



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: CEO  
Department No.: 012  
For Agenda Of: 12/11/07  
Placement: Departmental  
Estimated Time: one hour  
Continued Item: Yes  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer, 568.3400  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Terri Maus Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer, 568.3400  
**SUBJECT: Development of 2008 Legislative Platform**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:** Select\_Other  
As to form: Select\_Concurrence

**Recommended Actions:**

- (A) Receive a report from Thomas Walters and Associates on legislative efforts at the federal level.
- (B) Receive a report on identified issues and projects included on the County's 2008 legislative platform.
- (C) Adopt the County's 2008 Legislative Platform.

**Summary Text:**

Each year the Board of Supervisors identifies specific issues, projects and/or programs (priorities) that warrant targeted legislative advocacy and includes these priorities are part of its legislative platform for the upcoming calendar year. This list is generated by surveying department directors, members of the Board of Supervisors and the County Executive Officer. Once adopted by the Board, staff determines various legislative strategies centered on the identified priorities such as enacting legislation, creating partnerships with federal and state agencies and either retaining existing funding streams or securing additional funding.

The Board adopted a platform for 2007 on November 21, 2006, which included seeking federal funding for (1) several large infrastructure projects and (2) increasing reimbursement rates for public health and safety programs. Many of these legislative priorities will be continued in 2008. The Board will receive a report on December 11, 2007 from its federal advocate (Attachment A) that summarizes the County's efforts to date at securing funding for these various projects and programs, including Lake Cachuma, Mission Creek and the Santa Maria Levee. (The Board received a report on the highlights of its efforts at State advocacy on October 16, 2007.)

Several of these priorities are also included as part of the 2008 legislative platform, as illustrated in the accompanying attachment (Attachment B- 2008 Legislative Platform). The County will submit an appropriation, or funding, request to the federal government for some of these projects. It will also seek State funding, largely through bond funding from Proposition 84 (Clean Water, Parks and Coastal Protection Act) and Proposition 1B (Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security), which were approved by the voters in November 2006. Grant funding will also be pursued and the County may request letters of support from its legislative delegation.

The appropriation requests include:

- ▶ Equipment for the Emergency Operation Center
- ▶ Community recreation center in Cuyama
- ▶ Goleta Beach and other countywide park facilities
- ▶ Lake Cachuma replacement of facilities due to surcharge of the lake
- ▶ Lompoc Veterans' Building
- ▶ Mission Creek Channel to prevent flooding
- ▶ Santa Maria Levee to prevent flooding
- ▶ Transportation-related projects to rehabilitate the roads.

In addition to the financing of these various infrastructure projects, the County will advocate for increased funding and reimbursement levels from the federal and state governments for the costs of providing services, the majority of which the County is required to provide by law. Given the financial forecast for the nation and the state, the County will likely concentrate its efforts in 2008 on ensuring that existing funding levels remain intact and stable. While the County has the flexibility to respond to any proposed budgetary cuts to existing programs that may materialize during the legislative cycle, it will concentrate its efforts on such programs as:

- ▶ Reimbursement for the 2008 Presidential Primary election (State)
- ▶ Disaster Preparedness/Bioterrorism (Federal/State)
- ▶ Increased reimbursement of Medicare payments to the Federally Qualified Health Center (Federal)
- ▶ Timely payment of Medi-Cal claims for Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services (State)
- ▶ Authorization of the Safe Routes to Schools for the Fiscal Year 2008-09 cycle (State)
- ▶ Increased reimbursement for the incarceration of illegal criminal aliens at the County jail and inclusion of reimbursement for housing juveniles at Probation (Federal)
- ▶ Increased funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (Federal)
- ▶ Increased funding for mandated social service programs, especially for adult protective services and in-home supportive services and increased funding for the transitional housing program (State).

At the State level, the County will continue to support several legislative bills that are currently under consideration by the Legislature since the provisions of these bills will either contribute to departmental efficiencies and cost-savings and/or protect the residents of the County. These bills focus on animal services, elections administration and property tax administration, all State-mandated activities. Another bill focuses on ensuring rent control for mobile-home residents, thereby protecting the affordable housing stock within the County and its inhabitants. In 2008, the County will also actively support legislation pertaining to the refuse and recycling function of the County, namely supporting the use of conversion technology and enhancing the enforcement of illegal dumping.

The County is interested in obtaining legislative solutions to resolve situations unique to the County. In some cases, special legislation may be necessary and the County will need to obtain a representative in the Assembly or Senate to sponsor a bill and introduce said bill into the Legislature. Possible legislation includes:

- ▶ Continuation of AB 1497 that attempts to reconcile the competing mandate between agricultural preservation via Williamson Act contracted lands and the mandate requiring affordable housing units are built within the incorporated County. Based both on the Board’s directive and political feasibility, the County may also pursue legislation specific to the County that would provide relief from the housing mandated based on its unique geographical makeup, including having 1/3 of its land mass located within the Los Padres National Forest.
- ▶ Pursue of legislation to 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.
- ▶ Pending the outcome of the February 2008 election, the County will pursue legislation to remove the sunset date of January 1, 2009 for the County’s Maddy EMS Fund, which allows the County to obtain revenue via fines on vehicle violations that are allocated to local hospitals and physicians to offset the cost of providing uncompensated emergency medical and trauma care services throughout the County. While the County is placing a measure on the February 5, 2008 ballot to fund emergency medical and trauma care services locally, it is also pursuing possible legislative recourse if the tax measure should fail since the deadlines for submitting bill language to the State is mid-January.
- ▶ Pursue legislation or an administrative remedy 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 as an effort to thwart under-age drinking in Isla Vista.

**Background: \***

This item is on the agenda to (1) receive a report on the status of the 2007 legislative platform as it pertains to the federal government and (2) receive the Board of Supervisors’ approval of the County’s legislative platform for the upcoming year. The County’s Legislative Program Committee reviewed the proposed 2008 platform at its November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting and made recommendations to forward to the Board for its December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Adoption of the platform before the end of the year will assist staff in adhering to the deadlines of the federal and state governments in terms of bill sponsorship and appropriation requests.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund	\$ 215,578.00		
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 215,578.00	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative: The 2007-2008 budget for the legislative program is \$215,578 as referenced in the County’s Operating Plan.

**Staffing Impacts**

**Legal Positions:**

0

**FTEs:**

0

**Special Instructions:**

N/A

**Attachments:**

Attachment A- Federal Advocate Update Report

Attachment B- 2008 Legislative Platform Synopsis

Attachment C- 2008 Legislative Platform Chart

**Authored by:**

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**CC:**

Tom Walters, Tom Walters and Associates

Cliff Berg and Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates, Inc.

Department Directors