

County of Santa Barbara



2012

Legislative Platform

To the Board of Supervisors for Consideration
on January 17, 2012

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

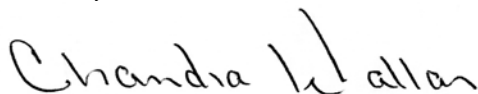
Santa Barbara County presents its 2012 legislative platform for consideration. The platform contains both broad policy goals as well as specific and directed legislative proposals. In adopting this platform, the Board of Supervisors states their clear intent that the County's legislative efforts will be directed to the measures set forth herein, which provide an overall immediate or long term benefit to the constituents of Santa Barbara County through their local government services and operations. Specifically this platform places an enhanced emphasis on the need to continue to work with our state and federal delegation and community partners to stimulate the struggling economy and business with the goal of improving the overall health and economic vitality of our communities.

As counties continue to do more with less, this year, as in the past, Santa Barbara County's platform also reflects an increasing emphasis on ensuring the appropriate level of federal and state funding for County administered projects, programs and services. This endeavor includes working directly with the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) in securing constitutional protections to make the vast and historic realignment of government services, a cornerstone of the Governors 2011-12 Budget, manageable and sustainable. This as well as the continued pursuit of relief from onerous and unfunded state mandates and state and federal program funding caps must also be addressed. Therefore, in 2012 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 also 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.

The County will also continue to work diligently with its regional partners to support high priority infrastructure projects including the widening of US Highway 101, correction of safety concerns on Highway 154, the Santa Maria Levee, and improvements to Hollister Avenue.. We will also continue our federal advocacy efforts for funding Lake Cachuma capital needs, roadway improvements, Goleta Beach County Park Stabilization and Enhancements, and safe access to our coastline countywide.

As the County embarks on implementing its platform for 2012, 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 constituency and offer constructive solutions on legislative matters is much appreciated. We look forward to continued collaboration in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,



Chandra L. Wallar
County Executive Officer

LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

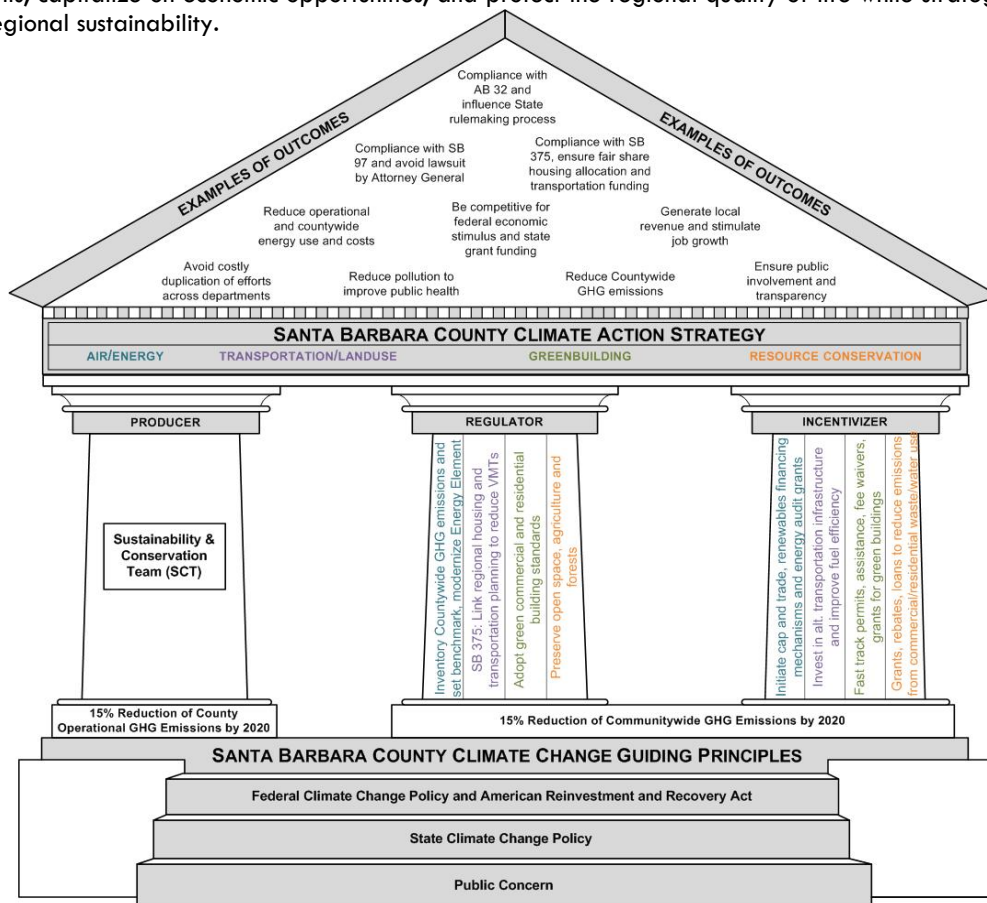
The Legislative Program adheres to the County's legislative principles, which serve as a guide for the County in developing a position on any forthcoming federal and state legislation.

- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **EFFICIENT SERVICE DELIVERY/OPERATIONS:** Support efforts to streamline processes and promote operational enhancements relevant to a County department's mission and core services, and 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. 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 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; 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, coastal areas, and bio-diversity. 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.



FEDERAL PRIORITIES AT A GLANCE

SAFETEA-LU REAUTHORIZATION – TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS (TOP THREE PRIORITIZED)

1. Highway 101 Widening (Critical regional transportation project)
2. Hollister Avenue Widening (Sub-regional)
3. Roadway Treatment & Drainage (Countywide)

Other Federal SAFETEA-LU Eligible projects – Not prioritized:

- Off-System Bridge Funding
- Pavement Preservation
- Old Town Orcutt Streetscape & Circulation
- Purisima Road Widening
- Refugio Road Safety
- Union Valley Parkway Corridor

FEDERAL FUNDING REQUESTS (TOP FOUR PRIORITIZED)

1. Santa Maria River Levee-Reach 3 Extension of Improvements
2. Lower Mission Creek
3. Lake Cachuma Capital Improvements
4. Safety Improvements Beach Access

Other Federal Funding Requests (non public safety)-Not prioritized:

- Goleta Beach County Park
- Historic Santa Barbara County Courthouse
- Parks/Open Space Preservation & Acquisition
- Protection of open space at the Gaviota Coast
- Public access to Point Sal Reserve
- Walter Capps Park
- Resource Recovery Park/Conversion Technology
- Santa Barbara Health & Human Services Campus Upgrades
- Veterans Memorial Building – Santa Barbara and Lompoc

