



**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: Legislative Program
Committee
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: December 8, 2020
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 30 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: NA
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Legislative Program Committee
Department Director: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer

Contact Info: Nancy Anderson, Assistant County Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Update on Legislative Advocacy and Adoption of the 2021 Legislative Platform

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: NA

Other Concurrence:

As to form: NA

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: NA

Recommended Actions:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Receive an update from the County’s Legislative advocates;
- B. Adopt the County of Santa Barbara 2021 Legislative Platform; and
- C. Find that the proposed actions do not constitute a “Project” within the meaning of California Environmental Quality Act, pursuant to 14 CCR 15378(b)(2), as it consists of general policy and procedure making.

Summary Text:

In December 2019, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution establishing the Legislative Program Committee (Committee) as a standing committee of the Board. The Committee has recommended adopting the 2021 Legislative Platform by the Board of Supervisors. Once adopted by the full Board of Supervisors, the 2021 Legislative Platform will be used to communicate key legislative needs and overall priorities to the federal and state governments.

Background

Update from Legislative Advocates

Representatives from the County's federal lobbying firm, Thomas Walters & Associates, and the County's State lobbying firm, Governmental Advocates, will provide a brief overview of the past year's accomplishments and preview the likely legislative issues for 2021.

The 2021 Legislative Platform

The Committee reviewed and approved the 2021 Legislative Platform on November 9, 2020. The development of the platform included County departments reviewing the previous year platforms and updating them for any changes. Two new planks were added; one from Probation for DJJ Realignment Backfill and one from the County Executive Office for Pandemic Funding Relief for Local Governments. At the request of Supervisor Hartmann at the Committee meeting, the plank for Parks, Recreation and Open Space was amended to include reference to the Countywide Recreation Master Plan.

The Legislative Principles for 2021 remained the same as the previous year and include the following:

- Job Growth and Economic Vitality
- Efficient Service Delivery and Operations
- Fiscal Stability
- Inter-Agency Collaboration
- Local Control
- Health and Human Services
- Workforce Development
- Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection

The strategies involve funding requests, creating new or amending existing legislation, and advocacy.

The Platform includes forty-five individual planks that align with the legislative principles listed above. The planks are sorted by principle and categorized as a funding request, legislative proposal, and/or advocacy. County staff works closely with the County's state and federal advocates, County departments, and legislative partners to develop effective strategies to address the countywide needs as well as effective strategies to address Platform items.

Fiscal Analysis:

The 2021 Legislative Platform includes requests for project and program funding as well as legislation and advocacy for public service improvements that may increase revenue or improve service levels.

Last fiscal year, the Board approved two-year contracts with both the federal and state legislative advocates with terms from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021. The annual contract amounts are \$97,850 for Thomas Walters & Associates and \$66,350 for Governmental Advocates.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Proposed 2021 Legislative Platform

Attachment B: Redline Version of Planks

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Adoption of the 2021 Legislative Platform
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Authored by:

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cc:

Don Gilchrest, Thomas Walters and Associates, Inc.

Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates, Inc.

Department Directors