



## COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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# FY 2024-2025 Legislative Funding Critical Projects

## February 2024

Each year, the County's legislative representatives request major funding goals and critical capital projects for potential State and Federal funding. The Legislative Program Committee (LPC) reviews and approves a list of countywide projects compiled from departments that are identified as critical unfunded projects. These projects are generally shovel-ready capital projects that may be used for legislative funding requests, at both the state and federal level. While this list is extensive, only a limited number of projects are selected for submittal as either member requests at the State level, or Federal earmarks. Our State and Federal lobbyists work closely with staff to identify projects from this list and/or from the Legislative Platform that are appropriate submissions for funding consideration. All identified projects align with the 2024 Legislative Platform. Below are the critical significant capital projects identified by departments and the LPC:

### Climate, Energy and Environmental Protection Projects

<b>2024 Platform Legislative Principle:</b>	<b>Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection</b>
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#### 1. Countywide Building Energy Management Systems (BEMS) Upgrades - \$2M

This is an ongoing countywide energy initiative project that allows for greater control and visibility of a buildings' energy usage and will allow for greater programming to increase or decrease energy usage depending on time-of-day demand. By having the ability to visualize energy usage in real time and to control HVAC settings, lights and other high energy systems within a facility will give the County the ability to save energy and money.

#### 2. Cachuma Renewable Energy (Phase 1) - \$2.3M

This project will install a 450 kW solar energy system, including a 160 kW system installed on a new shade structure at the existing RV, boat and trailer storage area, updated equipment and small roof panel structures throughout the 6,500-acre recreation area, and a new solar energy system shade structure at the Live Oak Campground. The project will update outdated systems, controls, fixtures, paving and fencing. Back-up lithium ion battery systems will be installed at various locations. The project will meet the County's zero net energy policy. Santa Barbara County Parks currently spends approximately \$200,000 a year for electrical service. The renewable energy system would reduce the operating costs with reduced utility costs and generate additional revenues from RV, boat and trailer storage. The project is anticipated to be phased, with the initial phase capturing the highest energy load(s). The first phase (\$2.352M) would include installation of a 160kW solar energy system at the existing RV, boat and trailer storage area, would mainly serve the Cachuma RV area, and would account for almost 50% of the estimated total Cachuma Renewable Energy project costs.

#### 3. Calle Real Campus, Lower Expansion Solar - \$3M

The County of Santa Barbara's Calle Real Campus 1 Megawatt solar array project has exceeded its expected production of 1.78 million kWh electricity generation per year, equivalent

of enough energy to power over 100 homes. The system provides electricity to the County Jail and nearby County facilities, including the Sheriff Administration building, 911 Call Center, Public Health Hospital, Public Health Administration, Mental Health Hospital, Mental Health Administration, Agricultural Commission, Environmental Health, Veterans Hospital, Elections Office, and Clerk Recorder Assessor. These facilities at the Calle Real Campus are the largest energy users for the County. The solar array currently offsets up to one-third of the required energy at the Calle Real Campus. This project would double the output of the array by adding additional solar panels to the existing system, as well as energy storage to provide backup power and assist in demand response and significantly reducing reliance of the grid and lowering the County's carbon footprint. If resources are available, a California Energy Commission 1% loan may be utilized to offset the cost and leverage any funding received, as well as any battery rebates that may be available.

**4. Animal Shelter - Solar and Battery Storage Project - \$900,000**

The Santa Barbara Animal Shelter, which provides shelter services for dogs, cats, and other animals, is housed in four separate buildings located at 5473 Overpass Road in Santa Barbara. An 80 kW solar photovoltaic system would be placed on rooftops and the parking lot and energy storage would help to provide resilience during outages as well as reducing the County's carbon footprint. California Energy Commission loan and battery rebates would be utilized to offset the cost and leverage any additional funding.