Federal Policy Items:

- CDC Disaster Preparedness Grants
- Provide for enhanced funding and streamlined processes to encourage the diversification, development, incubation, and growth of business
- Enhance the level of funding for gang prevention programs, assistance to Firefighters, COPS and Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants to fund public safety and criminal justice
- Support reauthorization of McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- Invasive species funding targeted to the quagga mussel prevention program and boater safety at Lake Cachuma
- Protection of funding for children age 0-5 (Proposition 10)
- Revise Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF- known as CalWORKS) funding performance targets
- Support reauthorization of State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and improved children's health coverage
- Support legislation to repeal limitations on state and local authority to regulate the placement, construction, and modification of telecommunications towers
- Support federal funding for agriculture and related programs

STATE PRIORITIES AT A GLANCE

(NOT PRIORITIZED)

- Child Support Protection Act
- Donation of Computer Equipment
- Ensure that Child Support collections for Probation are eligible for IV-D funding
- Provide for enhanced funding and streamlined processes to encourage the diversification, development, incubation, and growth of business
- Support District Attorney legislative enhancements regarding truancy, cyber bullying, and sexual crimes and tougher penalties for child abuse
- Enhance the level of funding for gang prevention programs, and public safety programs
- Fund Goleta Beach 2.0
- Housing Element and RHNA legislative streamlining
- Implement Highway 154 safety improvements
- Funding for homeless programs and supportive programs related to housing, mental health and transitional youth
- Replacement of facilities and upgrades at Lake Cachuma
- Invasive species funding targeted to the quagga mussel prevention program and Boater Safety at Lake Cachuma
- Preservation of Safety Net
- Protection from flooding via Lower Mission Creek channel improvements and Santa Maria Levee
- Protection of open space at Gaviota Coast
- Public access to Point Sal Reserve
- Highway 101 Safety
- Safe public beach access at Santa Claus Lane
- Protection of funding for children age 0-5 (Proposition 10)
- Support legislation to ensure mobile home park residents are not involuntarily removed from local rent control or otherwise economically impacted if parks are subdivided or converted
- Preservation of mobile homes and affordable housing
- Restore Child Welfare Services funding levels
- Restore In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) funding levels
- Restore State Social Services funding
- Revise Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF- known as CalWORKS) funding performance targets
- Restore Stage 3 Cal works child care funding
- Support reauthorization of State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and improved children's health coverage
- Protection of Transportation funding- Highway Users Tax Account (HUTA)
- Resource Recovery Park Funding/Conversion Technology Project Funding



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FEDERAL FUNDING REQUESTS

FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION (SAFETEA-LU)

Federal Funding Requests	
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SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County has several critical transportation projects to be considered as part of the reauthorization of the SAFETEA-LU program. They are prioritized as follows:

- 1) **Hollister Avenue Widening and Railroad Siding:** This project will improve the flow of multimodal transportation by widening Hollister Avenue for 1.25 miles from State Highway 154 west to San Antonio Road, including roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian circulation betterments. The Union Pacific Railroad Bridge that crosses Hollister Ave will be replaced with a longer structure to accommodate the widening, and an additional bridge will be constructed to provide a siding track for Union Pacific Railroad, Amtrak, and increase capacity for commuter rail service from the Goleta Area to Ventura County. (\$5 Million for Design and Environmental Review)
- 2) **Roadway Surface Treatments and Drainage Improvements:** This project consists of in-place recycling and deep-lift asphalt concrete overlays on: (1) four Federal Aid Routes in the 24th Congressional District of the County, which includes the unincorporated areas of Santa Ynez, Lompoc, and Santa Maria, and (2) ten Federal Aid Routes in the 23rd Congressional District of the County, which includes the unincorporated areas of Montecito, Summerland, Santa Barbara, Goleta, Guadalupe and Lompoc. Both projects will allow the County to bring the selected roads up to current County standards for safety, ride quality and provides structural and much needed drainage improvements to the road infrastructure. (\$4.5 Million - 23rd District, \$6.25 Million – 24th District)
- 3) **Pavement Preservation Funding:** The County has been a leader in Pavement Preservation since 1994, which includes both preventive and corrective non-structural actions to provide cost-effective alternatives to local roadways. Pavement Preservation treatments require more latitude in the requirements for use of federal funding due to the current service life requirements. Three innovative preservation treatments can be performed for the same cost as one conventional overlay, resulting in better and safer roads. (\$102 million Countywide)

Critical Need: Not Prioritized

- **Off Federal System Local Bridge Funding:** The County maintains approximately 110 bridges that are currently eligible to receive funding through the Highway Bridge Project. The proposed reauthorization language should include off system bridges—a potential funding source for the replacement of 50% of County-maintained bridges. Language should allow local agencies to utilize federal funding for minor bridge maintenance. (\$46 million Countywide)
- **Old Town Orcutt Streetscape and Circulation Improvements:** This project has two components: (1) improving access to Orcutt through improvements to the Clark Avenue on and off ramps at Highway 101 and (2) formalization of temporary striping changes and the construction of missing sidewalk segments along Clark Avenue. As more residents travel to this historic area, traffic will increase at Highway 101 ramps and require traffic signals on the northbound and southbound ramps and minor widening to align the ramps. Regarding the striping changes, intersection curb returns will be “bulbed out” with additional sidewalk space for improved pedestrian safety, areas for landscaping and curb cuts that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. (\$3.2 Million)
- **Refugio Road Safety Improvements:** This project, located on the Gaviota Coast, proposes to realign and widen Refugio Road to include two lanes of travel, improving shoulders and sight distances for seven miles

starting at Highway 101 and continuing northerly to the summit of the Santa Ynez Mountains. Refugio Road provides access to the historic Reagan Ranch and to the Los Padres National Forest and attracts recreation enthusiasts, cyclists, hikers, tourists, and horseback riders. Refugio Road crosses Refugio Creek at six low water crossings and one bridge so the project also proposes new replacement bridge structures to improve creek conveyance and fish (endangered coastal steelhead/rainbow trout) and wildlife habitat. Drainage improvements are proposed to address rainfall run off and safe passage. (\$30 Million total project cost, requesting \$2.9 million for Design and Environmental Review)

