

***STATE
LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES***



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

DRAFT

2005 State Priorities

State Budget

Protect Santa Barbara County's interests during the State Budget process.

Work to prevent loss of local revenues, cost shifts to the County, and reductions to County programs without a corresponding change in service responsibilities

- Eliminate Federal Child Support Penalties
- Protect existing Statutory commitment for repayment of SB 90 (State Mandate) obligations
- Continue Williamson Act (Agriculture) Subventions
- Constitutionally protect Proposition 42 (Transportation) funds for transportation purposes as authorized by voters
- Protect revenues that support public safety and juvenile justice intervention and protection programs
- Continue Flood Control Subvention
- Protect Counties' authority to collect jail booking fees

County Funding Needs

Seek State Funding for the following:

- Emergency Operations Center, Public Safety (Sheriff and Fire) Helicopter, and North County Jail

Sponsored Legislation

Seek an Author to Sponsor Legislation for the following:

- Reauthorize Oil Royalty Revenue Sharing and seek to expand permissible uses of funds to include alternative transportation
- Affordable Housing Assistance
- Seek an author for funding for costs arising from the Michael Jackson Trial

Additional Priorities

- Seek opportunities to support legislation to enhance the County's and State's economic and business climate
- Seek opportunities to fund alternative transportation projects

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

***STATE
LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES***



**County Sponsored
Legislation**

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Amend PRC Section 6817(b) to allow Local Oil Revenue Sharing

Recommendation

Continue to seek a author for legislation to amend Public Resources Code Section(PRC) 6817(b), to reauthorize the County to receive a 20% share of state revenue for the extraction of oil, gas, and hydrocarbons, from tideland leases within the County and seek to expand the permissible uses of the funds to include alternative transportation. The previously existing revenue sharing provision was allowed to sunset on January 1, 2002.

Summary of Issue

PRC 6817(b) authorized a 20% share of revenues, paid to the state, for the extraction of oil, gas, or other hydrocarbons from state tideland leases, be paid to the city or county within whose boundaries the lease is located. The provision would only apply to existing leases.

Any revenue received pursuant to PRC 6817(b) must be deposited in a special tide and submerged lands fund and may be expended only for specified purposes which include the mitigation of any adverse environmental impacts caused by exploration, production or transportation of hydrocarbons.

County Contact

James Laponis, Deputy County Administrator (805) 568-3400

Lori Norton, Legislative Analyst (805) 568-3421

Seek legislation to Authorize Local Governments to Impose a Fee on the Sale of Property for Purposes of Funding Affordable/Workforce Housing

Recommendation

Seek an author for legislation to amend the State Constitution to permit local governments to impose a fee on the sale, transfer, or conveyance of property. The fee would be used to fund the creation and maintenance of affordable/workforce housing for persons and families whose income does not exceed 200% of the median income for the Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas as determined by HUD.

Summary of Issue

The cost of housing in California continues to rise faster than in any other region in the nation. California's housing affordability rate fell from 29.1% in 2002 to 26.9% in 2003.

It is the intent of the proposed legislation to increase the availability of funds for affordable/workforce housing, in geographical areas experiencing an affordable/workforce housing crisis. The proposed legislation would authorize local governments to impose a fee on the sale of property. The fee would be used to fund the creation of affordable/workforce housing units.

County Contact

James Laponis, Deputy County Administrator (805) 568-3400

Lori Norton, Legislative Analyst (805) 568-3421

Ed Moses, Director of Housing (805) 568-3515

***STATE
LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES***



**State Budget
Requests**

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Emergency Operations Center Funding

Recommendation

Continue to seek State and Federal funding opportunities for the construction of an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Santa Barbara County.

Summary of Issue

Santa Barbara County continues to seek funding for a dedicated EOC, to provide centralized coordination during local disasters and serve as the official policy making and agency coordinating command post. The EOC would serve as the hub for official disaster related communications with the State office of Emergency Services, Coast Guard, Red Cross, fire districts, health care providers, utility companies, shelter providers, cities, and local officials. The EOC would serve as a regional training center for disaster related training.

