



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

A-8

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

Department Name: CEO-First 5
Department No.: 990
For Agenda Of: July 1, 2008
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

LATE

JUN 20 08

DOCKET

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Board Member(s) Salud Carbajal Ext. 2186 *JOC*
Contact Info: Pat Wheatley, Executive Director Ext. 8085

SUBJECT: Adopt a Resolution supporting preservation of Proposition 10 and opposing diversion of Proposition 10 funds

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Select_Concurrence

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Select_Concurrence

Other Concurrence: Select_Other

As to form: Select_Concurrence

Recommended Actions:

As the Board's liaison to the First 5 Santa Barbara County Commission I recommend, as other jurisdictions also have done, that the Board of Supervisors adopt a Resolution (Attachment A) supporting the current structure of Proposition 10 (featuring a tax on tobacco products that is fairly apportioned across counties and local control of deployment of these funds) and opposing any efforts to divert or reprogram Proposition 10 funds. In keeping with our legislative principles, this action is necessary to ensure local autonomy to deploy Proposition funding as determined by local needs for prevention and early intervention programs and system improvement activities for children aged 0-5, their families and providers of services.

SUMMARY:

The state of California is experiencing a budget shortfall that is expected to have a significant negative impact on state-funded children and family services. Among the many proposed remedies include ideas to divert or reprogram Proposition 10 funding or reserves to address the state budget crisis. These suggestions range from usurping Proposition 10 funds to backfill previously state-funded programs and services to using the funds for purposes completely unrelated to the welfare of young children.

Diverting or reprogramming Proposition 10 funding would result in substantial harm to children aged 0-5 in Santa Barbara County by reducing or eliminating critical prevention and early intervention services. There would be a significant negative impact on the budgets both local public agencies and local community based organizations, which depend on the long-term contracts currently in place for First 5 funded programs and services. Moreover, diversion or reprogramming of Proposition 10 funds violates the principle of local control which was at the heart of Proposition 10, based on the conviction that local communities can best decide how to deploy these limited funds for the maximum benefit of the county's youngest and most vulnerable children.

Background:

California voters approved Proposition 10 in 1998 as a means to establish a structure and funding stream for the benefit of children from the prenatal stage through age 5. This historic action was in response to the growing body of evidence that most brain development takes place in the first five years of life, and that early care and support of young children from gestation through age 5 has a critical impact on children's ability to succeed in school and to someday become productive and responsible members of society.

Most government programs prior to Proposition 10 were formulated to address crisis situations such as child abuse and neglect, poverty and other egregious social issues. Proposition 10 was designed to support the healthy early development, early learning, safety and well-being of young children through prevention and early intervention services that would eventually reduce the burden on government to provide crisis services.

Almost 10 years later, the vision of Proposition 10 is being realized as growing numbers of young children receive vital supports such as health insurance, timely immunizations, early identification of special needs, quality child care and preschool, nutrition and dental care and many other services. Parents/caregivers and providers of services such as pediatricians, clinicians, child care providers and preschool teachers have received prenatal care and support, education, training, equipment, facilities and materials to improve young children's quality of life and chances for school success.

Moreover, the local autonomy afforded by the structure of Proposition 10 allowed each county's First 5 Commission, whose members are appointed by county Boards of Supervisors, flexibility to address young children's services based on local, community-based strategic plans.

Proposition 10's tobacco tax funding source is one that declines over time. First 5 Commissions took their obligations and responsibilities seriously by establishing reserves, long-term funding commitments, long-range financial plans and a results-accountability evaluation system to measure outcomes and improve services over time. In Santa Barbara County, the improvements generated by First 5-funded programs and services are well-documented. First 5 has become rooted in the community as an effective catalyst, partner and supporter of the expanding and ever-more-effective early childhood service system.

The framers of Proposition 10 knew how difficult, perhaps impossible, it would be for the state to preserve funds for prevention and early intervention services during times of economic uncertainty or contraction. After all, the role of state government is traditionally that of “provider of last resort”; hence the nature of most state government child and family service programs is to address crisis needs. Since the era in which most current state children’s programs were designed, however, studies have shown that even small amounts of funding devoted to promoting the health and well-being of children can result in both increased health and school success for young children and also reduce the demand for crisis services funded by traditional government programs, thereby reducing the overall burden on the taxpayers and society.

Based on this evidence, the Proposition 10 framers structured a “firewall” between the state and counties to preserve local autonomy to deploy Proposition 10 funding for locally-determined needs. County commissions’ sole autonomy to deploy Proposition 10 funds, based on local strategic plans, assured that this small amount of funding would never be diverted from the uses approved by the voters – prevention and early intervention services and system supports for children aged 0-5, their families and communities.

Funds which support programs that are proven effective in reducing the need for crisis services should never be compromised, especially in an economic downturn. Moreover, the relatively limited amounts represented by Proposition 10 funds, which significantly increase their value locally through government and private leveraging of funds, would do little or nothing to solve the state budget crisis and once gone, the damage caused by their loss would reverberate far into the future in the form of increased high school dropout rates and associated increases in crime, welfare dependency and poverty.

The attached Resolution to support preserving Proposition 10 structure and funding and opposing any efforts to divert or reprogram Proposition 10 funds ensures local autonomy and safeguards First 5 Santa Barbara’s long-term commitments to local public agencies and community-based organizations serving children aged 0-5, their families and providers of services.

Performance Measure:

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: Budgeted: Select Budgeted

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			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Special Instructions:

Attachments:

Authored by: Salud Carbajal, Board of Supervisors and Pat Wheatley, Executive Director

CC:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF) RESOLUTION NO.
SUPPORT FOR PRESERVATION OF)
PROPOSITION 10 & OPPOSITION TO)
DIVERSION OF PROPOSITION 10 FUNDS)

WHEREAS, the first 5 years of life establish a foundation for the future success of children and their ability to reach their full potential, and it is our responsibility to provide them with the best possible start; and

WHEREAS, First 5 California and its independent county commissions were established in 1998 by the approval of California voters who overwhelmingly supported Proposition 10, a tax on tobacco, to provide for the development of programs that focus on early child development in the areas of health and well-being, education, safety, and early childhood development; and

WHEREAS, First 5 Santa Barbara County has demonstrated strong leadership and served as an invaluable community partner and supporter of a highly effective early childhood service system through the creation of a wide range of initiatives that are critical to the well-being of underserved children and their families; and

WHEREAS, First 5 Santa Barbara County's investment in health, education and family support services for children prenatal through age 5 has focused on newborn home visiting, early childhood oral health, early childhood mental health and other special needs, school readiness, family support, and early care and education; and

WHEREAS, the unique and diverse nature of Santa Barbara County's communities demands local control and local solutions to issues affecting our youngest and most vulnerable children and their families; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that First 5 Santa Barbara County retain its ability to receive and distribute our County's fair share of revenue generated by the tobacco tax and carry out the will of the people of California who approved Proposition 10; and

WHEREAS, the possible diversion or reprogramming of First 5 funding to address the State's budget crisis will result in a tremendous loss for California's First 5 programs and compromise the future of California's youth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors opposes any efforts to reprogram the funds allocated by the voters for First 5 to resolve the budget crisis of the State of California.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 1st day of July, 2008 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Chair, Board of Supervisors

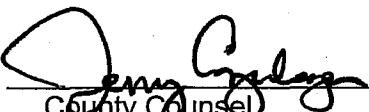
ATTEST:

MICHAEL F. BROWN
CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DANIEL J. WALLACE
COUNTY COUNSEL

By:  _____
County Counsel