- **Purisima Road Widening Improvements:** This project would widen approximately three miles of roadway on both sides of Purisima Road from State Highway 1 to State Highway 246 to allow for wider shoulders with Class II bike lanes. This will increase safety for bicyclists and encourage regional bicycle travel as a viable form of alternative transportation. Improvements will mesh with two proposed regional projects: 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 close to Vandenberg Air Force Base and La Purisima Mission State Historic Park. (\$4.8 Million)
- **Union Valley Parkway Corridor Improvements:** Several projects have been constructed or are in various stages of design to improve the Union Valley Parkway (UVP) Corridor in Santa Maria, a vital corridor to the region that allows greater and safer movement of people, goods and services throughout the area. Phase I and II were recently constructed, improving the connection between Santa Maria, Orcutt, and State Route 135. The Union Valley Parkway at Bradley Road Intersection Improvement Project was constructed in Fall 2010 to upgrade the intersection for future traffic capacity. The UVP/US 101 Freeway Interchange Project overseen by the State (Caltrans) is in its detailed design phase. The next phase of UVP Extension will create a smooth, full-capacity link between the US 101 Freeway, State Route 135, the City of Santa Maria, and the Orcutt community. Detailed design is under way for this phase and will dovetail with the other corridor projects to complete an important circulation route for passenger and commercial vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles traveling in the region. Corridor improvements include roadway widening, bike lane construction, traffic signals, capacity improvements, sidewalks, drainage, and lighting improvements along UVP. Funds are required to fill a construction funding shortfall. (\$3.8 Million)

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Projects will increase the safety of the various users (motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians) of County roads, increasing the surface conditions of roads and make drainage and structural improvements.

COSTS TO THE GOVERNMENT

President Bush signed SAFETEA-LU into law on August 2005, authorizing \$244.1 billion in funding for highways, highway safety, and public transportation. It was set to expire in 2009, but has been temporarily extended while awaiting a new authorization process and accompanying legislation.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests support from its delegation to include these transportation projects in the 2010/11SAFETEA-LU reauthorization as well as seek assistance in identifying other funding opportunities.

CONTACT

Scott McGolpin, Director, Public Works Department, (805)568-3010
Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION (SAFETEA-LU)-REGIONAL

Federal Funding Requests	
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SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

As the No. 1 Regional funding priority for the County, the Highway 101 Lane 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, a distance of 10 miles, 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. The 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.

CONTACT

Scott McGolpin, Director, Public Works Department, (805)568-3010
Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

GOLETA BEACH COUNTY PARK

Federal Funding Requests	
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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 expands recreational, cultural, and interpretive programming.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The Park includes a 1,400 ft pier, boat launch and storage, safe swimming beach, a 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 temporary residual by depositing sand dredged from local streams and Santa Barbara Harbor onto the beach 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.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests support from its delegation as it continues to analyze potential long-term options. Any forthcoming project 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.

CONTACT

Herman Parker, Director, Community Services Department, (805)568-2467
 Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

HISTORIC SANTA BARBARA COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Federal Funding Requests	
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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 stone 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

Bob Nisbet, Director, General Services, (805)560-1011

Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

LAKE CACHUMA

Federal Funding Requests

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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 and yurt), 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 - \$2.3 million; Fire flow improvements and water distribution system improvements - \$1.8 million; Sewage treatment - \$250,000 and Live Oak ADA showers, restrooms, and electrical upgrades - \$150,000

CONTACT

Herman Parker, Director, Community Services Department, (805)568-2467
Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

PROJECT	TOTAL COST	AMOUNT FUNDED	SOURCE OF AMOUNT FUNDED***	UNFUNDED AMOUNT	STRATEGY TO SECURE FUNDING**
BIOLOGICAL OPINION / SURCHARGE INITIATED PROJECTS					
New Water Treatment Plant*	\$2,800,800	\$529,000	BOR	\$2,271,800	Balance of BOR grant (\$2,000,000), SBC (\$271,800)
New Fire Suppression Water Storage Reservoir * ARRA	\$1,400,000	\$1,061,859	ARRA	\$338,141	BOR \$300,000** + Force Labor
Existing Water Reservoir Re-roofing*	\$469,803	\$428,098	BOR/SBC	\$0	COMPLETE
Fire Flow Improvements*	\$1,183,010	\$280,000	BOR/SBC	\$903,010	BOR (\$769,500) – SBC (\$133,510) + Force Labor
Water Distribution System Improvements*	\$1,244,509	\$284,321	BOR/SBC	\$960,188	BOR (\$826,500) – SBC (\$133,688) + Force Labor
Sewer Lift Stations	\$1,138,500	\$1,138,500	BOR/SBC	\$0	COMPLETE
Sewage Treatment	\$2,007,000	\$0	-	\$2,007,000	BOR (\$2,007,000)
Construction Road Repair & Access Improvements	\$599,000	\$0	-	\$599,000	BOR (\$257,900) SBC(\$342,000)
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	\$14,468,762	\$6,347,918	-	\$8,079,139	
OTHER CAPITAL FACILITIES PROJECTS					
Live Oak ADA Showers, Restrooms & Electrical Upgrades	\$730,000	\$433,000	BOR/OGAL S/SBC	\$350,000	BOR\$150,000 - SBC \$200,000
Mohawk Bathrooms ADA*	\$780,000	\$472,300	BOR/SBC/ARRA	\$0	COMPLETE
TOTAL	\$1,510,000	\$905,300	-	\$350,000	
GRAND TOTAL FOR ALL PROJECTS	\$15,978,762	\$7,253,218	-	\$8,429,139	

LOWER MISSION CREEK

Federal Funding Requests	
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SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project is an Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) project located within the City of Santa Barbara (and part of the South Coast Flood Zone administered by the County) designed to improve channel locations through widening and bridge replacements in order to protect residential, commercial and public properties located in Santa Barbara from flooding. Portions of Mission Creek have been known to include the threatened tidewater goby and the endangered steelhead. The project is currently in detailed design phase and is in need of funding for construction.

Mission Creek's drainage is about 11.5 square miles, extending from the Santa Ynez Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, and flows for eight miles through the City of Santa Barbara. Preliminary design, environment review and detailed design have been performed. The project remains in detailed design phase until funding can be secured. The County and the City of Santa Barbara have formed a partnership to ensure this project continues to move forward.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Since Mission Creek is located in the heart of downtown Santa Barbara, improvements to the channel are vital for protecting residential, commercial, and public properties that are subject to major damages during floods. There will also be an opportunity for creek rehabilitation.

