

Legislative Principles

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

- *Efficient Service Delivery / Operations:* Support efforts to streamline processes and promote operational enhancements germane to a County department's mission and core services, and correspondingly, oppose legislation that creates undue fiscal and operational burdens on departments.
- *Fiscal Stability:* Support efforts to generate new intergovernmental revenue and/or enhance existing revenue/reimbursement levels and oppose the loss of, or redirecting of, existing revenue and/or the creation of additional unfunded mandates to the County.
- *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, the Kid's Network and other local and regional agencies. Collaborate with other institutions and entities on mutually beneficial issues such as protection of children, the elderly and other "at risk" populations while upholding the other 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.
- *Protection Of Safety Net Services:* Support efforts to maintain and enhance "safety net" services that protect the most vulnerable within a community, including, but not limited to, children, the elderly and other "at risk" populations. Such services in the area of health and human assistance include, but are not limited to, preventive and emergency health care services to the uninsured and underinsured; HIV/AIDS programs; maternal and children health; adult protective services; child welfare services; adoptions and foster care; food stamps and unemployment assistance and workforce development. The County supports collaboration between the federal, state and local governments in the delivery and funding of such services. The County opposes the further erosion in federal and state funding of these vital services.
- *Community Sustainability / Economic Stability:* Support efforts to foster communitywide sustainability by promoting economic stability and environmental stewardship through participation in the growing green economy. Continue to engage in related federal and state deliberations to ensure that local government receives the economic and financial benefits associated with new policies. Support efforts to catalyze community renewal, redevelopment and reinvestment, incubate and support innovative businesses, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, incentivize energy efficiency, water conservation, and the use of renewable energy. To maintain and protect rural resources, coastal areas, and bio-diversity, the County recognizes the need to promote mutually beneficial partnerships with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors across the region. These collective efforts aim to engender healthy communities by balancing social well-being, economic prosperity, and environmental responsibility.

County's Climate Change Guiding Principles

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

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

