



2008 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

In determining whether to take a position on a particular legislative bill or budgetary issue, the County adheres to the following guiding principles:

- * **LOCAL CONTROL:** Ensure local authority and control over governance issues, land use policies and the delivery of services, including flexibility and customization in designing and implementing policies and services that are responsive to the community's preferences.
- * **FISCAL STABILITY:** Support efforts to generate new intergovernmental revenue and/or enhance existing revenue/reimbursement levels and oppose the loss of, or redirecting of, existing revenue and/or the creation of additional unfunded mandates to the County.
- * **EFFICIENT SERVICE DELIVERY/OPERATIONS:** Support efforts to streamline processes and promote operational enhancements germane to a County department's mission and core services, and correspondingly, oppose legislation that creates undue fiscal and operational burdens on departments.
- * **INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION:** Support the advocacy efforts of such organizations as the National Association of Counties (NACO), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), First 5 Santa Barbara, the Kid's Network and other local and regional agencies. Collaborate with other institutions and entities on mutually beneficial issues while upholding the other principles of local control, fiscal stability and efficient service delivery and operations.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The County will monitor and advocate for/against legislation based on the guiding principles. It will also devote its attention to specific legislative priorities for the upcoming year. These priorities were developed by surveying Board members and departments, consulting with other counties, examining the critical issues and trends that emerge from the Strategic Scan and identifying the challenges outlined in the County's Operating Plan/Proposed Budget. Based on information obtained from these various sources, presented below are the proposed 2008 Legislative Priorities for consideration.

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APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

The County will pursue a variety of funding mechanism for these identified projects, including seeking specific federal funds, state funds, including recently passed voter propositions to fund projects through bond monies, and various grants offered by the federal and state governments. The County will collaborate with its neighboring cities and regional organizations to pursue funding jointly when possible.

✳ **EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER EQUIPMENT:** Equipment such as an IT system with a computer network, interoperable communications system and backup generator for the County's EOC. Continued request.

✳ **CUYAMA CENTER:** Community/recreation center including a pool, community building for use as a gym/recreation/meeting center; soccer, baseball and football fields for team sports; a library (currently housed in a trailer); and a health care clinic. New request for 2008.

✳ **GOLETA BEACH:** Project for long-term solution to prevent erosion and protect the recreational opportunities afford by this park. Funding request to be developed once course of action is determined by Board. Project alternatives are estimated to cost \$10-12 million. New request for 2008.

✳ **LAKE CACHUMA:** Funding of up to \$2M to assist in the replacement of facilities due to surcharge of Lake to protect endangered steelhead. Continued request.

✳ **LOMPOC VETERAN BUILDING:** Funding for renovation of the Lompoc Veterans Memorial Building, which is owned by the County. Shared priority with the City of Lompoc. Continued request.

✳ **MISSION CREEK:** Funding for the construction phase of the Mission Creek Channel project to reduce flooding/promote public safety. Shared priority with the City of Santa Barbara. Continued request.

✳ **PARKS:** Funding for specific County parks located throughout the County including: Franklin Trail - \$400,000; Jalama Beach County Park Camping Cabins - \$300,000; Ocean Beach County Park Boardwalk - \$300,000; Pt. Sal Access and Management Plan and Implementation - \$2,400,000; Santa Claus Lane Beach Access - \$200,000 - \$500,000 and Walter Capps County Park - \$500,000. New request.

✳ **SANTA MARIA LEVEE:** Funding for construction to repair the levee to prevent breaching/flooding. Shared priority with the City of Santa Maria. Continued request. 2008 will also including funding assistance for emergency protective measures necessary as a result of the Zaca Fire and burned watershed.

✳ **TRANSPORTATION:** Funding of \$4 million for road rehabilitation and repair to bring selected roads (Federal- Aid routes), hardscape and drainage facilities up to County and State standards. Support of SBCAG-sponsored transportation projects. Continued request. Sustained funding of Prop 42, Prop 1B and SR2S (State).

APPROPRIATION REQUESTS/ADVOCACY

In addition to the specific infrastructure projects identified above, the County will continue to advocate for increased funding and reimbursement from the federal and state governments to

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recoup the costs associated with providing various services as espoused in its legislative principles. For 2008, the County will continue to concentrate its advocacy toward the programs identified below. Given the financial forecast, the County will likely be focusing its efforts at maintaining existing funding levels rather than enhancing the funding streams.

✳ **ELECTIONS:** Funding to reimburse the cost of the 2008 Presidential Primary occurring in February 2008. Estimated to cost \$1.5 million. New request.

✳ **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS:** Sustain funding for public health preparedness and response to pandemics and other health disasters. Continued request.

