

Governmental Advocates, Inc. (GA) has been pleased to represent the County of Santa Barbara (County) as professional legislative advocates before the Administration, Legislature and state agencies for the last sixteen years. As you know, we have had the pleasure of representing you since 1995 and have thoroughly enjoyed working closely with the Board of Supervisors as well as with the CEO's office.

Legislation that we worked on in 2011

In 2011-12 Legislative Session we have introduced five sponsored bills per the request of the Board. Those bills are:

- AB 412 by Assembly Member Das Williams which is the Maddy Fund bill
- AB 537 by Assembly Member Katcho Achadjian which is the Highway 154 bill
- AB 765 by Assembly Member Katcho Achadjian which is the sexual crimes bill
- AB 1141 by Assembly Member Katcho Achadjian which is the elections bill (this one is a spot bill, your elections officials are still working out the details of the best approach to saving the county money)
- AB 1356 by Assembly Member Mike Eng (D-LA) which is the Wine Tasting Room bill

One of our sponsored bills is AB 765 introduced by Assembly Member Katcho Achadjian on behalf of our DA, Joyce Dudley. This measure will allow the penal code to catch up with modern day life related to sexually violent crimes and properly prosecute offenders. This bill is currently pending action in the Senate Public Safety Committee expected this spring.

On behalf of the County we also introduced AB 537 authored by Assembly Member Das Williams and co-sponsored with SBCAG; this is related to the highway 154 issue. The bill was parked for this year while we continued to work with CHP and others to gather the necessary data to substantiate our claims. The current status is that we are working on a resolution in an attempt to get some necessary information to be able to move this issue at a later date.

Another bill introduced by the County is AB 1356 by Assembly Member Mike Eng (D-LA); this bill is an attempt to address the local issues related to wine tasting rooms and better regulation of them in our local communities. In an effort to get the best outcomes we have decided to park this bill for now to allow further discussion on this issue to ensure we have a strong and successful bill to move forward.

We have also successfully moved AB 412 by Assembly Member Das Williams through the Legislative process; the bill did become law in 2011. The bill received bi-partisan support and will bring the county \$600,000 per year to help keep our trauma system successfully in place.

We have been working with Senator Sam Blakeslee's office to get SB 106 introduced; this bill seeks to reimburse counties for the cost of special elections. The bill was

successful in the policy committee, however it was held on the Senate Suspense file this year.

Quagga Mussels/Zebra Mussels – while this continues to be part of the platform, there was not a formal bill introduced in 2011. We have begun meetings with our delegation on this issue and there seems to be some general interest in possibly pursuing a bill in 2012. We are continuing to work out the details and will keep you posted on the outcome.

Prior Years: Legislative and Funding Successes

Over the years, GA has been successful at obtaining millions of dollars for county specific programs at the same time we have successfully saved millions of dollars on behalf of the county. Over the past 16 years we have worked closely with your delegation, committee staff, the various Administrations and State Agencies in an effort to move your legislative program forward.

GA has worked closely over the last seven years in an effort to maintain your trauma system. We worked closely with your public health department in an effort to pass SB 635 by then Senator Dunn which allowed the county to include an additional fine and penalty on driving offenses to off-set your trauma system. We then worked on extending the sunset in SB 635 through the passage of AB 2265 and continue to work this year on AB 1900, both by Assembly Member Pedro Nava, to keep that funding in tact while the Board of Supervisors works towards supplanting that funding locally. We have also successfully worked to get AB 412 by Assembly Member Das Williams introduced. The bill is currently moving through the legislative process and has received bi-partisan support in both policy committees.

Additionally, we worked on trial court funding, as the Governor proposed to reduce the amount of state support for trial courts when he submitted his budget for fiscal year 1999-2000. The Governor's plan cut that amount in half, or by \$375,000. These funds were restored as part of the final budget agreement. GA successfully worked on additional measures to ensure the State's share of costs are met with regard to trial court funding.

SB 1187 (Maddy) (1996) This bill was introduced by us on behalf of the County. The bill provided revenues to coastal cities and counties from any new oil or gas development that is located under the city's or county's jurisdiction. SB 1187 provided 20% from new wells in existing leases for specific purposes, including mitigation of adverse environmental impacts. The bill was signed by the Governor and remained in effect until the sunset in 2002.

