



2021 Accomplishments

A State Budget

- *Santa Barbara County Pipeline Clean-Up* – Successfully secured funding for the decommissioning of the County's abandoned pipelines. The County and the City of Carpinteria worked with Senator Monique Limon on including \$1,050,000 in the state Budget for the old Venoco abandoned pipeline cleanup. Trailer Bill - SB 170 clarified that the County will receive \$550,000 and the City will receive \$500,000 for the abandoned pipeline clean-up, which will be allocated by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control.
- *Telehealth* – Successfully supported the State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to extend telehealth flexibilities, including telephone visits, that were in place during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The language was placed in AB 133, the health trailer bill. AB 133 requires DHCS to seek any federal approvals it deems necessary to extend the approved waiver or flexibility implemented pursuant to those provisions as of July 1, 2021, that are related to the delivery and reimbursement of services via telehealth modalities in the Medi-Cal program, and requires DHCS to implement those extended waivers or flexibilities for which federal approval is obtained for a specified period of time ending December 31, 2022. The bill also requires the DHCS to convene an advisory group to provide recommendations to inform the department in establishing and adopting billing and utilization management protocols for telehealth modalities to increase access and equity and reduce disparities in the Medi-Cal program. The bill authorizes DHCS to enter into contracts, or amend existing contracts, for the purposes of implementing these provisions and would exempt those contracts or amendments from specified provisions of law. AB 133 was chaptered into law on July 27th.
- *Broadband* – The County supported the passage of broadband infrastructure funding in SB 156, which was chaptered into law on July 20th. The trailer bill provides for a historic \$6 billion investment in broadband infrastructure. The bill will benefit residents across the state, connecting families and businesses by providing \$2 billion for last-mile network construction in both rural and urban centers of California. Within those designations, the funds will be allocated by the number of unserved and underserved residents, ensuring the funds flow where they are needed most. The County advocated along with CSAC to receive this funding.
- *County Coroners Budget Request* - Santa Barbara County supported Sacramento County's state budget request for the training and equipment needed to support the work of county coroners. The \$1 million budget request would be for interested counties to participate in training in how to use the rapid DNA tests and to help coroners have a more coordinated response to mass fatalities. The budget included \$1 million in one-time funding for the 2021-22 budget year to the Office of Emergency Services to facilitate mass casualty trainings for coroner offices.
- *340B Program* – The County has been concerned with the potential loss of state 340B funding for county clinics, as a result of the Governor's executive that creates a single-purchaser system for prescription drugs in California. We have been working to secure a backfill to prevent the loss of 4.2 million dollars. We have worked with the Administration and other stakeholders to get the backfill funds in the State Budget, but the distribution formula remains unresolved.
- *Criminal Justice Administrative Fees* – Advocated for the County to receive a proper backfill in response to Chapter 92, Statutes of 2020 (AB 1869) which eliminated the ability of state and local agencies to impose certain administrative fees for criminal offenses. AB 143, the courts trailer bill included an allocation methodology for the distribution of the \$65 million included in Chapter 92, Statutes of 2020 (AB 1869).

B Delegation – Worked directly with the County's Legislators on legislation that would directly affect the County, including:



GOVERNMENTAL ADVOCATES

- *SB 47 (Limon)* – Successfully supported SB 47 by Senator Monique Limon, which authorizes, starting in fiscal year 2022-23, the Geologic Energy Management Division to make expenditures up to \$5 million to plug and abandon hazardous or deserted wells or hazardous or deserted production facilities and extends related reporting requirements. The bill was chaptered into law on September 23, 2021.
- *AB 941 (Bennett)* – Successfully supported AB 941 by Assemblymember Steve Bennett, which requires the Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) to establish a grant program for counties to establish farmworker resource centers that provide farmworkers and their families with services related to, among other things, labor and employment rights, education, housing, immigration and health and human services. The bill was chaptered into law on September 22, 2021.

C Legislation – Reviewed and assessed all of the introduced legislation and worked with the County to determine which legislation fit in the County’s Platform. Below is legislation that the County was successful in:

- *AB 361 (Rivas)* – Successfully worked with the Governor’s Office, the Author’s office and CSAC on helping pass AB 361. The bill provides flexibility to state and local agencies and boards to conduct their business through virtual public meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic and will give them the ability to carry out their work while keeping decision-makers, staff and the general public safe. The bill was signed by the Governor on September 16th.
- *AB 843 (Aguilar-Curry)* – Successfully worked with the Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) to help pass AB 843, which authorizes Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) to submit eligible bioenergy projects for cost recovery from electric utility ratepayers, pursuant to the Bioenergy Market Adjusting Tariff (BioMAT) program, if open capacity exists within the 250 megawatts (MW) program limit. The bill was chaptered into law on September 23rd.
- *SB 493 (Bradford)* – Successfully opposed SB 493 (Bradford), which would have redirected Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) funds, revised the composition of local Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils, and recast various elements of required multiagency juvenile justice plans. In alliance with CSAC, the County of Santa Barbara supports the continued evaluation of the best and most effective ways to address the therapeutic needs of youth in our community but were in our opposition to diverting meaningful and long-standing investments in local systems. The bill did not meet the legislative deadline and became a two-year bill.
- *Worker’s Comp* – Santa Barbara opposed two worker’s comp bills in alliance with the California Coalition on Worker’s Compensation (CCWC), CSAC and a number of other organizations. SB 335 (Cortese) would have fundamentally altered longstanding rules and timeframes for determining eligibility for workers’ compensation claims and moves California outside of the mainstream when compared to other states. AB 1465 (Reyes) would have reduced the quality of medical care in California’s workers’ compensation system, increase costs on employers as they struggle to expand California’s economy as we come out of the COVID-19 pandemic, and wipe away important prior reforms that were the subject of negotiations between labor and management. Both bills did not meet the legislative deadlines and are now two-year bills.



GOVERNMENTAL ADVOCATES

A Look into 2022

- I. Implementation of 2021-22 State Budget
 - *Homelessness/Affordable Housing Programs*
 - *Transportation* - The transportation funds in the 2021 Budget Act were contingent on an allocation schedule being set in legislation by October 10, 2021. While no agreement was reached regarding these allocations, further discussions are ongoing as to these funds and for the \$4.2 billion in bond funds that are specifically set aside for California's High Speed Rail project. Discussions surrounding the transportation package will continue and the Administration and Legislature expect to address them in early 2022.
 - *Energy* - The \$735 million energy package included investments to accelerate progress on meeting the state's clean energy goals and better position California as a leader in advancing clean technologies. The allocation of this package along with other policy changes and projects has been deferred to 2022.
 - *340B Backfill*
- II. Pass-through of Federal Infrastructure Funding to State and Local Government
- III. Offshore Oil and Oil Pipeline Safety
- IV. CalAIM/Healthcare/Telehealth Issues
- V. Natural Disaster and Fire Damage Recovery
- VI. COVID/Public Health/Vaccination
- VII. Climate Change/Sea Level Rise
- VIII. 2022-23 Budget Opportunities