Santa Barbara County has significant offshore oil/gas resources which are subject to leaking and spilling, resulting in the need for specialized disaster planning, operations, and coordination with state resources. Additionally, Santa Barbara County has significant state wilderness areas which have been and continue to be prone to wildland fires requiring coordination with state agencies. For the safety of our citizens, we critically need a dedicated well equipped Emergency Operations Center.

County Contact

James Laponis, Deputy County Administrator (805) 568-3400

Lori Norton, Legislative Analyst (805) 568-3421

Bruce Carter, Emergency Operations Manager (805) 681-5559

***STATE
LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES***



**Additional Legislative
Priorities**

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Support State and Local Fiscal and Program Reform

Recommendation

Seek ongoing fiscal and program reform, including increased revenue flexibility for local governments. Support a comprehensive review of State funded services and determination as to the appropriate level of government to provide them in the most effective and efficient manner.

Summary of Issue

The successful passage of Proposition 1A in November 2004 provides increased revenue protection for local governments. However, local governments are still at risk due to their continued reliance on State program funding- which is often insufficient to meet mandated program requirements and/or mandated service levels. Reform is necessary to insure State services are provided by the appropriate level of government, and in the most efficient and effective manner. Further, the State should provide full funding to meet State mandated program requirements and service levels.

County Contact

James Laponis, Deputy County Administrator (805) 568-3400
Lori Norton, Legislative Analyst (805) 568-3421

Support Additional Implementation of Trial Court Funding Buyout

Recommendation

Support implementation of Trial Court Funding to include State funding for all trial court operations in Santa Barbara County.

Summary of Issue

Trial Court Funding Reform, enacted in 1997, was designed to:

1. Provide state funding for trial court operations,
2. Permanently cap county contributions to trial court operations,
3. Provide State funds for the growth in trial court costs.

To date, the State has provided funding for trial court operations for the smallest 18 counties. Santa Barbara County is now fourth on the list of remaining counties for State funding for trial court operations.

Full implementation of Trial Court Funding remains a top priority for the County of Santa Barbara County. State funding of trial court operations in Santa Barbara County would result in general fund cost avoidance of approximately \$7 million dollars per year.

County Contact

James Laponis, Deputy County Administrator (805) 568-3400

Lori Norton, Legislative Analyst (805) 568-3421

Protect Discretionary Status of Local Tobacco Litigation Settlement Revenues

Recommendation

Protect the discretionary status of local Tobacco Litigation Settlement Revenues.

Summary of Issue

Under the terms of the November 1998 Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) between the State and the nation's cigarette manufacturers, tobacco companies must make annual payments to the State. California is projected to receive an estimated \$25 billion over the next 25 years.

California's payments under the MSA will be split 50/50 between state government and local governments under a Memorandum of Understanding negotiated by the Attorney General and various local jurisdictions some of which also had filed related civil actions. There is no federal restriction on the use of these funds. The State should likewise not impose any restrictions on the use of local funds.

County Contact

James Laponis, Deputy County Administrator (805) 568-3400

Lori Norton, Legislative Analyst (805) 568-3421

Eliminate Mandatory Binding Arbitration for Local Public Safety Labor Disputes

Recommendation

Support legislation to amend Code of Civil Procedures, Section 12999 et. seq. to eliminate mandated binding arbitration for local public safety labor disputes.

Summary of Issue

The Code of Civil Procedures, Section 1299 et. seq. mandates binding arbitration to resolve local public safety labor disputes.

Mandatory and binding arbitration in effect transfers control of a substantial portions of local budgets from elected Board's and Council's to an outside arbitrator.

In Santa Barbara County, binding arbitration would place under the control of an arbitration panel, budget decisions impacting approximately \$70 million dollars. Every 1% overall increase in impacted salaries and benefits, approved through binding arbitration, would cost Santa Barbara County taxpayers \$700,000 annually. Binding arbitration will negatively impact good faith collective bargaining and mutual problem solving. Employers and unions will be forced to posture at the collective bargaining table to put themselves in the best strategic position for the arbitration process. Compulsory and binding arbitration is not in the best interests of local government.