AB 838 (Longville) (1999) This bill resolved for the County, two state controller audit findings, related to the allocation of property tax revenues for the period of 7/1/95 – 6/30/98. As a result of our getting AB 838 signed into law, the County would not be required to repay approximately \$3.2 million in property tax funds. GA worked closely with Bob Geis' office in an effort to fix an issue brought up by the State Controller in an

audit which resulted in AB 838. The measure fixes two issues raised by the State Controller on the allocation of property tax revenues for the period 7-1-95 through 6-30-98. The State Controller made two findings, that Santa Barbara County overstated the Teeter Credit and recommended that the County General Fund should refund that amount. AB 838 provides for two clarifications relating to "The Cut-Off-Date" and "The School Credit." The two clarifications resolve fiscal questions of \$2,074,889 and \$1,119,244 for the County.

AB 612 (Jackson) (1999) The bill augmented funding approved in the State Budget for the use of State National Guard Armories as a temporary winter homeless shelters. The bill expands the dates of the armory winter shelter program to October 15 through April 15, and provides for 100 days within that time period. This bill specifically includes a special provision for Santa Barbara County to receive fund, for the winter of FY 1999-2000, to pay for an alternative cold weather shelter if the armory remains unavailable due to the reconstruction of the facility.

AB 236 (Honda) (1999) This bill deemed as correct allocated property taxes for fiscal years through 1997-98 for: a) Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District; b) Montecito Fire Protection District; and c) the Orcutt Fire Protection District. As a result of this correction, the Fire Districts were not required to repay approximately \$2.3 million in property tax previously allocated to them.

AB 1431 (Firestone) Coastal Resource Grant Program was created with this bill. The bill initially allocated over a million dollars each year. In 2000, the Department of Finance decided to reduce the grant cycle from five to four, however after we met with the Director of the Department of Finance, they reversed their decision. Again, in 2004, these grants were ready to sunset, we worked closely with budget staff and the budget chairs to get language inserted into the budget bill for another 2 year period, which provided the County with an additional \$1.3 million over those two years.

SB 241 (Alpert) (2000) Rigs to Reefs. The bill was strongly opposed by the County. While opposing the bill throughout the process the County worked successfully with the author's office to secure a variety of amendments to improve the bill, including capping the amount of money available for research, providing the county with a share of the funds to mitigate the impact of legislation, and providing enhanced environmental findings and protections. We were successful at killing the bill on the Senate floor. The next year, the author introduced SB 1 (Alpert) which did make it through the process, however we worked closely with then Governor Gray Davis to secure a veto on the bill.

AB 24 (Maldonado) (2001) Health facilities construction and licensing requirements Santa Barbara supported this bill. AB 24 will allowed Marian Medical center to use Valley Community Hospital as their facility to accommodate the patient population.

Valley Community Hospital had already begun the process of fulfilling the seismic safety standards; therefore reopening it will allow the process to move quickly.

AB 1573, by then Assembly Member Able Maldonado, which would have extended the sunset date in existing law that provides local coastal cities and counties with environmental mitigation funding from tideland and submerged lands leases for any new oil or gas development in state tidelands within the city or county boundary. This bill was unfortunately not successful. We then were able to get the extension into a budget trailer bill by working with the budget chairs and the sub-committee chairs in each house. Given this was Governor Schwarzenegger's first budget, he specifically requested that the language come out. We worked over the next several years to get this language extended, however now there is a different position on the board on this issue.

AB 1886 (Jackson) (2002) Vehicles: school zones fines. This bill was supported by the County. The bill initiates a pilot program for the counties of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Alameda that imposes a double fine when a violation is committed in a specified school zone. The bill is similar to the "cone zone" bill that was implanted a few years ago and has been very successful. The bill was signed into law on September 16, 2002.

AB 2777 (Nation) (2002) County Employees' retirement: death benefits. This was a Santa Barbara-sponsored bill that allows Santa Barbara, Los Angeles and Marin County Board of Supervisors to amend 1937 Act Retirement Systems to provide domestic partners with various benefits available to spouses. The bill is identical to the Santa Barbara supported SB 1049 from last year by Senator Jackie Speier, which was signed into law last fall. The Governor signed AB 2777 into law on September 5, 2002. The Governor did requests that domestic partners be required to register with the Secretary of State in order to be eligible once the Board of Supervisors votes to offer these benefits.