COSTS TO THE GOVERNMENT

The project cost is estimated at \$57 million; the ACOE cost is 50% and the remaining half will be borne by the City of Santa Barbara and the County, with the County's portion coming from a flood zone benefit assessment. Federal appropriations would also help the County take advantage of potential State funding related to flood projects.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County and Corps are nearing the completion of the design phase as a result of a 2007 appropriation request of \$215,000 and a 2009 ARRA allocation of \$600,000. The 2011 Transportation bill also contains a \$250,000 appropriation which has yet to be passed by Congress and signed into law. The next phase of the project involves construction, which is estimated to cost about \$10 million. The County will consult with the ACOE and submit an appropriation request to its Congressional delegation that funding be provided through the Energy and Water Appropriations bill. It will also seek the support of its State delegation for possible funding from Proposition 84 monies.

CONTACT

Scott McGolpin, Director, Public Works Department, (805)568-3010
Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

PARKS/OPEN SPACE

Federal Funding Requests	
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SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Santa Barbara County Parks provides services to approximately 5.6 million annual visitors to 71 day use parks and 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 2011 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 \$2.4 Million to update the management plan (\$50,000), implement public access including vehicle improvements to the trail-head (\$2 Million) and pedestrian trail, signage and cattle control (\$350,000).

Walter Capps County Park: This project will develop a passive park facility with walks, benches, public restroom, turf play area and a natural native coastal species habitat restoration area on a 2-acre bluff top in the community of Isla Vista. A Coastal Development Permit was issued for this project in June 2010. No further permitting is required. The County has secured \$395,312 of the \$772,000 total project cost and requests a \$200,000 federal appropriation to help fund this project.

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.

CONTACT

Herman Parker, Director, Community Services Department, (805)568-2467
Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

RESOURCE RECOVERY PARK PROJECT/CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY

Federal Funding Requests	
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SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Resource Recovery Park 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. The project initiated in February 2007, under the direction of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, is a coordinated effort between the County of Santa Barbara and the Cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Solvang, and Buellton.

Over the last four 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 the diversion of recyclables that now continue to be deposited at the County's landfill. This MRF will also allow for the sorting of organics, which is the common cause of methane gas generation in landfills worldwide. The MRF and AD Facility working together are projected to reduce the amount of waste currently landfilled at Tajiguas by 50% to 60%.

The County and its partners continue to evaluate the possible use of a thermal gasification facility as an addition to the Resource Recovery Park. The thermal gasification facility would only process the waste that cannot be recycled or composted. By exposing this "leftover" waste to high temperatures without letting it combust, this facility produces a "synthesis gas" which can be later used as a fuel for generating electricity. The County and its partners are collecting data especially that related to air emissions, before making a final recommendation on this addition.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

A Resource Recovery Park would have several sustainable and beneficial impacts:

- Providing a 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 greenhouse gases currently generated by the landfill

COST TO THE 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 funding equaling 25% of capital costs (\$15 million). The County will work with its state and federal delegation to secure appropriate funding.

CONTACT

Scott McGolpin, Director, Public Works Department, (805)568-3010
Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PUBLIC BEACH ACCESS

Federal Funding Requests	
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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 crossing;
- Construct needed public improvements (e.g., circulation improvements and aesthetic features) and provide amenities for beach users (e.g. off street beach parking;
- On Caltrans property, restroom, shower, etc.); and
- Work with local constituents, residents and commercial owners to identify and provide for the operational and maintenance needs of the recreational and commercial area.

Progress on this project to date includes:

- Public acquisition of beach parcels for the at-grade crossing;
- Securing funding and consultants to prepare street improvements and beach parking plans and initiate the permitting process for the railroad crossing;
- Outreach to residents and commercial property owners.

The next phase consists of additional engineering design, environmental review, continued public outreach and permit processing.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Santa Claus Lane is a popular beach access location for the local community as well as the traveling public due to its adjacent location to Highway 101. With the current access, the public 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 vehicle crossing of the railroad, beach side improvements, road and drainage improvements, associated engineering design, local, state and environmental permits, it is estimated that the project will cost \$6.9 million to implement. The initial \$400,000 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 2011 includes \$400,000 for engineered designs and permitting efforts, including parking, railroad crossing, street improvements and visitor serving amenities.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests \$400,000 in support of this project to provide for safe access to, and use of, this popular beach area. Other regulatory agencies that have permit authority over this proposed project include the California Coastal Commission, State Public Utilities Commission, Army Corps of Engineers and local regulatory agencies, including agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad.

CONTACT

Glenn Russell, Director, Planning and Development, (805)568-2085
Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

SANTA BARBARA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES CAMPUS UPGRADES

Federal Funding Requests	
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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 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.

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

Bob Nisbet, Director, General Services Department, (805)560-1011
Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

SANTA MARIA RIVER LEVEE - REACH 3 EXTENSION OF IMPROVEMENTS

Federal Funding Requests	
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SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County owns and operates the Santa Maria River Levee, which is a Federally constructed flood control project. The 26 mile levee was built by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) in the 1960s and constructed as a compacted sand berm with a rock face to protect the sand from the scouring effects of water flows during a storm.

Completed Work to Date:

The Corps has completed reaches 1, 2, and 3 which encompass a 6.3 Mile reach of Levee that serves to protect the City of Santa Maria. This work was completed at 100% Federal funding (ARRA).

Additional Work Needed to Finish Project:

During design of Reaches 1, 2, and 3, further studies indicated that an extension of the Levee improvements of an additional 3,700 feet is needed to completely encompass the 100-year floodplain, provide the intended protection for the City of Santa Maria, and to resolve the FEMA 100-year flood mapping issue. Potential flood mapping could put a significant portion of the City in the 100-year floodplain if the additional 3,700 feet of improvements are not completed. This would cost the community millions of dollars in required insurance premiums and possibly contribute to foreclosures if homeowners cannot afford the insurance.

The County, in partnership with the City of Santa Maria, is seeking a federal appropriation for the last 3,700 feet of the levee. This work, while small compared to the work completed, will need to be cost shared at 35% local funds with the City and County acting as joint partners.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The levee protects significant portion of the City of Santa Maria, including schools, the regional hospital, and emergency services providers (Fire and Police).

The levee would eliminate the need for expensive flood insurance for the City that has already suffered a significant foreclosure rate.

