there is a need for a public health response similar to the H1N1 pandemic mass vaccination effort.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation support enhancing, or at a minimum, maintaining, the level of funding allocated to the CDC specifically for this purpose within the federal budget.

CONTACT

Takashi Wada, M.D., Director, Public Health Department, (805)681-5102
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT/ REVENUE DIVERSIFICATION

Targeted Advocacy
State/Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT / IMPACT

Facilitating local job growth, 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 THE GOVERNMENT

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

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

Engage 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
- Facilitating hard and soft infrastructure development to support economic enhancements
- Technology infrastructure improvements
- University/Governmental Research
- Clean energy

CONTACT

Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

FIREFIGHTERS ASSISTANCE GRANT

Targeted Advocacy
Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

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

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

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

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation actively seek:

a. The continued provision of the AFG Program and other public safety grant programs beyond;
b. The continuance of the SCG Program again in 2012;
c. Enhancing the level of funding;
d. Expanding the categories for reimbursement and funding;
e. Full reimbursement of matching costs for the construction of essential public safety facilities and public safety personnel training programs; and
f. Ensuring timely reimbursement to local government.

CONTACT

Michael W. Dyer, Fire Chief, County Fire, (805)681-5552
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

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

Targeted Advocacy
State/Federal

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 $43.5 billion for their output in 2011
- California agriculture revenues increased 15 percent for 2011 from the 2010 income level of $38 billion
- California represents 11.9 percent of total U.S. agricultural revenue
- There are approximately 81,500 farms and ranches in California with 25.4 million acres of farmland in production
- 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

California County Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers promote and protect the agricultural industry, the environment and the public in the State of California. 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. Early Pest Detection and Surveillance programs prevent the establishment and spread of plant pests that endanger agriculture, the environment and the economy of the State and Santa Barbara County.

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.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The county respectfully requests its State delegation, the Legislature, and the Administration to support federal and state legislative and administrative proposals that provide resources for the state and counties to perform early pest detection and surveillance activities.

CONTACT

Cathleen M. Fisher, Agricultural Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, (805) 681-5600
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HIGHWAY 154 SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Targeted Advocacy
State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

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

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT / IMPACT

The safety of Highway 154 has been of significant regional concern to jurisdictions and public safety agencies throughout Santa Barbara County for decades. The County of Santa Barbara and its regional partners are continuing to pursue all avenues available to improve the safety of this unique rural 2 lane roadway. Pursuit of administrative remedies, physical improvements, large truck advisories, educational signage and legislation to restrict truck traffic by size and weight as well as actions to impose restrictions on the transport of hazardous materials along the portions of the highway which are within the watershed of Lake Cachuma will all serve to greatly enhance overall public safety of residents and travelers as well as ensure protection of a critical water source to the South Coast and reinforce to all that Highway 101 is the primary commerce and transportation route within Santa Barbara County.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The cost to the State government to provide for truck traffic restrictions is minimal.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

That the County of Santa Barbara work with State delegation, California Highway Patrol, and the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments to pursue all remedies administrative and legislative, local, regional and statewide to enhance the safety of Highway 154 including but not limited to full restrictions on truck traffic by size and weight, truck advisories, and enhanced law enforcement and public education activities.

In addition, maintain ongoing strong support for any grant funding available for public education, studies and capital improvements for safety on Highway 154 and support for continued strong enforcement of all available traffic safety laws along 154.

CONTACT

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Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

HOMELESSNESS

Targeted Advocacy
State/Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT / IMPACT

Each year more than 6,300 people in Santa Barbara experience homelessness; on any given night, over 4,000 people are homeless. Of the people who are homeless, 10-15% or as many as 945 people are chronically homeless. Santa Barbara County's chronically homeless population is composed of single adults and families with children who have either been continuously homeless for a year or more or have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years, have a disabling condition and have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g. living on the streets) or in an emergency shelter during that time. Many of these individuals have serious mental illnesses; two-thirds of all people with serious mental illness have been homeless or have been at risk of being homeless at some point in their lives.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

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 eradicated through the provision of permanent supportive housing. Studies have demonstrated that providing people with permanent supportive housing is the most humane and cost-effective way to end chronic homelessness.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its 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:

- Federal delegation support for full funding of authorized programs under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, including the provision of additional flexibility in the use of Federal funds on the local level to address housing for the homeless;
- Federal and state delegation support for funding of mental health treatment services given the nexus between homelessness and mental illness.