✳ **HOMELESSNESS:** Funding to implement the "Countywide Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness" including funding a comprehensive system of housing, services and treatment. New request.

✳ **MEDI-CAL REIMBURSEMENT:** Ensure timely reimbursement for claims submitted by Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services for services rendered to Medi-Cal clients. Continued request.

✳ **MEDICARE RE-INDEX:** Re-index Medicare payments to Federally Qualified Health Center to cover escalating cost of providing health care via County clinics. Increase/sustain funding for Healthcare for Homeless grantees. Continued request.

✳ **SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS:** Authorize continuation of SR2S beyond the FY 07-08 cycle to allow the County to compete for safety transportation projects like sidewalks, pedestrian paths and traffic-calming measures. New request.

✳ **SCAAP:** Increased reimbursement for the costs of incarceration of illegal criminal aliens within the County jail via the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program. Expand funding to include adjudicated juveniles housed within Probation. Continued request, although new advocacy effort to include juveniles.

✳ **SCHIP:** Increase/sustain funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program which expands the Healthy Families program to provide health insurance to children. New request.

✳ **SOCIAL SERVICES:** Increase/sustain funding for mandated social services programs ("cost of doing business") with emphasis on adult protective services and in-home supportive services. Increase/sustain funding for transitional housing for emancipated youth (THP+). New request.

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SUPPORT FOR STATE LEGISLATION

The County will continue to support legislative bills at the State level during the two-year cycle of the legislative session. These bills were supported by the County's Legislative Program Committee in 2007. For 2008, the County will also support legislation pertaining to conversion technology and illegal dumping.

***SUPPORT AB 83 AND/OR OTHER BILLS TO FUND PROPERTY TAX ADMINISTRATION:**

Previously, the County Assessor received about \$1M /year from the State for property tax administration. However, there has been no contribution by the State for 2 years, which has resulted in increased local funding via the County General Fund to support this function. Under AB 83, both the State and the County benefit as the Assessor would have sufficient resources to efficiently process the workload and maximize property tax revenues.

***SUPPORT AB 984/SB 967 AND/OR OTHER BILLS ON ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION:**

These bills would reduce costs (about \$1.5M/election) by 20-30% by allowing a county to subtract permanent absentee voters from the 1000 limit per precinct, resulting in fewer precincts. Less precincts results in reduced operational costs (less required poll workers, voting machines, etc.).

***SUPPORT SB 900 AND/OR OTHER BILLS THAT PROTECT RENT CONTROL WITHIN MOBILE HOME PARKS:** The County supported SB 900 and AB 1542 via resolutions. These bills would repeal the section of the Government Code that allows park owner-initiated subdivisions, thus protecting mobile home park residents and the stock of affordable housing within the County.

***SUPPORT CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY LEGISLATION:** In 2008, the County will support legislation promoting the use of conversion technology, which would allow certain types of waste materials to be diverted from the landfill and converted to possible revenue-enhancing products such as alternative energies.

***SUPPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING LEGISLATION:** In 2008, the County will support legislation that thwarts illegal dumping such as increased fines and enforcement.

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COUNTY SPONSORED LEGISLATION

The County will seek sponsors for legislation, if needed, to address issues that are germane to the County.

✳ **AB 1497 OR OTHER HOUSING REFORM LEGISLATION:** The County has sponsored a two-year bill that would explicitly remove Williamson Act lands and federal/state land holdings from the regional housing need available lands inventory. Advocacy will continue to guide this bill through the Legislature and/or obtain a new bill sponsor to introduce legislation that would offer relief to the County from the housing mandate because of the County's unique geographical composition.

✳ **LOCAL AUTHORITY/CONTROL OVER SPECIAL DISTRICTS:** Pursue legislation to (1) Amend Health and Safety Code to allow a county's board of supervisors to increase the number of trustees for public cemetery districts from 3 to 5, without needing a request from that board of trustees as is presently required by Health and Safety Code § 9025(a); and (2) Allow a county's board of supervisors to remove a trustee from the board of trustees of a public cemetery district.

✳ **MADDY EMS FUND:** The County is authorized to collect additional fines and forfeitures on vehicle violations to support emergency medical services and trauma care via the Maddy EMS Fund as stipulated in AB 2265. However, this funding is effective only until January 1, 2009. Legislation to repeal the reference to this sunset date in the affected Government and Vehicle Code sections will be pursued thereby authorizing the collection mechanism in perpetuity.

✳ **LOCAL AUTHORITY/CONTROL OVER ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT WITHIN ISLA VISTA:** Pursue legislation, if needed, to either increase the enforcement by the Alcohol Beverage Control in Isla Vista of under-age drinking, increase the fines imposed on violators, or extend the authoritative powers of the ABC regarding citation/enforcement to the local law enforcement agency.

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