**Housing, Homelessness, and Vulnerable Population Projects**

<b>2024 Platform Legislative Principle:</b>	<b>Health and Human Services</b>
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**1. Lompoc, Bridge House – Extension of Municipal Utilities - \$3M**

This project would connect the Bridge House to municipal utilities in Lompoc and eliminate reliance on the current septic system. This would allow for possible future expansion of the site to accommodate additional shelters in helping to ease homelessness. Project will require new lines placed from the Bridge House, a direct bore under the Santa Ynez River and extension of utilities to meet up with municipal lines on the other side of the river. This project will help ease environmental concerns related to a high occupancy facility that is reliant on a septic tank and leach field. Additionally, the Bridge House is a transitional housing option to help ease homelessness in the Lompoc area. This project is in the design phase currently. Estimated cost of construction is between \$2.0-\$3.0 million. Design will require the use of a lift station, and should also include connections from the County Corporation Yard across the street from Bridge House.

**2. PATH homeless shelter in Santa Barbara - \$1M**

The PATH Santa Barbara Homeless shelter at 816 Cacique St. in Santa Barbara needs physical upgrades, as identified in a 2021 Capital Needs Assessment. Renovations needed include restroom improvements, flooring replacement, electric door openers on 22 doors for improved ADA accessibility, laundry room improvements, painting and new lighting throughout.

**3. Hollister Lofts, Goleta - \$2M**

Proposed 33-unit rental project which will be developed by the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara on property owned by the County. Forty-nine (49%) of the units would be for homeless persons with a diagnosis of serious mental illness and the balance of the units would be for homeless persons with incomes below 60% area median income. The project was awarded over \$4.8M in competitive State No Place Like Home (NPLH) funds. Project sponsor is currently working with County P&D on re-zone requirements. Current estimates of total project cost is \$14.8M, with potential funding sources including federal Low Income Housing

Tax Credits (LIHTC), HOME funds, and County In-lieu.

**4. Oasis Senior Center - \$4.5M**

Orcutt Area Seniors in Service (OASIS) began as a small group of service-oriented retirees in the 60's and incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in 1985 with 99 members. Their programming focuses on keeping seniors healthy in all facets of life – physical, mental, social and intellectual. Weekly classes and activities include physical exercise, social opportunities, culinary instruction, nutritional seminars, bereavement groups, and investment strategy. As OASIS's influence throughout the region continues to grow, so does their need to provide the appropriate facilities. The land for a new location has been acquired, preliminary site plans have been designed, and the Santa Barbara County Board has approved the project. However, funding is needed to accomplish the buildout of the facility. The total project cost is estimated to be \$4.5M, which includes site work such as grading, paving and utilities, as well as building costs for materials, labor and construction. The project will be phased. Construction costs in the amount of \$2.5M are a priority to move this project forward.

**Community Sustainability and Infrastructure Projects**

<b>2024 Platform Legislative Principle(s):</b>	<b>Efficient Service Delivery and Operations &amp; Job Growth and Economic Vitality</b>
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**1. Access to Oral Health using Mobile Dental Vehicle - \$1.3M**

Access to dental care is a challenge and many of the underserved population served by community health centers in Santa Barbara County cannot afford seeing a dentist. The project proposes adding a three chair Mobile Dental Vehicle (MDV) to PHD clinical operations. The MDV is mobile and travel between the five clinics serving all districts, i.e. Carpinteria, Franklin, Santa Barbara, Lompoc and Santa Maria. In addition, it can travel to other areas of need such as Guadalupe and Cuyama. The MDV can be parked in schools parking lots, churches or community centers where people can access services. Due to their high mobility, MDVs are particularly valuable for the underserved populations living in rural areas. The advance of dental devices enables MDVs to be operated in a self-sufficient manner. Adding an MDV by the department will bring oral health services to where people need it the most across Santa Barbara County, in the field, at schools and community centers especially in rural areas of the County. This project will cover all districts.

**2. Physical Access Control System Upgrade - \$3.6M**

This upgrade includes new door hardware, controls, and badge access engineered with encryption to replace antiquated security hardware at external/sensitive points of entry throughout the County. The existing County electronic access control platform was introduced prior to 2004. Currently, parts of the system and components have reached end-of-support and show wear and tear. This may lead to outages or failures, and antiquated card readers and control panels are not engineered with encryption to safeguard against employee access card duplication. In addition, control panels are not equipped with memory to allow system continuity during an outage. Data has to be re-loaded to the panels after a disconnect. Large transmissions of data could take an extensive period of time leading to business disruptions. The County currently supports 729 doors across 87 locations county wide and the infrastructure continues to expand. A complete physical system upgrade would also enable future interoperability between access control, and video surveillance, and provide a foundation for centralized alarm monitoring.