The levee provides full and supplemental irrigation to 35,000 acres of agricultural land.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

Initial cost estimates put the remaining 3,700 feet at \$6 - \$7 Million for construction.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests legislative authorization of an additional \$6 to \$7 Million for the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to complete final design and bid the repair project.

CONTACT

Scott McGolpin, Director, Public Works Department, (805)568-3010
Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

Federal Funding Requests	
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VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING

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

Santa Barbara Building

The County has estimated the cost of renovation to be approximately \$900,000, which includes:

Elevator: This includes demolition, remodeling and installation for the elevator. Total cost estimated for this work is \$360,000.

Seismic Safety: This includes seismic retrofitting, foundation stabilization, and deteriorated wood framing components. Total cost estimated for this work is \$250,000.

Electrical Systems: This includes main panel, subpanel upgrades, internal wiring systems and aging light fixtures. Total cost estimated for this work is \$150,000.

Energy: This includes water distribution systems, HVAC, utility regulation equipment and window upgrades. Total cost estimated for this work is \$140,000.

Lompoc Building

The County has estimated costs for restoration to be \$700,000, which includes:

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.

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

Bob Nisbet, Director, General Services, (805)560-1011
 Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

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PROPOSED LEGISLATION

CACHUMA LAKE – BOATER SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT FINANCIAL AID

Proposed Legislation	
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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 governmental. 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
Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEGISLATIVE ENHANCEMENTS

Proposed Legislation	
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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. Assembly Bill 765 would protect victims of rape by clarifying that a perpetrator who induces a victim into sexual activity by impersonating a cohabitant (live-in boyfriend or girlfriend) 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 protect victims of rape by making it clear that a perpetrator who impersonates a victim's spouse or cohabitant in order to commit a sexual act is guilty of felony rape by fraud. Doing so would empower District Attorneys with the tools necessary to prosecute rape cases by addressing the antiquated notion that everyone who lives together is married.

Strengthen Child Abuse Laws – "Diego's Law"

In 2009, James Lujan tortured and killed 4-year old Diego Callas. Lujan was sentenced to 75 years to life in prison for his crimes, which also included torture of a 17-month old girl. The District Attorney is proposing to strengthen penalties under Penal Code 273 for child abusers and impose probationary periods and programs. Having the new proposed sections may have helped prevent Diego's murder.

PUBLIC BENEFIT / IMPACT

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

COST TO THE 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 2012 Legislative Session. The County's legislative delegation should support other legislative efforts to strengthen laws regarding child abuse, child pornography investigations, and sexual crimes.

CONTACT:

Joyce Dudley, District Attorney, (805)568-2308

Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

Proposed Legislation

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DONATION OF SOCIAL SERVICES SURPLUS COMPUTER EQUIPMENT DIRECTLY TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

California Health and Human Services Agencies are being tasked with providing greater client access through e-technology to income maintenance programs via web portals that allow clients to apply for services, recertify their eligibility on-line, make appointments for service, update their records, or contact county workers through County websites. However, many low-income clients do not have home-based computers. The U.S. Census collected data on computer usage until 2005. Unfortunately, of those that lived below the poverty line, only 35.4% used a computer at all and of those only 35.3% used a computer at home.

Current government code does not provide the flexibility needed to get surplus computers and computer equipment quickly into the hands of needy low-income recipients of public assistance programs directly by Social Service departments without the utilization of pass through agencies.

PUBLIC BENEFIT / IMPACT

Access to home based computers and these e-technology capabilities could reduce the number of in-office visits required for low-income working clients and reduce phone calls to eligibility workers. Access to home computers could also give clients the ability to perform employment searches and provide their children with automated resources to help them in school, enhancing the families earning and learning potential.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The original cost of these computers is funded through the Department of Social Services with the majority of funding coming from State/Federal funds. Donated surplus equipment is generally considered antiquated for high volume, high speed utilization by County employees but they are still useful for less complex and less high-speed client use. In addition, removing the requirement to have a pass through agency could result in county savings resulting from non-profit administrative fees.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

Revise Government Code 25372 to read: (a) Except as restricted by any conditions by which the county acquired the property, the board of supervisors may donate or lease any real or personal property that the board declares to be surplus to any public agency or organization exempt from taxation listed in subdivision (b). The board of supervisors may authorize County Welfare Departments under direction of the Agency Director, the authority to donate surplus computer equipment directly to CalWORKs, CalFresh, Medi-Cal and General Relief recipients. The board may impose on the donation or lease any terms and conditions that it determines to be appropriate.

CONTACT:

Kathy Gallagher, Director, Department of Social Services, (805)681-4451
Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

HIGHWAY 154 SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Proposed Legislation	
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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, funding for appropriate studies and capital improvements and enhanced law enforcement and public education activities.

CONTACT:

Scott McGolpin, Director, Public Works Department, (805)568-3010

Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

LAKE CAHCUMA – QUAGGA MUSSEL

Proposed Legislation

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SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Quagga and zebra mussels are non-native aquatic mollusks that threaten freshwater lakes throughout the United States, including Cachuma Lake. Mussel infestation can cause economic and environmental damage to bodies of water and water purveyance systems. The County has implemented inspection and treatment protocols to prevent the introduction of the mussels through infested boats that recreate at Cachuma Lake, rather than disallow boating on the lake. From October 2009- September 2010, the County has inspected 7,414 vessels. However, a comprehensive mussel prevention program is expensive to maintain and requires funding assistance in order to keep the lake open for recreational activities and ensure the viability of the lake as a potable water supply to the area.

No state or federal agency has been identified as the lead agency for this issue, nor has any protocol been mandated for the inspection or quarantine of infected vessels. Legislation sought by the County for this issue would accomplish the following:

- Form an Invasive Species Task Force to develop statewide regulations to eliminate the spread of invasive species in the waters of the state.
- Amend Vehicle Code section 9853 (a) to indicate that the vessel registration fee that would generate funding to accomplish the Task Force directives to include but not be limited to:
 - Development and monitoring of a statewide database of vessels that have entered or been exposed to infected waters of the state as determined by the Task Force. The database to be available to all agencies operating fresh water lakes.
 - Make available to all agencies operating fresh water boating facilities subvention funds to provide funding for training, equipment and certification for inspection purposes.
 - Department of Motor Vehicles to develop a “CF” tag that has a bar code that is scannable by all agencies operating fresh water boating facilities.
 - Allow any agency operating a fresh water boating facility to quarantine any vessel that has been exposed or entered into any infected waters of the state.
 - Establish a system of certified stations where a vessel can be inspected, treated and tagged to allow entrance to any lake in the state.
 - Educate vessel owners and operators of the dangers of transporting invasive species within the state.