CONTACT

Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400
Herman Parker, Director, Community Services Department, (805) 568-2467
Director, Department of Social Services, (805)681-4451

LAKE CACHUMA

Targeted Advocacy
Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

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

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests its Congressional delegation support new appropriations requests as follows: New water treatment plant and related systems- $3.1 million; Fire flow and water distribution system improvements - $1.5 million; Sewage treatment - $3 million and Live Oak ADA showers, restrooms, and electrical upgrades - $200,000.

PROJECT	TOTAL COST	AMOUNT FUNDED	SOURCE OF AMOUNT FUNDED***	UNFUNDED AMOUNT	STRATEGY TO SECURE FUNDING**
BIOLOGICAL OPINION / SURCHARGE INITIATED PROJECTS					
New Water Treatment Plant and Related Systems*	$4,602,800	$2,537,500	BOR/SBC	$2,065,300	BOR ($2,065,300)
New Fire Suppression Water Storage Reservoir * ARRA	$1,051,056	$1,051,056	ARRA	$0	**COMPLETE**
Existing Water Reservoir Re-roofing*	$460,321	$460,321	BOR	$0	Funding Secured
Fire Flow and Water Distribution Improvements	$2,000,000	$0	BOR/SBC	$2,000,000	BOR ($1,000,000) – SBC ($1,000,000)
Sewer Lift Stations	$1,138,500	$1,138,500	BOR/SBC	$0	**COMPLETE**
Sewage Treatment	$3,506,279	$504,000	-	$3,002,279	BOR ($3,002,279)
Construction Road Repair & Access Improvements	$1,000,000	$0	-	$1,000,000	BOR ($500,000) – SBC ($500,000)
Boat Launch Ramp	$2,626,140	$2,626,140	DB&W	$0	**COMPLETE**
Boat Ramp Extension	$1,000,000	$0	DB&W	$1,000,000	DB&W $1.0 M
TOTAL	**$17,385,096**	**$8,317,517**	-	**$9,067,579**	
OTHER CAPITAL FACILITIES PROJECTS					
Live Oak ADA Showers, Restrooms & Electrical Upgrades	$1,980,000	$1,009,967	BOR/OGALS/SBC	$970,033	BOR ($201,764) - SBC ($768,269)
Mohawk Bathrooms ADA*	$569,094	$284,547	BOR/SBC/ ARRA	$0	**COMPLETE**
TOTAL	**$2,549,094**	**$1,294,514**	-	**$970,033**	
GRAND TOTAL FOR ALL PROJECTS	**$19,934,190**	**$9,612,031**	-	**$10,037,612**	

CONTACT

Herman Parker, Director, Community Services Department, (805)568-2467
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

LAND USE: HOUSING ELEMENT REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Targeted Advocacy
State/Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

State laws governing community planning require the county to prepare and adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan, and require the general plan to include specified, mandatory elements, including a housing element. The law requires the housing element to contain, among other items, an assessment of housing needs; and an inventory of resources, constraints, and land suitable for meeting of those needs. Finally, the law requires the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to review the housing element to determine whether the element substantially complies with applicable housing laws.

Santa Barbara County recognizes that the availability of housing is absolutely critical for families, businesses and communities. The County has policies in place that help to assure that housing is available for all. The County understands the statewide importance of housing and that the Legislature has directed the State HCD to review housing elements. However, the current requirements for meeting housing needs and of having the State HCD review the County's housing element for compliance with state laws could be improved. Numerous bills previously proposed in the legislature are evidence that multiple agencies continue to struggle with processes and mandates.

Some of these bills address a very specific item, such as removing the requirement that the County can obtain RHNA credit for a transfer of housing funds to a city, only if the funding is proportional across all housing income levels. Another example is a bill that would have required densities less than those specified by existing law to be deemed adequate to accommodate housing for lower income households, if certain circumstances are met. Finally, some bills are broader based and seek to refine, clarify or simplify the HCD review of housing elements.

