

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
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**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 5/18/04  
**Department Name:** CAO  
**Department No.:** 012  
**Agenda Date:** 6/1/04  
**Placement:** Departmental  
**Estimate Time:** 45 Minutes  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Michael F. Brown  
County Administrator

**STAFF CONTACT:** Jim Laponis, Deputy County Administrator  
Lori Norton, Analyst

**SUBJECT:** Legislative Program Committee Recommendations

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## Recommendations:

That the Board of Supervisors considers the following recommendations from the Legislative Program Committee Meeting of May 17, 2004:

- A. **Seek the Governor's signature on AB 1320 (Dutra): Transit Village Plans.** AB 1320 deletes the requirement that a rail transit station be at the core of a transit village development, and instead, allows a transit village to be centered around a transit station that could be a rail or light rail station, ferry terminal, bus hub, or a bus transfer station. AB 1320 has passed the Assembly and Senate and is enrolled to the Governor. If signed, AB 1320 could encourage mixed-use development (transit village), which, by design, invites residents, workers, visitors, and shoppers to use mass transit and reduce their dependence upon automobiles. AB 1320 was brought to the Joint City/County Affordable Housing Task Force meeting in April by MTD who requested that the members of the Task Force seek the support of their individual jurisdictions. (Attachment A, unanimous vote).
- B. **Support SB 1842 (Chesbro) Budget Act of 2003, Contingencies and Emergencies.** SB 1842 would provide \$103,266,000 for expenditures for FY 2003-04 fiscal year in augmentation for the purposes of Contingencies and Emergencies. SB 1842 augmentation is required for the payment of claims filed with the State for damages resulting from the San Simeon Earthquake. (Attachment B, unanimous vote)
- C. **Oppose AB 2162 (Oropeza) Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund.** AB 2162 would expand eligibility for Indian Gaming Nexus Grant Funds (currently in Santa Barbara County only the City of Solvang and the County of Santa Barbara are eligible for Nexus Grant Funds) to include Special Districts within 4 miles of a casino. If it appears AB 2162 will pass, work with the author to narrowly and specifically define "Special Districts". (Attachment C, 4 ayes, Member Geis abstained)
- D. **Consider taking a position on HR 2933, An Act to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to reform the process for designating critical habitat.** HR 2933 prohibits the Secretary of the Interior from designating an area as critical habitat of a species, and any designation of critical habitat of a species from applying to an area, if the area is subject to: (1) a habitat conservation plan that the Secretary determines provides protection for habitat of the species that is substantially equivalent to the protection that would be

provided by such designation; or (2) a State or Federal land conservation program that provides such protection. Directs the Secretary, in determining whether an area is critical habit, to seek and, if available, consider information from local governments in the vicinity of the area, including local resource data maps, and specifies factors for consideration of the economic impact on landowners under the Act, including lost revenues and costs associated with preparing reports, surveys, and analyses. Please note, this issue is not one of the County's Federal priorities, thus will not be monitored or advocated by Waterman and Associates. If the Board elects to take a position on HR 2933, County staff will prepare a letter for the signature of the Chair of the Board of Supervisors. (Attachment D, unanimous vote)

- E. **Support HR 1039, the Wholesale Motor Fuel Fairness and Competition Restoration Act.** HR 1039 declares that it shall be unlawful for an owner or operator to sell motor fuel from its terminal facility to any person in excess of the price it charges any other person, including a distributor or retailer which it owns or with which it is affiliated. Exempts certain franchises or sales contracts entered into before enactment. . Please note, this issue is not one of the County's Federal priorities, thus will not be monitored or advocated by Waterman and Associates. If the Board elects to support HR 1039, County staff will prepare a letter for the signature of the Chair of the Board of Supervisors communicating the Board's support. (Attachment E, unanimous vote)
- F. **Oppose SB 1525 (Speier) Health care: Breast Cancer and Cervical Cancer Screening services: Family Planning Services and authorize the Public Health Department to prepare a letter for the signature of the Board Chair relaying the County's opposition.** SB 1525 would consolidate the Cancer Detection Programs (Every Woman Counts) with Family Planning Access Care and Treatment. The Office of Family Planning would administer the consolidated programs. Proponents believe that consolidation would eliminate overlap and result in cost savings. However, the Health community is concerned that the consolidation would result in lost access to education, screening and diagnostic services to some women. Also, any potential savings could be obtained through a combined and/or streamlined enrollment procedure without consolidating the programs, which have different missions and in many cases serve different clients. (Attachment F, 4 ayes, Member Stark abstained)

#### **Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendations are primarily aligned with actions required by law or by routine business necessity. They are also aligned with Goal Number 1: An efficient government able to anticipate and respond effectively to the needs of the community.

#### **Executive Summary and Discussion:**

On May 17, 2004, the Legislative Program Committee ("Committee") considered, and recommended the Board of Supervisors consider and or adopt the actions listed above. The 2004 Committee membership is as follows: Second District Supervisor Susan Rose, Third District Supervisor Gail Marshall, County Administrator Michael F. Brown, Auditor-Controller Robert Geis, and County Counsel Stephen Shane Stark. All members of the Committee were present at the meeting.

In addition to the recommended actions, the Committee received information but did not take action on a number of issues which are summarized below:

#### **May Revise**

1. The Committee received a report from Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates, on the May Revise and other State Legislative issues of interest to the County. Mr. Berg will provide a report to the full Board on Tuesday, May 25, 2004 regarding the impacts of the May Revise on the County of Santa Barbara.

### **Realignment Funding**

2. The Committee received an update on AB 1457, which was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger on May 4, 2004. AB 1457 authorizes the Department of Motor Vehicles to transfer Vehicle License Fees (VLF) for realignment programs to the Local Revenue Fund for the remainder of FY 2003-04. Passage of this bill was critical to insure full funding for County Public Health, Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health, and Social Services realignment programs in the current fiscal year.

### **Universal Health Care Coverage**

3. The Committee received a brief update on SB 921 (Kuehl): Single Payer Health Care Coverage. During the last legislative session, the Committee received information on SB 921, the Kuehl bill, which states the intent of the Legislature to implement a single-payer universal health care delivery system in California. The Committee recommended and the Board supported the concept of a universal health care system, however, did not take a position on SB 921. Then as now, SB 921 is still in spot form and does not provide detailed information on how the universal health care would be funded. Further, the Committee may recall SB 2, which did pass last year and will provide expanded health care coverage to employees, is now the subject of an initiative, which will appear on the November 4<sup>th</sup> ballot.

### **Meeting with Senator Feinstein's staff**

4. The Committee received a report on a request from Senator Dianne Feinstein's office to meet with the County regarding the County's Federal priorities and to seek information pertaining to Indian Gaming and Fee-to-Trust proposals. Mr. Guillermo Gonzalez from Senator Feinstein's Los Angeles District Office contacted the County Administrator's office to seek to arrange a meeting regarding the County's Federal Legislative priorities and to obtain information on Indian Gaming and Fee-to-Trust proposals. Mr. Gonzalez was scheduled to meet with County staff on May 21, 2004; however, the meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled at a future date.

### **Mandates and Service Levels:**

The Legislative Program is not mandated and its service levels are discretionary.

### **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

If applicable, fiscal and facility impacts are discussed in relationship to individual recommendations.

**C: Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates  
Ron Waterman, Waterman and Associates  
Department Directors**