**3. Mission Canyon Safety Realignment - \$600,000**

Mission Canyon Road was built decades ago before modern geometric standards existed. As a result, it needs to be realigned to reduce roadway departures and improve pedestrian and

bicycle circulation in this area. This project would also complete a part of the County (and City of Santa Barbara) adopted "Safe Passage" plan for this corridor.

**4. Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project - \$50M**

This project is located along Mission Creek from Canon Perdido St. to Cabrillo Blvd. in the City of Santa Barbara. The Lower Mission Creek project will widen the channel in order to improve capacity. Completion of this project will reduce flooding and property damage adjacent to lower Mission Creek during large storm events. The Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project is a federal US Army Corps of Engineers project that has been under study and development since the 1960s. The City of Santa Barbara and the County Flood Control District worked with the community in the 1990s to develop the current project that addresses the flood control concerns and the environmental issues. The Corps has not obtained adequate funding to complete design and construction and the City and County have been working on finding opportunities to construct smaller reaches of the project as funding options arise. The estimated cost to complete design, right of way, permitting, and construct this project is \$50M.

**5. Paving Farm to Market Corridors - \$4.7M**

Award of funding would help rehabilitate and increase safety of a key roadway serving the largest source of jobs in the County of Santa Barbara. For the communities adjacent to Betteravia Road, agriculture and farming provide one out of every four jobs in the region. Federal objectives to serve and support economically disadvantaged populations will be met with an award of funding to rehabilitate this transportation route.

**6. Vandenberg Village Park - \$3.3M**

Vandenberg Village is located just outside of Vandenberg Space Force Base and north of the city of Lompoc in Santa Barbara County (4th Supervisorial District). Currently, Vandenberg Village faces a significant challenge due to the extreme shortage of public areas for recreational activities and community gatherings. In response to this need, residents took proactive steps in 2012 by generously donating undeveloped land to the County of Santa Barbara. This marked the inception of a community-driven initiative to establish Vandenberg Village Park, a space dedicated to walking, play, education, environmental awareness, and the fostering of community. Vandenberg Village Park is designed to be an inclusive "walk to park" recreational space, encompassing both active and passive areas. The park is comprised of two (2) tot lots, a basketball court, skateboard amenities, benches, picnic areas, a gazebo/pavilion, restroom, walking paths and trails, interpretive panels, and Burton Mesa chaparral mitigation and protection. The project can be completed in the following phases, given funding availability: - Phase 1 (\$750K): Development of walking trails, installation of benches, picnic areas and interpretive signage, and Burton Mesa Chaparral mitigation. - Phase 2 (\$2M): Installation of interactive play areas including two tot lots, a basketball court, skateboard amenities, a gazebo/pavilion, lawn and native landscape areas and a small parking lot for inclusive park access. - Phase 3 (\$543K): Restroom facility.

**7. Cachuma Water Treatment Plant Relocation - \$6.8M**

This project constructs a shovel-ready replacement of an outdated water treatment plant at Cachuma Lake and relocates the facility above water intrusion levels. The existing water treatment facility is located in area that is subject to building flooding during periods of high-water levels and high wind events. The water level at Cachuma Lake is scheduled to be raised in order to allow for a larger quantity of cooler water to be released into the Santa Ynez River for protection of endangered Steelhead Trout; however, this surcharge level cannot be raised until the water treatment facility is relocated to a higher elevation. The facility relocation and ensuing allowable water level raise will concurrently provide an increase in water storage capacity and improved water quality; water from the lake is also diverted into the Tecolote

Tunnel, which supplies drinking water to the city of Santa Barbara and the Goleta, Carpinteria and Montecito Water Districts.

**8. Lompoc Animal Shelter - \$5.9M**

Santa Barbara County Lompoc Animal Shelter is housed in a facility built 65 years ago. Age, time, and continued use have degraded the site long past the span of its useful life. Funding would support demolition and renovation of the kennels and buildings on the site and replace them with new, environmentally sustainable, compliant structures. These site improvements are needed in order to continue to supply the community with quality Animal Services support to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the animals and people they serve. The shelter serves the Lompoc area, areas around the Federal Correctional Institution - Lompoc, Vandenberg Space Force Base, and Vandenberg Village.