PUBLIC BENEFIT / IMPACT

A legislative remedy that provides the County more options in meeting its housing needs or simplifies the housing element review process, while still ensuring County housing needs are being met, will have a beneficial impact on the provision of affordable housing in the County.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

No direct costs to government are anticipated.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests its delegation support legislation that would provide the County with more options in meeting its housing needs; or that would simplify the housing element review process while still recognizing the important role that State HCD plays; and still ensuring County housing needs are being met.

CONTACT

Glenn Russell, Director, Planning and Development, (805)568-2084
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

LOWER MISSION CREEK

Targeted Advocacy
Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Lower Mission Creek Project is a Federal Project that started in the 1960's. Since then, the project was refined and ultimately completed a Feasibility Report and an EIS/EIR for the Project in 2001. Since 2001 the project received the necessary permits for the work and elements of the project have been started.

The Army Corp of Engineers recently completed the design of the project to a 60% level which allowed the Corps to complete and new cost estimate for the project. As such, the new cost of the project is over $80 Million. At that cost, the benefit/cost ratio makes the project ineligible for Corps Funding. One solution to that issue would be to redefine the Federal Project as a portion of the overall project that would allow a favorable economic standing and make that element eligible for Federal Funding.

Meanwhile, the balance of the project would be built in sections, as the City and County have progressed, using State Grant funds when available.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Mission Creek traverse through the heart of the City of Santa Barbara. Flooding impacts date back to the early 1900's and most recently the 1990's where the damage potential to public and private property realized. The Lower Mission Creek Project serves to reduce impacts to public infrastructure that are vital in emergency situations.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The Current Cost estimate exceeds $80 Million; however this is based on 60% plan completion. The cost of the project is generally planned to include State and Federal Funding. In the absence of this funding, completion of the project would slow and would be implemented as local Flood Control Funding is available.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

To be eligible for future federal funding, the request would be to have the Corps redefine the project to a selected portion that would meet cost / benefit requirement for Army Corps of Engineers participation.

CONTACT

Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, (805)568-3010
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

PRESERVATION OF MOBILE HOMES/AFFORDABLE HOUSING RENT CONTROL

Targeted Advocacy
State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

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

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

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

CONTACT

Director, General Services Department, (805)560-1011
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

PUBLIC SAFETY

Targeted Advocacy
State/Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT / IMPACT

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

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

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

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

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

CONTACT:

Sheriff Bill Brown, (805)681-4288; Joyce Dudley, District Attorney, (805)568-2308; Beverly Taylor, Chief Probation Officer, (805)882-3656; Rai Montes De Oca, Public Defender, (805)568-3499; Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office (805)568-3400

SAFETY NET PRESERVATION

Targeted Advocacy
State/Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

According to the 2010 Census, in Santa Barbara County, almost 74,000 people, or 18.0% of residents are living below the federal poverty level (up from 11.9% in 2007). There are approximately 21,000 or 22% of the County's children living in poverty (up from 13.5% in 2007). Our growing poverty rates reflect the impacts of a weak economy, the resulting Great Recession, a slow and prolonged recovery, and drastic cuts in health and human services programs at the State level. All of these factors have disproportionately affected low income seniors, children and families leaving their "basic" needs of food, shelter, personal and financial security, health and welfare at risk of being unmet 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. 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.

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 without health insurance 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 at 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, earnings and purchasing power of poor adults, poor health, increased crime, and broken down neighborhoods.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

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.

CONTACT

Director, Department of Social Services, (805)681-4451
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

SENIOR SERVICES–OLDER AMERICANS ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Targeted Advocacy
Federal

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. Presently there are over 54,000 seniors over the age of 65 within the County of Santa Barbara (13% 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.

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.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

That the County work with its legislative delegation and key representatives to support reauthorization of the Older Americans Act and increase funding 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.

CONTACT

Director, Department of Social Services, (805)681-4451
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

SOCIAL SERVICES CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

Targeted Advocacy
State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Governor eliminated $80 million from Child Welfare Services (CWS) in the FY 2009-10 state budget. The Legislature restored the funding in the FY 2010-11 state budget. On October 8, 2010, the Governor utilized his veto power and again unfunded the $80 million General Fund appropriation to CWS. Again in the State's 2011-12 budget the funding was not included. When lost federal matching funds are included, the total cut grows to $124 million. The impact to the County is $1 million.