County Contact

James Laponis, Deputy County Administrator (805) 568-3400

Lori Norton, Legislative Analyst (805) 568-3421

Protect Local Decision Making and Accountability for Proposition 10 Commission

Recommendation

Protect local decision making and accountability for County Proposition 10 Commission when statewide financial reporting and fiscal practices are established.

Summary of Issue

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and the First 5 Children and Families Commission have enjoyed a successful partnership since the creation of the Commission in 1999.

Presently the First 5 Association for First 5 counties has initiated a statewide partnership with the Government Finance Officers Association, a nationally-respected organization dedicated to the sound management of government financial resources. Through this partnership, county commissions will be provided with the most promising best practices for financial reporting and fiscal management, and receive high quality training and assessment services. This partnership is consistent with county commission's goals to meet or exceed standards for quality and accountability in all of our work.

SB 34 and SB 35 have been introduced by Senator Flores and legislation being drafted by Assemblywoman Chan which could significantly impact the composition of local commissions, and impact the level of local decision making by commissions.

- We would like to advocate for two guiding principles:
- Protect local autonomy and decision making; and
- Locally adopted strategic plans, developed in response to local needs should guide funding decisions

County Contact

Pat Wheatley, Executive Director, First 5 Santa Barbara County (805) 884-8085

Support Legislation to Resolve the Energy Crisis Resulting from Utility Deregulation

Recommendation

Support legislation to mitigate the energy shortages, rate increases, and other negative impacts of the State's deregulation of electric utilities.

Summary of Issue

As a consumer of electricity and a recipient of tax revenues from power companies, Santa Barbara County will experience material fiscal impacts from increased rates and potential defaults. These potential impacts include: 1) an annual loss of approximately \$1.6 million in property tax and \$500,000 in franchise fees if utilities default or the State takes over the electric power system and the industry becomes tax exempt, and 2) increased costs to operate county facilities, street lights, traffic signals, etc. of approximately \$400,000 annually if the recently enacted 15% rate increase is extended.

The State should consider the following recommended actions:

- 1) minimize rate increases and assure reliability of service;
- 2) require early notification of outages;
- 3) exempt essential facilities from outages;
- 4) protect vulnerable populations and exempt indigents from rate increases;
- 5) require after hours response from power companies;
- and 6) study "green buildings" and alternate energy opportunities as part of the long-term solution to the current crisis.

County Contact

James Laponis, Deputy County Administrator (805) 568-3400

Lori Norton, Legislative Analyst (805) 568-3421

Support State Funding for the Implementation of Proposition 36

Recommendation

Support State funding for drug treatment services, probation supervision and monitoring, drug testing, and other related services required to fully and successfully implement voter approved Proposition 36.

Summary of Issue

Proposition 36, enacted through a voter initiative in November 2000, requires certain adult offenders who use or possess illegal drugs to receive drug treatment and supervision in the community, rather than being sent to state prison or county jail, or supervised in the community without treatment. Under Proposition 36 counties are responsible for providing:

1) Drug treatment services to both eligible probationers and parole violators, 2) Probation supervision and court monitoring services to probationers, 3) Other services for probationers that are ordered by the court, including vocational training, family counseling, literacy training, and community service and 4) Program administration.

However, Proposition 36 does not provide adequate levels of funding for these services. Additionally, Proposition 36 specifically excludes the use of funding for drug testing, which is a critical component of any effective drug treatment program. State funding for drug testing is required to successfully implement Proposition 36.

County Contact

James Laponis, Deputy County Administrator (805) 568-3400

Lori Norton, Legislative Analyst (805) 568-3421

Support Funding of the Juvenile Justice Intervention and Protection Programs

Recommendation

Support permanent State funding for juvenile justice intervention and protection programs.

