



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

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

Department Name: CEO
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: 1/15/2013
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 30 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Chandra L. Wallar, County Executive Officer, 568.3400
Director(s)
Contact Info: Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, 568-3400

SUBJECT: 2013 Legislative Platform

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive a report on issues and projects included as part of the County's 2013 Legislative Platform; and
2. Adopt the County's 2013 Legislative Platform; and
3. Receive and file year end federal advocacy report from Tom Walters and Associates Inc. and state advocacy report from Governmental Advocates

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to receive the Board of Supervisors approval of the County's Legislative Platform for the upcoming year. Each year, the County identifies specific issues, projects and/or programs ("priorities") to include within the County's legislative platform. Once adopted by the Board of Supervisors, the 2013 Legislative Platform ("platform") will be used by the County to communicate the County's priorities to the federal and state governments.

Background:

The development of the platform began in September, when the County's Legislative Program Committee ("Committee") reviewed the proposed timeline and platform process. County departments, County advocacy firm and other organizations such as the National Association of Counties (NACO)

and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) were contacted during September to solicit input regarding potential priorities. The Committee discussed and considered platform elements at the October-December meetings. The Legislative Program Committee approved the 2013 Platform and recommended during the December 3, 2012 meeting to bring the proposed 2013 platform to the Board for consideration. During the development of the platform, County staff also discussed potential issues and projects with its federal and state delegation and began designing a legislative strategy. Strategies involve funding requests, crafting new or amending existing legislation and advocacy of program and grant funding and regulatory reform. Once the platform is adopted by the Board, it will be used to communicate the County's priorities to the County's federal and state government and other intergovernmental entities.

This year in developing the overall platform the Legislative Committee reaffirmed the 2012 Legislative Principles, with slight additions to the definitions for 2013, to focus and align advocacy issues countywide. The committee is continuing to recommend to the Board, inclusion of a specific legislative principle pertaining to job growth and economic vitality. The Legislative Principles proposed include the following:

- Job Growth/Economic Vitality
- Efficient Service Delivery/Operations
- Fiscal Stability
- Interagency Collaboration
- Local Control
- Health and Human Services
- Community Sustainability.

Definitions of all of the principles may be found in the attached proposed 2013 Legislative Platform.

The proposed 2013 Platform includes the following components:

- 1) **Funding Requests:** The County submits appropriation requests to the federal and state government for various infrastructure projects and programs. Many of these projects usually have a federal nexus. Requests often include the cost of completing a phase or portion of a project rather than the entire project, as such, project funding requests may extend over multiple years. 2013 Funding requests include:
 - County Library Services and Capital
 - Federal Transportation – Regional
 - Goleta Beach County Park
 - Historic Santa Barbara County Courthouse
 - Multimodal Transportation
 - Parks/Open Space
 - Resource Recovery Project
 - Rural Road Transportation
 - Safety Improvements Public Beach Access
 - Santa Barbara Health & Human Services Campus Accessibility Upgrades
 - Veterans Memorial Buildings
 - Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization

- 2) **Proposed Legislation:** The County proposes ideas for new legislation or amendments to existing law that would help improve the effectiveness and efficiency of departmental operations and service delivery. Boater safety financial aid reform is the focus of proposed state legislation for 2013. The Boating Safety and Enforcement Financial Aid Program was established in 1969 to augment local government boater safety and enforcement programs.

Current state law allows one jurisdiction to receive 20% of the \$10.6 million funding, leaving any other program participant to split the remaining funds. The small size of the remaining boater safety financial aid grants has led to a waiting list for new participants in the program. The County of Santa Barbara is on the waiting list. Boater safety financial aid reform legislation would seek to recalculate the distribution of available funds and to broaden the number of jurisdictions provided these funds.

- 3) **Targeted Advocacy:** The County advocates for specific issues, programs, and projects. This includes advocacy for retention or enhancement in funding for existing programs including:

- 2012 Farm Bill & Disease Management
- Air Quality Marine Vessel Emissions
- Agriculture/Williamson Act Subvention Funding
- Child Care
- Disaster Preparedness/Bioterrorism
- Economic Enhancement/Revenue Diversification
- Firefighters Assistance Grant
- Funding for Exclusion and Early Pest Detection Programs against High Risk Pests
- Highway 154 Safety Improvements
- Homelessness
- Lake Cachuma
- Land Use: Housing Element Regional Housing Needs Assessment
- Lower Mission Creek
- Preservation of Mobile Homes/Affordable Housing Rent Control
- Public Safety
- Safety Net Preservation
- Senior Services – Older Americans Act Reauthorization
- Social Services Child Welfare Services
- Social Services In-Home Supportive Services – Funding
- Social Services TANF Reauthorization
- State Children’s Health Insurance Program
- State Social Services Funding
- Telecommunications Legislation
- Tribal Gaming Compacts & Land Use
- Violation Fines

County staff works closely with our state and federal advocates and partners to develop effective strategies to address the countywide needs as well as effective strategies to address platform items.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The 2013 Legislative Platform includes requests for project and program funding, legislation and advocacy for public service improvements that may increase available revenue, change service levels and thereby reduce or increase the cost of doing business.

Attachments:

A - 2013 Legislative Platform

B - Federal Advocacy Year-end Report from Thomas Walters and Associates

C – State Advocacy Year-end Report from Governmental Advocates

Authored by:

Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the County Executive Officer

CC:

Tom Walters, Thomas Walters and Associates, Inc

Cliff Berg and Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates, Inc.

Scott McGolpin, Director, Public Works

Cathleen Fisher, Director, Agricultural Commission/Weights & Measures

Herman Parker, Director, Community Services Department

Jim Laponis, Interim Director, General Services

Dr. Takashi Wada, Director, Public Health

Ted Myers, Interim Director, Social Services

Ben Romo, Director, First 5

Joyce Dudley, District Attorney

Bill Brown, Sheriff

Beverly Taylor, Chief Probation Officer

Michael Dyer, Fire Chief