

2007 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES BY CRITICAL ISSUE

ISSUE	SUMMARY
FEDERAL LAKE CACHUMA	REQUIRED RAISING OF WATER LEVEL (SURCHARGE) REQUIRES REPLACEMENT OF FACILITIES AT A COST OF \$12M. SEEKING FEDERAL FUNDING.
SANTA MARIA LEVEE	LEVEE HAS BREACHED IN THE PAST AND NEEDS EXTENSIVE REPAIR TO REMAIN EFFECTIVE IN PROTECTING PLAIN FROM FLOODING. SEEKING FEDERAL FUNDING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA.
MISSION CREEK	MISSION CREEK PROVIDES VARIOUS CHANNELS TO REDUCE FLOODING AND PROPERTY DAMAGE TO THIS AREA WITHIN THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA. SEEKING FEDERAL FUNDING TO MAKE NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS.
VETERANS BUILDING	THE VETERANS BUILDING IN LOMPOC IS IN NEED OF REPAIR IN ORDER TO BE A UTILIZED RESOURCE TO THE COMMUNITY. SEEKING FEDERAL FUNDING TO MOVE THE RESTORATION PROCESS FORWARD.
EOC EQUIPMENT FUNDING	THE NEW EOC, ONCE CONSTRUCTED, WILL NEED TO BE EQUIPPED WITH SOFTWARE INCLUDING A BACKUP DISPATCH SYSTEM. SEEKING FEDERAL FUNDING FOR EQUIPMENT.
MEDICAL REIMBURSEMENT RATES	RATES OF REIMBURSEMENT FOR MEDICARE AND MEDI-CAL AT FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER HAS NOT KEPT UP WITH THE INCREASED COSTS OF PROVIDING HEALTH CARE SERVICES. SEEKING SUPPORT TO REEXAMINE RATES AND ESTABLISH NEW REIMBURSEMENT LEVELS.
BIOTERRORISM FUNDING	FEDERAL FUNDING ENABLES PUBLIC HEALTH TO PREPARE FOR POTENTIAL DISASTER AND BIOTERRORISM INCIDENTS TO HELP PROTECT RESIDENTS. SEEKING SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED FEDERAL FUNDING.
SCAAP	STATE CRIMINAL ALIEN ACT REIMBURSES COUNTIES FOR THE COST OF INCARCERATING UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS IN JAILS. SEEKING CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL FUNDING.
SAFER	STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROVIDES GRANTS TO PAY FOR THE COST OF INCREASING THE NUMBER OF FRONT-LINE FIREFIGHTERS. SEEKING CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL FUNDING.
CHILD SUPPORT	SECTION 7309 OF THE DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005 REMOVES THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE COUNTY'S CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES TO USE FEDERAL GRANTS AS A STATE MATCH. SEEKING LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT FOR HR 4794 TO REPEAL THIS SECTION OF THE ACT.
<i>BEACH EROSION</i>	BEACH EROSION IS A PROBLEM AMONG THE COUNTY'S COASTLINE, INCLUDING AT GOLETA BEACH COUNTY PARK. SEEKING FUNDING FOR BEACH EROSION CONTROL AND REPLENISHMENT PROJECTS.
<i>TRANSPORTATION (TEA-21 GRANTS)</i>	THE COUNTY HAS USED TEA-21 FUNDING FOR ROAD WIDENING AND IMPROVEMENTS, BRIDGE REPAIR, SURFACE TREATMENT AND OTHER PROJECTS. SEEKING FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS.

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TRIBAL LAND USE ISSUES

THE COUNTY ENCOURAGES GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT THAT FULLY MITIGATE ENVIRONMENTAL AND FISCAL IMPACTS AND OPPOSES FEE TO TRUST APPLICATIONS THAT RESULT IN AN UNNECESSARY LOSS OF LOCAL CONTROL . THE COUNTY WILL SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT ADHERES TO THE COUNTY'S STATED POLICY ON FEE TO TRUST.

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STATE

HOUSING ELEMENT (TOP PRIORITY)

THE STATE'S PRESCRIBED HOUSING PLAN MUST APPROPRIATELY REFLECT THE UNIQUE NATURE OF OUR COASTAL COMMUNITY BY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE CONSTRAINED PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT THAT LIES WITHIN OUR BORDERS. THE COUNTY'S HOUSING PLAN MUST ALSO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION OUR ARDENT PASSION FOR COMMUNITY-BASED PLANNING. SEEKING LEGISLATION CREATING AN INTEGRATED SOLUTION THAT DEFINES THE PROPER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR LOCAL NEED TO PROVIDE A JOBS-HOUSING BALANCE AND THE RANGE OF BARRIERS THAT PREVENT REALIZATION OF THAT GOAL.