GA has also been successful in defeating Housing Elements Compliance legislation - SB 910/SB 498 in 2002 and SB 1609 (Dunn) in 2004. SB 910/SB 498 would have severally penalized local governments if their housing elements were out of compliance. SB 1609 (Dunn) was introduced in the last days of the legislative session of 2004, this bill was a last minute attempt to try to get additional concessions after the HCD working group had achieved consensus on the housing elements issue in the form of AB 2158 (Lowenthal) and AB 2348 (Mullin). These measures would have penalized local governments if their housing elements were deemed out of conformity with the Department of Housing and Community Development's guidelines.

Another sponsored bill that we successfully moved through the process in 2007 was AB 1019 by then Assembly Member Sam Blakeslee. The bill created a process for reallocating a county's share of the regional housing need to a city in the event that unincorporated land is annexed to the city.

After AB 1019 reached the Governor's office the Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) called our office to express concerns with the bill. We worked

closely with them and the author to ensure the Governor would not veto the bill, as such Assembly Member Blakeslee worked with us to amend his AB 242 to fulfill a commitment made in those meetings to address their technical concerns. The bill was signed into law in April 29, 2008.

SB 1453 (Maldonado) This bill was sponsored by the County. The bill would have authorized a member of the board of supervisors of the principal county to propose a resolution to increase or decrease the number of members of the board of trustees of cemetery districts. However, after much discussion locally, it was agreed to drop this bill for now.

In 2009 we successfully ran AB 359 by then Assembly Member Pedro Nava. This will requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) Every Woman Counts (EWC) Program, until January 1, 2014, to reimburse for digital mammography screening at the Medi-Cal reimbursement rate for analog mammography, and allows a EWC provider to provide digital mammography when analog mammography services are not available.

SB 326 (Strickland) This bill was sponsored by the County in an effort to address the foreclosure crisis in the region while attempting to meet our RHNA needs for HCD. The measure received bi-partisan support while it moved through the process, however there were concerns expressed about HCD getting involved with the bill while our housing element was being reviewed by HCD; therefore we decided not to move the bill this year.

SB 619 (Strickland) This bill was introduced in an effort to allow the county to be eligible for flood subvention funding by the state. Your Public Works Department has worked for the last 15 years with the Federal Government (Army Corp of Engineers) to allow the Lower Mission Creek to be eligible for federal funding, once this happened we had to run a state measure to allow for the state piece to kick in. The measure received unanimous support and moved to the Governor late in the session. We are happy to report that the measure was signed by the Governor on October 11, 2009. Essentially, this puts the County and Lower Mission Creek in the cue to be eligible for the funding; this program is generally funded by bond measures and both Props. 1E and 84 still have funding available so we anticipate we should receive funding relatively soon.

We also worked on AB 46 by Assembly Member Bill Monning from Santa Cruz. We discussed this bill as the possible vehicle, however at that time Assembly Member Sam Blakeslee had planned to introduce it for us. In any event, the measure would have allowed the affected counties of the SD 15 special election to do a manual count, should they chose to do so. Monterey County is the only county that opted out; there is a timing issue so the manual count does not work for them at this time. The bill was heard in Senate Elections Committee on June 17 and then was immediately heard on the Senate floor, the bill had no opposition and received unanimous support, AB 46 will now go to the Assembly for concurrence, where we anticipate the same outcome. The bill was signed by the Governor on June 22, 2010.

Some Examples of Budget Augmentations:

1999

- GA has also been successful in obtaining ERAF funding for the County of Santa Barbara. In 1999, after years of combined efforts by local governments and with a healthy budget surplus, the Legislature and the Governor agreed to return \$150 million to local government in recognition of the inequity of taking local government revenues to balance the state budget in the 1992-93 and the 1993-94 budget years. This funding was split between two pots, allowing our client to receive funds in the amount of \$385,000 on a per capita basis and \$654,813 based on the amount of the ERAF shift. We have continued to work towards restoration of these funds.
- Goleta Pier Restoration - \$110,000
- Lompoc Air Monitoring and additional Environmental Studies - \$484,000

2000

In 2000, Governmental Advocates, Inc. was successful at obtaining \$17 million for the County of Santa Barbara.

- Gaviota Coast conservation easement acquisitions - \$5 million
- Elwood Bluffs Acquisitions - \$5 million
- J.J. Hollister property acquisitions of watershed - \$4 million
- Bridle Ridge conservation easement - \$3 million

2001

In 2001, Governmental Advocates, Inc. successfully obtained \$3,130,800 on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara.