These cuts exacerbate historic under funding to an antiquated Child Welfare Services (CWS) budgeting and funding methodology that was established in the mid 1980's. Since then, dramatic changes have impacted the workload demands of the current system. The SB 2030 Workload Study established minimum and optimal caseload standards in 2000, and subsequent legislation required the development of a plan to implement the findings of the study. However, budget constraints have since prevented the state from allocating sufficient funding to implement the study's recommendations. Additional mandates continue to tax social worker resources.

With increasing caseloads, decreased funding, and decreased staffing, the County's Department of Social Services' ability to meet mandates in serving children and families is threatened. The staffing pattern contributes to a vicious cycle of an overburdened system that cannot adequately protect the children that we serve while pushing counties to improve State and Federal outcome measures for children as set forth in AB636.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Reducing funding without eliminating any of the mandates that counties must meet passes the responsibility for providing services to the counties without providing adequate resources, policy direction, or priorities on how to implement cuts. This forces local child welfare agencies and county Board of Supervisors to make difficult decisions that will harm children. Further, without services and proactive intervention, the cycle of child abuse expands.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

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

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation seek to restore Child Welfare Services funding to pre FY 08/09 status during the State FY12/13 budget and explore the possibility of seeking options to relieve counties from mandates in FY 11/12 and FY 12/13 if funding is not restored.

CONTACT

Director, Department of Social Services, (805)681-4451
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

SOCIAL SERVICES IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES-FUNDING

Targeted Advocacy
State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program provides assistance to eligible low-income aged, blind and disabled individuals who are unable to remain safely in their own homes without this service. By providing assistance with daily tasks of living such as domestic/related chores and personal care services, IHSS maintains independence and quality of life while avoiding the more costly alternative of institutionalization.

Since 2009-10, the IHSS program has experienced significant budget-related changes intended to achieve state general fund savings. These program changes have included across-the-board and targeted reductions in service hours, reducing the number of people receiving IHSS services by tightening eligibility requirements, administrative reductions, a shift in county funding to a new Maintenance of Effort formula, and the mandated integration of the IHSS program into Medi-Cal managed care, via California's Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI). Pending federal approval CCI will be implemented in 2013 in eight pilot counties which do not include Santa Barbara County.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

IHSS is a critical program, preventing costly institutionalization and directly affecting the health and safety of its elderly and disabled recipients within our community. Few social services programs have had such an immediate, positive and profound effect on a person's quality of life as IHSS. Retaining independence allows low-income elderly and disabled to continue to participate in family and community life, without placing an undue financial burden on loved ones or on local government.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

IHSS is a social services model, supporting and monitoring the elderly and disabled in their homes thus delaying the onset of major medical issues. Program changes that reduce service hours and tighten eligibility may force many frail elderly and disabled residents into more costly institutionalization at the public's expense. The current average cost of care in a nursing home is $7,000 per month, whereas the average cost of care through IHSS is approximately $1,200 per month. Additionally, many IHSS recipients who lose hours of caregiver assistance will debilitate more rapidly and require increased medical care, which increases government health care costs and places a burden on local health care systems, such as Public Health Clinics.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

In order to preserve the safety net for Santa Barbara County's most vulnerable aged and disabled citizens, the County requests that its delegation: 1) advocate to oppose further reductions in service hours and tightening of eligibility requirements; 2) advocate to support an MOE proposal that protects the County and mitigates any adverse financial impact; and 3) oppose any move to IHSS managed care prior to the completion of the Dual Eligibles pilot project.

CONTACT

Director, Department of Social Services, (805)681-4451
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

SOCIAL SERVICES TANF REAUTHORIZATION

Targeted 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 proves 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.

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 Work Participation Rates (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.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

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 undue the damaging effects of the 2005 TANF Reauthorization changes to the 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.

CONTACT

Director, Department of Social Services, (805)681-4451
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

Targeted Advocacy
State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

With five years of public and private support, the Children's Health Initiative of Santa Barbara County (CHISB) decreased the percentage of uninsured children in the County by 94% between 2005 and 2009 (California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), UCLA 2005, 2009). As of April 2011, an additional 10,856 children were enrolled in public health insurance since CHISB Outreach, Enrollment, Retention and Utilization activities (OERU) began in 2006 coordinated through regional Children's Health Access Resource Teams and agency collaboration.

