



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: County Executive Office
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: 12-07-2021
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 30 Min
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Legislative Program Committee
Director(s)
Contact Info: Jasmine McGinty, Legislative Coordinator

DocuSigned by:
Jasmine McGinty
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**SUBJECT: 2021 Annual Report and Accomplishments from County’s Federal and State
Legislative Advocates and Adoption of the 2022 Legislative Platform**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: NA

Other Concurrence:

As to form: NA

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file annual report and accomplishments for 2021 from the County’s State legislative advocate, Government Advocates, Inc., and Federal legislative advocate, Thomas Walters and Associates; and
- b) Adopt the County of Santa Barbara 2022 Legislative Platform; and
- c) Determine that the above actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), because pursuant to sections 15378(b)(4) and 15378(b)(5) the recommended actions consist of organizational, administrative or fiscal activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary:

During the December 7, 2021 Board meeting, representatives from the County’s federal lobbying firm, Thomas Walters & Associates, and the County’s State lobbying firm, Governmental Advocates, will provide an overview of the past year’s accomplishments and preview of the likely legislative issues for 2022. These annual reports recap the 2021 accomplishments and provide additional information on the

activity through December 31, 2021. Staff recommends the Board receive and file the 2021 Annual Reports from State and Federal advocates as well as review and adopt the 2022 Legislative Platform.

In December 2019, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution establishing the Legislative Program Committee (Committee) as a standing committee of the Board. The Committee approved the Draft 2022 Legislative Platform at the November 15, 2021 Legislative Program Committee meeting. Once adopted by the full Board of Supervisors, the 2022 Legislative Platform will be used to communicate key legislative needs and overall priorities to the federal and state governments, effective January 1, 2022.

Background:

Legislative Annual Reports

In December 2019, the Board approved two-year contracts with both the federal and state legislative advocates with terms from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021. The annual contract amounts are \$97,850 for Thomas Walters & Associates and \$66,350 for Governmental Advocates. During the November 16, 2021 Board meeting, the Board approved one-year contract extensions with both the federal and state legislative advocates with terms from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

The agreements include a provision for the advocates to present an update on legislative activity for the year. The attached reports provide the accomplishments that has transpired through December 31, 2021.

The 2022 Legislative Platform

The Legislative Program Committee reviewed the 2022 Legislative Platform on October 4, 2021 and directed staff to wait until after October 19, 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) discussions at the Board of Supervisors meetings. In addition, the Committee directed staff to receive public input on the draft platform. In October 2021, the draft Legislative Platform was provided to the public via Santa Barbara County eblast where public input was encouraged on the proposed planks. After a three-week public input period, no public comment was received. After the October 19, 2021 ARPA discussion during the Board of Supervisors meetings, proposed planks were also reviewed by department leads to make changes if needed. No changes were made to the proposed planks after this time.

The Committee approved the 2022 Legislative Platform on November 15, 2021. The development of the platform included review by County departments of the previous year's platforms and updates in mid-2021 and again in October 2021 after ARPA discussions by the Board of Supervisors. Public input was also solicited this year as part of the process. Two new planks were added, both from the County Executive Office: one on the Brown Act and Public Access Flexibility, and one on Cannabis State Licensing, Taxation, and Coordination.

In addition to the two new planks, there was one new principle added to the Legislative Principles on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Thus, the Legislative Principles for 2022 include the following:

- Job Growth and Economic Vitality
- Efficient Service Delivery and Operations
- Fiscal Stability
- Inter-Agency Collaboration
- Local Control
- Health and Human Services
- Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The strategies involve funding requests, creating new or amending existing legislation, and advocacy. The Platform includes forty-six individual planks that align with the legislative principles listed above. The planks are sorted by principle and categorized as a funding request, legislative proposal, and/or advocacy. County staff works closely with the County's state and federal advocates, County departments, and legislative partners to develop effective strategies to address the countywide needs as well as effective strategies to address Platform items.

Fiscal Analysis:

The 2022 Legislative Platform includes requests for project and program funding as well as legislation and advocacy for public service improvements that may increase revenue or improve service levels. In regard to the State and Federal advocacy services, the Board approved one-year contracts with both the federal and state legislative advocates with terms from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. The annual contract amounts are \$100,800 for Thomas Walters & Associates and \$68,300 for Governmental Advocates.

Attachments:

Attachment A - Santa Barbara 2021 Annual Report (Federal) – Thomas Walters & Associates
Attachment B - Santa Barbara 2021 Annual Report (State) – Governmental Advocates
Attachment C - Proposed 2022 Legislative Platform Book
Attachment D - Redline Version of Planks

Authored by:

Jasmine McGinty, Principal Analyst, County Executive Office

cc: Don Gilchrest, Thomas Walters and Associates, Inc.
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates, Inc.
Kristina Gallagher, Governmental Advocates, Inc.