- Goleta Youth Baseball Fields - \$500,000.00.

- Santa Barbara also received funding for the Clean Beach Research Project; Rincon Beach was funded at \$500,000 and Arroyo Beach, et al at \$2 million.
- The Santa Barbara County Junior League received \$195,000 for their Clinic on Wheels
- Santa Barbara Community College District which received funds for the Gymnasium Remodel at the City College in the amount of \$163,000.
- The Youth Performing Arts Center at the Santa Barbara Junior High School Theater - \$95,000

2004

In 2004 Governmental Advocates, Inc. was successful in saving/funding **\$3,756,630.00** for the county of Santa Barbara through budget trailer bill language or bill amendments.

- The resources department at the state level did not have the authority to continue to fund the 16 Coastal Grants that the county received under AB 1431, this would have been a loss of **\$1,331,630** for the County. GA worked with Assembly Member Jackson's office and the budget staff to ensure that these grants were extended, therefore continuing for the next three years.
- The county wanted to be able offset the costs of the County Formation Committee we were able to secure **\$400,000** in the May Revise to offset the costs of the county formation.
- We were successful at passing SB 635 by Senator Dunn which would allow Santa Barbara to raise potentially **\$1.4** million annually for Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital based on data from prior years.
- When SB 438 was introduced to offset the fires, floods and earthquakes in southern California, Santa Barbara was not included. We worked with the author to get you included and then we were successful at bringing Assembly Member Maldonado and Senator McPherson on as co-authors of the bill. It is estimated that this bill will bring the County **\$625,000** in relief.

Specific Issues For Santa Barbara

- **AB 412 (Williams)** The bill has received bi-partisan support. The bill made it through the Assembly and the Senate. The bill became law on September 7, 2011 without a Governor's signature; he had many concerns about fines and the ability for individuals to keep up with them in addition to locals using them as a way to balance their books. With this bill now becoming law it has the potential to bring the county \$600,000 per year for the next two years to support the trauma system.
- **AB 537 (Williams)** This bill was co-sponsored with SBCAG and is related to the highway 154 issue. The bill was a two year bill as the County continued to work with CHP and others to gather the necessary data to substantiate our claims. We have talked with Assembly Member Williams staff and the SBCAG lobbyist and after many meetings it was determined that a resolution is the best course of action at this time, this will be introduced when the legislature returns in January.
- **AB 765 (Achadjian)** This bill was introduced at our request by Assembly Member Katcho Achadjian on behalf of our DA, Joyce Dudley and is part of the Board of Supervisor's platform. The bill had bi-partisan support but was held in the Senate Public Safety Committee on June 28, 2011 due to concerns that the bill would create a new crime. This measure will allow the penal code to catch up with modern day life related to sexually violent crimes and allow for DA's to properly prosecute offenders. The bill is considered a two-year bill but since we are in the second house, we will plan to move it later in 2012.
- **AB 1356 (Eng)** This bill attempted to address a local issues related to wine tasting rooms and better regulation of them in our local communities. We had several stakeholder meetings on this bill with ABC, The Family Wine Makers, the Wine Institute and various vintners' associations throughout California. In an effort to get the best outcomes we have decided to make this bill a two-year bill to ensure we have a strong and successful bill to move forward next year. We also continue to work with Assembly Member Williams office as he is trying to address the constituents concerns as well at the local level along with our Board.
- **Quagga Mussels/Zebra Mussels/Invasive Species Act** – while this continues to be part of the platform, there was not a formal bill introduced in 2011. We have begun meetings with our delegation on this issue and there seems to be some general interest in possibly pursuing a bill in 2012. We are continue to work out the details and will keep you posted on the outcome.
- **AB 1417 (Hall)** This bill is supported by the County. The bill is sitting on the Senate floor waiting to be heard and will then have to go back to the Assembly for concurrence in the Senate amendments. The bill would have appropriated \$18,200,000 for the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund to the California Gambling Control Commission to provide grants to local government agencies impacted by tribal gaming; however in the Senate Appropriations Committee they amended the bill down to \$9.1 million. While this funding is less than what is owed, keep in mind that the legislature has attempted to release this funding over the last few years unsuccessfully. This measure was signed into law on October 9, 2011.