In 2005, UCLA estimated that there were 16,000 uninsured children in Santa Barbara County and by 2009; UCLA projected no more than 1,000 uninsured children. However, the CHIS data is only an approximation and based upon local Medi-Cal/Healthy Families enrollment rates and other County data, CHISB estimates there may be as many as 4,000 uninsured children in Santa Barbara County currently. The recent 2012—2013 California budget reductions and program changes affecting Medi-Cal and Healthy Families threaten to limit access to services with potentially fewer providers accepting the significantly reduced reimbursement rates. Santa Barbara County will be among the first group of counties to eliminate the Healthy Families insurance program and move children previously with Healthy Families into managed care Medi-Cal services in January 2013. As of August 2012, there were 10,924 children enrolled in Healthy Families in Santa Barbara County. This also reflects an increase of over 25% or 2,202 additional Healthy Families-enrolled children compared to the 8,722 children enrolled in September 2006 when the Children's Health Initiative of Santa Barbara County instituted its OERU activities.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Compared to children with health insurance, uninsured children are:

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

In addition, a community's high rate of un-insurance can adversely affect the overall health status of the community. For example, low immunization rates increase the vulnerability of entire communities to outbreaks of measles and influenza. Of all of the costs of providing uncompensated care to the uninsured, hospitals carry the bulk of the burden—approximately 63%. In addition, since 14% of all uncompensated care is provided to children 0-18, the hospitals are also carrying a large proportion of this burden, typically in their emergency departments.

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

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Currently, it is estimated that there are 1,000 children within the County that would qualify for Healthy Families. As of August 2012, the number of Santa Barbara County children enrolled in Healthy Families is 10,924, an increase of over 25% from the 8,722 children enrolled in Healthy Families in September 2006 when the Children's Health Initiative of Santa Barbara County (CHISB) instituted its Outreach, Enrollment, Retention and Utilization (OERU) activities. Faced with data indicating Santa Barbara County as having the largest percentage of uninsured children in California in 2001, the County formed a coalition of agencies (Regional Health Authority [now CenCal Health], First 5 Santa Barbara County, County Public Health Department, County Department of Social Services, Santa

Barbara County Education Office and several public and non-profit organizations) to increase the number of children with coverage and partnered to form the Children's Health Initiative of Santa Barbara County, and implemented a "Healthy Kids" Insurance Program to provide insurance for children from families having a family income between 250% and 300% of the federal poverty level (FPL), or for children who do not otherwise qualify for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families. The Board of Supervisors allocated $1 Million each year in the County's budgets beginning 2007-08 and continuing through the 2012-13 budget to increase the number of children that could receive Healthy Kids insurance. Funding from the federal and state governments would enhance local efforts to insure children. While the federal government would incur additional costs in enhancing CHIPRA funding, the costs are likely to be offset by the long-term cost advantages of ensuring children have access to health insurance and preventive health services prior to catastrophic health issues.

First 5 Santa Barbara County was informed in December 2008 that approximately 163,000 children would be disenrolled from the State program of Healthy Families given the State economic and budgetary challenges. The 58 First 5 Commissions throughout the State were asked to provide the State a proportional share of the cost of this program based on the number of newly enrolled children age 0-5 enrolled in Healthy Families in each county. For 2009-10, California First 5 pledged nearly half of its reserve to sustain Healthy Families through June 2010. Locally, First 5 Santa Barbara contributed $114,232.00. In 2010-11, California lawmakers funded the State portion of the Healthy Families insurance product in order to comply with Maintenance of Effort provisions of the federal Affordability and Care Act. In reviewing the 2012-13 State Budget Agreement, families will be experiencing greater hardships in relation to accessing health insurance coverage and treatment services, especially oral health services.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

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

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

CONTACT

Ben Romo, Executive Director, First 5-Santa Barbara County, (805)884-8087
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

STATE SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDING

Targeted Advocacy
State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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

The State does not plan to provide these resources in the foreseeable future. Although it has been mitigated up to now by DSS, the full impact will begin to negatively impact the Department's ability to deliver mandated services.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