PUBLIC BENEFIT / IMPACT

Cachuma Lake serves as a potable water source for residential, commercial, and agricultural interests within the County as well as provides various recreational opportunities including boating, fishing, wildlife tours, and camping to residents and visitors. Unlike the majority of lakes in California and the Southern California region, Santa Barbara County has implemented strict inspection/treatment protocols to allow boating on the Lake.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The County may continue to implement this inspection and treatment program at the Lake or opt to close the Lake to private boats. The County Parks Department receives approximately \$72,000 annually through daily and annual boat fees, which is used to help the County pay for the cost of maintaining and operating Cachuma Lake.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation advocate at the State level to develop legislation as outlined in “summary of the issue “above.

CONTACT:

Herman Parker, Director, Community Services Department, (805)568-2467
 Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

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TARGETED ADVOCACY

AGRICULTURE/WILLIAMSON ACT SUBVENTION FUNDING

Targeted Advocacy	
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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 has received an annual subvention payment from the State of approximately \$600,000. The FY 2010-11 allocations estimated at approximately \$177,000.

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 is a decrease from past fiscal years, and will result in a decrease in subvention payments to the County.

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 Fisher, Director, Agriculture and Cooperative Extension, (805)681-5600;
Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

CHILD CARE

Targeted Advocacy	
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SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

On October 8, 2010, then Governor Schwarzenegger eliminated CalWORKs Stage 3 child care in the FY 2010-11 State budget. 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 work. Santa Barbara County receives \$3.2 million to fund the Stage 3 child care program for nearly 500 children. The County is advocating for the restoration of this funding.

PUBLIC BENEFIT / IMPACT

Researchers and economists have documented that high quality early care and education programs offer 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.

Stage 3 child care subsidies help low-income working parents who are no longer on welfare pay for child care until their child turns 13 or the parental income exceeds a certain amount. Eligibility for the subsidy means that the parent is earning less than 75% of the State Median Income (SMI), as depicted in this chart. A single mom with two children earning \$23.15 per hour and working 40 hours per week ceases to qualify for Stage 3 child care. According to the California Budget Project's report entitled, "Making Ends Meet," a single parent family in Santa Barbara County requires \$32.36 per hour to make ends meet, well below 75% of SMI, and well above the wages that cause families to no longer be eligible.

Stage 3 funding affects 60,000 children who are currently in the program, and another 32,000 children who receive Stage 2 child care assistance and would otherwise move to Stage 3 over the next year and a half. 92,000 children will lose child care by mid-2012 unless Stage 3 child care funding is restored.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

Those who are not "timed out" of the welfare program (TANF/CalWORKs has a 60 month lifetime limit) could end up back on aid receiving a cash grant, food stamps, Medi-Cal insurance and child care assistance through Stage 1 child care funding. 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.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests that its delegation advocate at the State level to reinstate funding for CalWORKs Stage 3 child care. In addition, the County requests that its delegation advocate for a universal preschool system which provides quality early care and education as part of an education continuum for all children in our state and our nation.

CONTACT:

Kathy Gallagher, Director, Department of Social Services, (805)681-4451; Pat Wheatley, Executive Director, First 5 Santa Barbara County, (805)884.8087; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

CHILD SUPPORT PROTECTION ACT OF 2011

Targeted Advocacy	
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SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Child Support funding comes from federal, state and local sources. Passage of this bill will increase the federal portion of the funding.

PUBLIC BENEFIT / IMPACT

This bill would make more funding available to California's Child Support program and help maintain stability in the amount of funding that is earmarked for Santa Barbara County.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

This legislation would return the program to rules in place prior to the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. These proposed rules on how federal and state dollars are matched in the Child Support program would result in a shifting of \$30 million in annual expenditures from state discretion to federal obligation.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

That the County formally pursue enhance funding of the Child Support Protection Act of 2011. There is an economic argument for this legislation: for every dollar of public expenditure, the Child Support program collects and distributes \$3, either directly reimbursing the government for welfare costs or going straight to families. This program is an important economic stimulus and decreases the demand for public services for low income single parent families. With California's deep financial challenges, the state needs this federal Child Support assistance.

CONTACT:

Carrie Topliffe, Director, Department of Child Support Services, (805)568-2417
Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS/ BIOTERRORISM FUNDING

Targeted Advocacy	
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SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County's Public Health Department (PHD) has received funding for public health preparedness and response to public health emergencies and other types of health disasters from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). This has enabled the County to improve its disaster response infrastructure for H1N1 pandemics, bioterrorism incidents and other disasters that impact the public's health. In order to meet federal and state benchmarks for preparedness, PHD has put public health plans and supplies in place and trained staff and healthcare providers in a coordinated response to disasters. CDC and State general funding provided additional one-time funding for 09/10 to assist with H1N1 planning and vaccination efforts. Maintaining readiness for healthcare response cannot be sustained without continued funding for nominal staffing levels and 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; and written plans 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 response exercises and inability to maintain disaster medical caches and equipment.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

PHD anticipates that it requires \$400,000 per year in public health funds and \$325,000 in pass through hospital preparedness funds in order to maintain communication systems, disaster caches, and personnel training and exercises to insure ongoing preparedness for public health emergencies/disasters, bioterrorism, and pandemics. 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
Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT/REVENUE DIVERSIFICATION

Targeted Advocacy	
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SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Economic enhancement offers local government, the private sector, the non profit 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 non profit sectors expand and diversify.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

That the County of Santa Barbara aggressively seek and engage its state and federal delegation in securing legislation to provide for enhanced funding and streamlined processes to 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 should include but not be limited to: establishing or expanding revolving loan funds, small business loans CRA loan pool, equity capital and tax relief for start up businesses to facilitate economic enhancement opportunities and diversify county 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

Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, (805)568-3400

FIREFIGHTERS ASSISTANCE GRANT

Targeted Advocacy	
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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

Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

HOMELESSNESS

Targeted Advocacy	
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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 delegation 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 its federal delegation support full funding of authorized programs under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, including providing more flexibility in the use of Federal funds on the local level to address housing for the homeless. Given the nexus between homelessness and mental illness, the County requests its federal and state delegation support funding for mental health treatment services as well as State programs such as the Transitional Housing Plus (THP+) that provides funding for transitional housing for emancipated youth.