REINSTATE SB 1187 (UNDER CONSIDERATION)

SB1187 WOULD REQUIRE 20% OF REVENUES PAID TO THE STATE FROM THE PRODUCTION OF OIL, GAS, AND OTHER HYDROCARBONS FROM STATE TIDELANDS LEASE BE PAID TO THE CITY OR COUNTY WITHIN WHOSE BOUNDARIES THE LEASE IS LOCATED IF THE OIL, GAS, OTHER HYDROCARBONS ARE EXTRACTED UNDER SPECIFIED CIRCUMSTANCES. SEEKING LEGISLATION TO REINSTATE THIS BILL.

PROMPT PAYMENT OF MEDICAL BILLS

THE STATE IS DELAYED IN REIMBURSING MEDICAL BILLS SUBMITTED BY ADMHS CAUSING FINANCIAL STRESS TO ADMHS. SEEKING LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE STATE TO PAY CLAIMS IT RECEIVES FROM ADMHS WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RECEIPT.

ABSORPTION OF COURT COSTS

STATE ABSORBED THE COST OF THE SUPERIOR COURTS FOR COUNTIES SEVERAL YEARS AGO, BUT STOPPED BEFORE IT FUNDED ALL COUNTIES DUE TO BUDGETARY ISSUES. SEEKING LEGISLATION TO REINSTATE THIS PROGRAM AND HAVE STATE CONTINUE PAYING ALL COUNTIES.

PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES

THE STATE DOES NOT PAY PROPERTY TAX OR PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES FOR THE LAND ON WHICH STATE INSTITUTIONS ARE BUILT. SEEKING LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE STATE TO COMPENSATE COUNTIES FOR THE LOSS OF PROPERTY TAX REVENUES FOR STATE INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE COUNTY.

RETIREMENT REFORM

PURELY DEFINED BENEFIT (EMPLOYER PUTS MONEY IN, MANAGES THE MONEY AND GUARANTEES A SPECIFIC AMOUNT OF MONEY FOR LIFE) IS FINANCIALLY CHALLENGING TO THE COUNTY AND THE AMENDING OF THE 1937 ACT WOULD ALLOW THE COUNTY TO CREATE A BLENDED PLAN. SEEKING LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE 1937 ACT AND ALLOW HYBRID FORMS OF RETIREMENT PLANS FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

COLLABORATION WITH FISH & GAME (CLEARING OF WILLOWS AT SANTA YNEZ RIVER)

THE CLEARING OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER OF WILLOWS AS A SAFETY MEASURE TO PREVENT FLOODING OF THE RIVER REQUIRES COORDINATION, COMMUNICATION AND PERMITS BY FISH AND GAME. SEEKING LEGISLATION AND OTHER INFORMAL MEANS TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND STATE ENTITIES TO ALLOW PROACTIVE CLEARING OF THE RIVER.

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ISSUE	CRITICAL ISSUE					
	FINANCIAL STABILITY	SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE /OPEN SPACE	EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION	HOUSING	SERVICE DELIVERY	DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES
<i>FEDERAL</i>						
LAKE CACHUMA	✓	✓			✓	
SANTA MARIA LEVEE	✓	✓			✓	✓
MISSION CREEK	✓				✓	✓
VETERANS BUILDING	✓				✓	✓
EOC EQUIPMENT FUNDING	✓				✓	
MEDICAL REIMBURSEMENT RATES	✓				✓	✓
BIOTERRORISM FUNDING	✓				✓	
SCAAP	✓				✓	✓
SAFER	✓				✓	✓
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES	✓				✓	✓
BEACH EROSION	✓	✓			✓	
TRANSPORTATION (TEA-21 GRANTS)	✓		✓		✓	✓

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<i>TRIBAL LAND USE ISSUES</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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STATE						
HOUSING ELEMENT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
REINSTATE SB 1187	✓	✓				
PROMPT PAYMENT OF MEDICAL BILLS	✓	✓			✓	✓
ABSORPTION OF COURT COSTS	✓				✓	
PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES	✓	✓			✓	✓
RETIREMENT REFORM	✓				✓	✓
RIVER CLEARING	✓				✓	