As a result of the many years of withholding CODB and a compounding of the shortfall by adding Medi-Cal CODB withholding to the equation, it has eroded DSS's ability to maintain adequate staffing levels to meet client demand. Consequently, clients are experiencing longer wait times for accessing services and delays in eligibility determinations which has increased food insecurity, homelessness and delayed access to medical coverage. Staffing shortfalls also result in a delay in investigations which may results in individuals being left in an abusive or negligent situation.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The state's failure to fund actual county cost increases has led to a growing funding gap of nearly $1 billion annually. Freezing program funding also shifts costs to counties and increases the county share of program costs above statutory sharing ratios. Continued under-funding by the State has resulted in staffing decreases without a comparable decrease in State mandated programs. Should this continue it would mean a significant decrease in service delivery, create inefficiencies in performance and impact the ability to meet mandated timeframes for all programs while simultaneously exposing the county to increased liability particularly in CWS. Additionally, failure to meet mandated performance measures in programs may lead to fiscal sanctions being imposed by the Federal and State governments.

The Department estimates a $14.7 million funding gap for FY 12-13 due to costs of administering programs without corresponding increases in State funding. The Department has used reserves and deferred spending on building maintenance and other equipment upgrades to absorb the funding gap each year. While these strategies may temporarily close the gap, there are both short and long-term impacts to the Department's operations.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

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

CONTACT

Director, Department of Social Services, (805)681-4451
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

TELECOMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION

Targeted 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.

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

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

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

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

CONTACT

Glenn Russell, Director, Planning and Development, (805)568-2084
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

TRIBAL GAMING COMPACTS & LAND USE

Targeted Advocacy
State/Federal

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 which may create impacts to public health, safety or the environment.

The County of Santa Barbara recognizes that Indian Gaming in California is governed by a unique structure that combines federal, state, and tribal law. While the impacts of Indian 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) regarding Native Americans, 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.

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 THE GOVERNMENT

The County of Santa Barbara previously enjoyed a distribution from the SDF of approximately $1.4 million annually. During the 2011 State Budget reconciliation this number was reduced to approximately $730,000 to address impacts specifically related to gaming. 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.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

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.

CONTACT

Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

VIOLATION FINES

Targeted Advocacy
State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Enforcement procedures for violations of zoning and building ordinances are established by State law, including the maximum fines that counties may levy for violations of zoning and building regulations. These are specified at $100 per day for the first violation, $200 per day for the second violation and $500 per day for subsequent violations. However, some uses, such temporary special events, that are in violation of local zoning and building ordinances generate revenues that greatly exceed the enforcement fine. In these cases, the fine does not serve as a deterrent and is merely incorporated into the cost of doing business. The inability to effectively fine in these cases makes it extremely difficult to enforce regulations.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Zoning and building ordinances are hampered in their effectiveness if enforcement of the ordinances is weak or inconsequential. The public benefit that is intended through the adoption of any local ordinance would be enhanced and better assured through the ability to levy fines that are truly a deterrent to violations.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The cost to government would be reduced because less staff would be required to achieve the resolution of zoning violations.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County should pursue and/or support legislation that would: increase the maximum fines that are allowed to be levied by a local jurisdiction, to the point where the fines act as a deterrent; or allow local jurisdictions to establish their own fines concerning violations.

CONTACT

Glenn Russell, Director, Planning and Development, (805)568-2084
Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

Appendix

County at a Glance

The People

Population: (July 1, 2011) 425,840

Ethnicity: (2010)

- **53% White**
- **38% Hispanic**
- **3% Black**
- **6% Other**

Median Age: (2010)