CONTACT

Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

LAND USE: HOUSING ELEMENT REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Targeted Advocacy	
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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.

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.

PUBLIC BENEFIT / IMPACT

Allowing for more flexibility and local control in assuring the availability of affordable housing would provide more opportunities for local agencies to seek solutions that work given constraints of individual communities and as a result more affordable housing.

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
Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

PRESERVATION OF MOBILE HOMES/AFFORDABLE HOUSING RENT CONTROL

Targeted Advocacy	
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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

Herman Parker, Director, Community Services Department, (805)681-2467
 Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

PUBLIC SAFETY

Targeted Advocacy	
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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; Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, (805)568.3400

SAFETY NET PRESERVATION

Targeted Advocacy	
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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 and critical child care 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 and child care 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 THE 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:

Kathy Gallagher, Director, Department of Social Services, (805)681-4451
Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRST 5 – PROPOSITION 10

Targeted Advocacy	
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SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Proposition 10, “The Children and Families First Act”, was passed in 1998 to tax tobacco products to fund early child development. Due to the State’s poor economy and budget shortfalls, legislative bills and budget proposals are continuously under consideration to divert Proposition 10 funds to backfill previously State-funded programs which focus on children and families and use the funds for unrelated services. The County opposes any efforts to divert, reprogram or “borrow” Proposition 10 funds.

PUBLIC BENEFIT / IMPACT

Santa Barbara County First 5 uses its Proposition 10 funds to promote programs focusing on health and well-being, education, safety and early childhood development for families and children under the age of five. These programs reflect local control and local solutions as programs are designed to address the needs of the Santa Barbara County community.

First 5 investments in newborn home visiting, children’s health and safety, early childhood development and education, and family strengthening services for children prenatal through age five, as well as supports placed-based strategies around community collaboratives.

Proposition 10 was passed by voters thirteen years ago and since then, young children have received health insurance, timely immunizations, dental care, early identification of special needs and quality child care and preschool services. These services have been customized to the local community and reflect the vision behind local community-based strategic plans. Diverting or reprogramming these funds would allow the State Legislature to determine how to use these funds and may even result in these funds being used for services entirely unrelated to children.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

Diverting or reprogramming these funds would result in significant harm to children ages 0-5, by reducing or eliminating critical prevention and early intervention services. There would be a negative impact on the budgets of both local public agencies and local community-based organizations that depend on the long-term contracts currently in place with First 5. Moreover, funding of prevention and early intervention services may save money in the long-term, by reducing the need for government to provide crisis services or other more long-term costly treatments that may arise without proper prevention and intervention.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests its delegation oppose any efforts to divert, reprogram or “borrow” Proposition 10 funds.

CONTACT

Pat Wheatley, Executive Director, First 5 Santa Barbara County, (805).884-8088

SENIOR SERVICES – OLDER AMERICANS ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Targeted Advocacy	
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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 THE 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 Americans 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

Kathy Gallagher, Director, Department of Social Services, (805)681-4451
Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568-3400

SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

Targeted Advocacy	
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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 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 undo 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

Kathy Gallagher, Director, Department of Social Services, (805)681-4451
Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568-3400

Targeted Advocacy

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SOCIAL SERVICES

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS)

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, IHSS maintains independence and quality of life while avoiding the more costly alternative of institutionalization.

Services to these vulnerable individuals have been reduced through State budget cuts over the past two years. Now, the FY 11/12 State budget has included the IHSS program in the list of “trigger” cuts effective January 2012 if revenues do not meet projections. A full 20% across-the-board reduction in hours of service would be imposed. When added to previous reductions, the elderly and disabled will see one quarter of their service hours slashed.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

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

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

IHSS supports and monitors the elderly and disabled in their homes, thus delaying the onset of major medical issues. If service hours are significantly reduced, as is proposed in the State budget, many recipients will be forced into more costly institutionalization at public expense. The 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 recipients who lose hours of 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.

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 advocate for waiving cuts to IHSS service hours and funding in the State budget and preserve existing IHSS funding levels.

CONTACT

Kathy Gallagher, Director, Department of Social Services, (805)681-4451
Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

SOCIAL SERVICES

TANF REAUTHORIZATION

Targeted Advocacy	
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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 process 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. At the same time, significant funding cuts have been made by the Governor on CalWORKs and Employment Services funding that impacts staffing levels and supportive services, which further constrains our ability to meet these measures. If the current TANF WPR methodology remains unchanged, counties will be faced with policy decisions that will impact client services and possibly lead to County sanctions. These cuts almost certainly will translate into delays in processing applications and issuing checks, fewer clients finding jobs, and slashing programs such as housing help and domestic violence counseling. The latest California budget cuts are at the heart of the welfare-to-work approach, which many fear will be difficult to restore even after the current economic crisis is resolved.

COST TO THE 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 undo 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

Kathy Gallagher, Director, Department of Social Services, (805)681-4451

Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

STATE SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDING

Targeted Advocacy	
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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 has not kept pace with inflation or the actual costs of administering mandated programs. 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 prevents the department from pursuing new technologies and increased efficiencies, or achieving 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 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 result in individuals being left in an abusive or negligent situation.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

The state’s failure to fund actual county cost increases has led to a funding gap of nearly \$1 billion annually. Freezing 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 performance inefficiencies and impact the ability to meet mandated timeframes 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 \$13.6 million funding gap for FY 11-12 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

Kathy Gallagher, Director, Department of Social Services, (805)681-4451
Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 805.568-3400

STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

Targeted Advocacy	
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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 recently proposed 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. In the budget proposal, it appears that Santa Barbara County would be among the first group of counties to eliminate the Healthy Families insurance program and move those children previously with Healthy Families into managed care Medi-Cal services in October 2012. As of November 2011, there were 10,996 children enrolled in Healthy Families in Santa Barbara County. This reflects a 3% increase in the number of County children insured by Healthy Families since the same time period last year, i.e. November 2010. This also reflects an increase of 26% or 2,274 additional Healthy Families-enrolled children compared to the 8,722 children enrolled in September 2006 when the Children's Health Initiative of Santa Barbara instituted its Outreach, Enrollment, Retention and Utilization 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 the 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 THE GOVERNMENT

Currently, it is estimated that there are 5,000 children within the County that would qualify for Healthy Families. As of August 2010, the number of Santa Barbara County children enrolled in Healthy Families is 10,510, an increase of over 20% from the 8,722 children enrolled in Healthy Families in September 2006 when the Children's Health Initiative of Santa Barbara (CHISB) instituted its Outreach, Enrollment, Retention and Utilization (OERU) activities. In order to increase the number of children with coverage, the County formed a coalition of agencies (Regional Health Authority, 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) that 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 in the County's 2007-08 and 2008-09 budgets 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 SCHIP 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 economic and budgetary challenges facing the State. 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 2010-11 State Budget Agreement, families will be experiencing greater hardships in relation to accessing health insurance coverage.