Summary of Issue

CPA 2000 provided \$121 million for funding local juvenile justice plans, and provided local juvenile justice coordinating councils with funds to implement the following components:

1) an assessment of existing law enforcement, probation, education, mental health, social services, and substance abuse programs that target at-risk juveniles, juvenile offenders and their families; 2) an identification and prioritization of local entities that face significant risk of juvenile crime; and 3) a local strategy to provide a continuum of coordinated responses to juvenile crime and delinquency.

Santa Barbara County received \$1.46 million in FY 2000 and in FY 2001. The County is seeking permanent State funding for juvenile justice intervention and protection programs.

County Contact

James Laponis, Deputy County Administrator (805) 568-3400

Lori Norton, Legislative Analyst (805) 568-3421

Support Increased State Funding to the County for In-Home Supportive Services

Recommendation

Support legislation or budget action to increase state funding to Counties for the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Program.

Summary of Issue

Implementation of an IHSS Advisory Committee and the establishment of an Employer of Record were mandated by Chapter 90, Statutes of 1999 (AB 1682). The intent of the statute is to enhance service quality by improving working conditions, (i.e. wages and benefits) of the IHSS individual providers.

Upon recommendation by the IHSS Advisory Committee and approval by the Board, Santa Barbara County established an Employer of Record that can negotiate working conditions with approximately 1200 individual providers.

The costs of establishing and maintaining the Employer of Record plus the potential increases in provider wages and benefits will significantly increase the County cost of the IHSS program. The State should fully fund the cost to the County to provide these services.

County Contact

James Laponis, Deputy County Administrator (805) 568-3400

Lori Norton, Legislative Analyst (805) 568-3421

Support Medi-Cal Reform Efforts

Recommendation

Support restructuring the State's Medi-Cal system to simplify and expand eligibility. Preserve access for the uninsured and indigent for medically necessary physical and mental health care, drug treatment services, and California Children's services.

Summary of Issue

Approximately 21% of Santa Barbara County's residents are not covered by health insurance. This exceeds the percentage of California residents without insurance (18%) and the percentage of United States residents without insurance coverage (13%).

Support Medi-Cal reform efforts to simplify and expand eligibility for the uninsured and indigent. Establish a stable and sustainable financial structure for Medi-Cal, that will accommodate whatever redesigns emerge from the Governor's proposed reform effort, while providing the greatest possible access to health care and sustaining the fragile network of safety-net providers.

County Contact

James Laponis, Deputy County Administrator (805) 568-3400

Lori Norton, Legislative Analyst (805) 568-3421

Support State Funding for the Preservation and Maintenance of State and Local Transportation Infrastructure

Recommendation

Support a long-term, guaranteed revenue source dedicated to cities and counties for the preservation and maintenance of local street and roads.

Summary of Issue

Proposition 42, passed by the voters in March 2002, provides that all sales tax on gasoline that would otherwise be deposited in the State General Fund shall be used for specified transportation purposes beginning in 2003-04. However, the transfer of this money to transportation may be suspended under certain circumstances. Proposition 42 was partially suspended as part of the 2003-04 and 2004-05 budgets. The impacts of the suspension of Proposition 42 are reduced funding for local street and road improvements, State transportation improvement programs, traffic congestion relief programs, etc.

A permanent, guaranteed revenue source dedicated to these purposes are necessary to prevent further deterioration of the state and local transportation systems and to address the enormous expansion and maintenance backlog.

County Contact

James Laponis, Deputy County Administrator (805) 568-3400

Lori Norton, Legislative Analyst (805) 568-3421

Support Local Discretion over Land Use

Recommendation

Support local discretion in land use decisions as they pertain to planning, development, zoning, and subdivision map act decisions. Oppose any State legislation that attempts to reduce or transfer land use authority from local governments.

Summary of Issue

The primary authority for land use planning is appropriately placed with counties and cities. Land use planning is a critical component of local responsibility and ability to insure the protection of the public health and safety, the welfare of all residents, and the protection of property rights.

The County supports protection of local discretion over land use decisions and opposes legislation that restricts this authority to the detriment of the ability of local governments to protect their citizens.

County Contact

James Laponis, Deputy County Administrator (805) 568-3400

Lori Norton, Legislative Analyst (805) 568-3421