- **25% under 18 years of age**
- **13% over 64 years of age**

The Cities

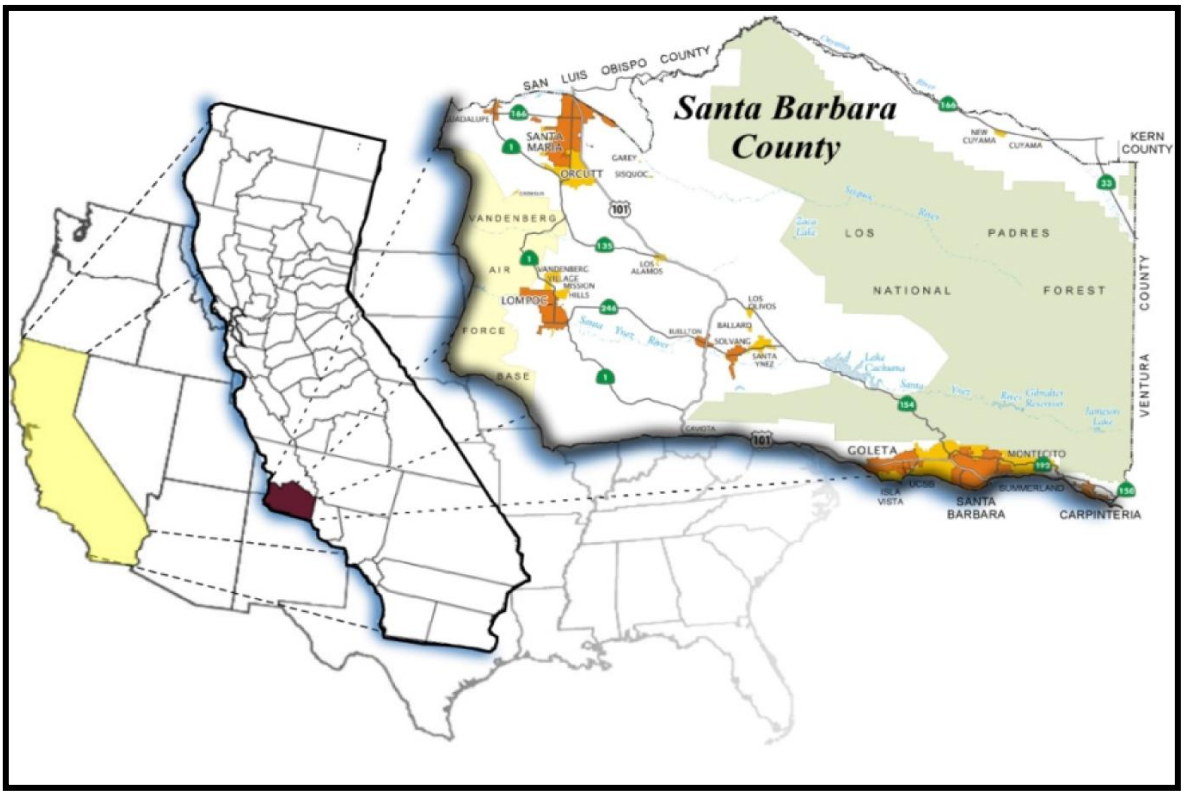
- **Buellton**
- **Carpinteria**
- **Goleta**
- **Guadalupe**
- **Lompoc**
- **Santa Barbara**
- **Santa Maria**
- **Solvang**

The Community

- **114 parks**
- **18 beaches**
- **16 open space preserves**
- **15 public libraries**
- **17 golf courses**
- **Civic Participation (November 6, 2012)**
  -Number of Precincts: 257
  -Number of Eligible Voters: 203,994

The Land

- **2,774 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

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,
113th 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,
113th 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.

State Officials

Governor Jerry Brown,
39th Governor
gov.ca.gov
Bio - Previous occupation: Elected Governor of California in 2010, elected California Attorney General in 2006, elected Mayor of Oakland in 1998 and reelected in 2002, elected Governor of California in 1974 and reelected in 1978, elected California Secretary of State in 1970.
Key issues- jobs for California's future, education, budget , environment, clean energy jobs plan, pension reform, water for the 21st century, and fighting to protect civil rights.

California State Senator 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,
33rd District
arc.asm.ca.gov/member/33
Bio - Previous occupation: Business owner, elected County Supervisor in 1998, appointed to California Coastal Commission in 2006, Elected CA Assemblymember in 2010.
Key Issues: Health care, public safety, community improvement, fiscal reform and education.

California State Assemblyman Das Williams,
35th District
asmdc.org/members/a35
Bio- Previous occupation: CA State Assemblymember, City Councilmember, Educator, and Legislative Aide.
Key issues: State budget, higher education improvement, fiscal issues and off-shore oil drilling.