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

Pat Wheatley, Executive Director, First 5 Santa Barbara County, (805)884.8087
Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

TELECOMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION

Targeted Advocacy	
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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)568-2085
 Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

TRIBAL GAMING COMPACTS & LAND USE

Targeted Advocacy	
S	F

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

In the spirit of developing and continuing government-to-government relationships between federal, tribal, state, and local governments; the County of Santa Barbara will 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 are guaranteed funds 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

Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, County Executive Office (805)568-3400



APPENDIX

COUNTY AT A GLANCE

The People

Population: (7/1/2009)
 -432,981
 Gender: (2009)
 -50% Male
 -50% Female
 Ethnicity: (2010)
 -75% White
 -18% Hispanic
 -2% Black
 -5% Other
 Median Age: (2009)
 -34.0

The Government

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Salud Carbajal, Vice Chair

1st District, 805.568.2186

Janet Wolf

2nd District, 805.568.2191

Doreen Farr, Chair

3rd District, 805.568.2192 & 805.686.5095

Joni Gray

4th District, 805.737.7700 & 805.346.8407

Steve Lavagnino

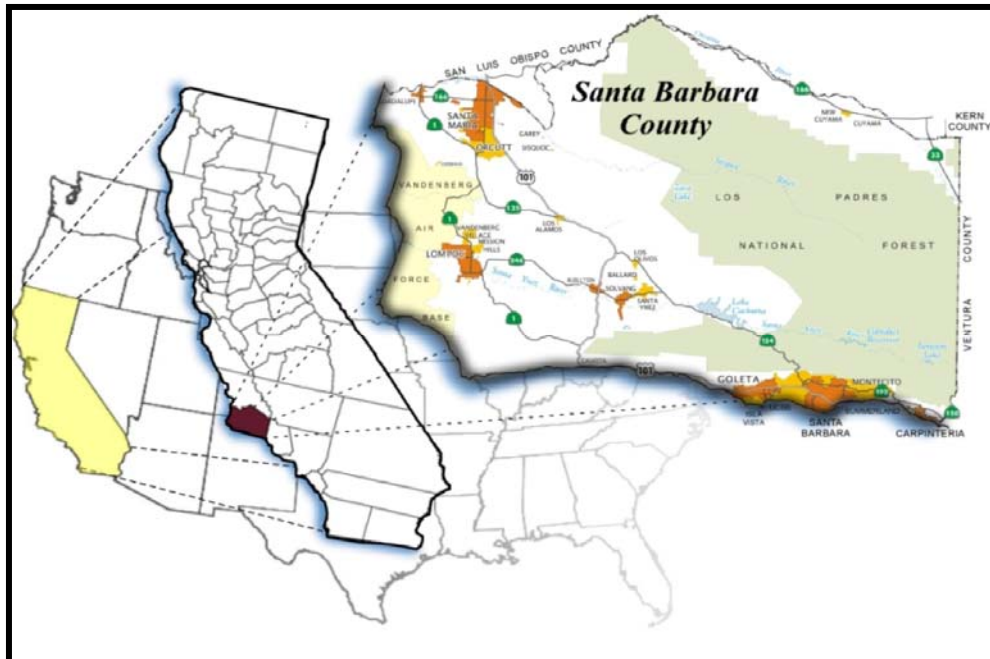
5th District, 805.346.8400

The Community

- 114 parks
- 18 beaches
- 16 open space preserves
- 16 public libraries
- 17 golf courses
- Civic Participation (4/2010)
 -Number of Precincts: 318
 -Number of Eligible Voters: 279,114

The Land

2,774 square miles
 (1/3 located within the
 Los Padres National Forest)
 150 square miles Vandenberg Air Force Base
 110 miles of beaches
 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, ending the war in Iraq, healthcare, US global leadership and homeland security.

United States Senator Barbara Boxer,

110th 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,

112th 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,

23rd 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, ending the war in Iraq, immigration, gas prices and health care issues.

Congressman Elton Gallegly,

24th District

house.gov/gallegly

Bio - Previous occupation: Businessman/real estate broker, politician. Elected to Congress in 1986. Committee assignments include Foreign Affairs, Judiciary, Natural Resources Committee and Intelligence.

Key Issues: Energy, national security/homeland security, illegal immigration and veterans' issues.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY 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 Sam Blakeslee,

15th District

cssrc.us/web/15

Bio - Previous occupation: Research scientist, owner of an investment firm. Elected to California Assembly in 2004. Assembly Minority Leader.

Key Issues: Energy planning/policy and environmental/conservation issues, fiscal issues, budget, tax and electoral reform, renewable energy portfolio and seismic safety.

California State Senator Tony Strickland, 19th District

cssrc.us/web/19

Bio - Previous occupation: CA State Assemblymember, business owner for renewable energy development. Elected to California Senate in 2008.

Key Issues: Protecting consumers, fiscal reform, two-year budget reform, redirecting our dependence on foreign oil and education.

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.

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

First District Supervisor Salud Carbajal (Vice Chair)

District includes the City of Carpinteria, portions of the City of Santa Barbara and the unincorporated areas of Carpinteria Valley, Summerland, Montecito, Mission Canyon, and Cuyama Valley. National Association of Counties (NACO) representative.

Second District Supervisor Janet Wolf

District includes portions of the Cities of Goleta and Santa Barbara, the unincorporated areas of the Goleta Valley and the Channel Islands. California State Association of Counties (CSAC) alternative representative.

Third District Supervisor Doreen Farr (Chair)

District includes the Cities of Buellton, Solvang, Guadalupe, (portions of) Goleta, and the unincorporated portions of Isla Vista, the Gaviota Coast, Los Alamos, Vandenberg Village, Casmalia, and Santa Ynez Valley.

Fourth District Supervisor Joni Gray

District includes the City of Lompoc and portions of the unincorporated areas of Santa Maria Valley, including Orcutt. California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Treasurer and County representative.

Fifth District Supervisor Steve Lavagnino

District includes the City of Santa Maria and the unincorporated areas of Sisquoc.