



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: January 17, 2012
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 1 hour
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Chandra L. Wallar, County Executive Officer, 568-3400
Director(s)
Contact Info: Terri Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer, 568-3400
SUBJECT: 2012 Legislative Platform

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive a report on issues and projects included as part of the County's 2012 Legislative Platform; and
2. Adopt the County's 2012 Legislative Platform; and
3. Receive and file year end federal advocacy report from Tom Walters and Associates Inc.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to receive the Board of Supervisors approval of the County's Legislative Platform for the upcoming year. Each year, the County identifies specific issues, projects and/or programs ("priorities") to include within the County's legislative platform. Once adopted by the Board of Supervisors, the 2012 Legislative Platform ("platform") will be used by the County to communicate the County's priorities to the federal and state governments.

Background:

The development of the platform began in late August, when the County's Legislative Program Committee ("Committee") reviewed the proposed timeline and platform process. County departments and other organizations such as the National Association of Counties (NACO) and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) were contacted during September to solicit input regarding potential

priorities. The Committee held four meetings from September-January to review the priorities and recommended during the January 5, 2012 meeting to bring the proposed 2012 platform to the Board for consideration. During the development of priorities, County staff also discussed potential issues and projects with its federal and state delegation and began designing a legislative strategy. Strategies involve funding requests, crafting new or amending existing legislation and advocacy of program and grant funding and regulatory reform. Once the platform is adopted by the Board, it will be used to communicate the County's priorities to the County's federal and state government and other intergovernmental entities.

This year in developing the overall platform the Legislative Committee revised the Legislative Principles to reflect high priority and emerging issues countywide. As such, the committee is recommending to the Board inclusion of a specific legislative principle pertaining to job growth and economic vitality and further recommends that this be listed at the top of the legislative principles to fully reflect the significance of this item. The Legislative Principles now proposed include the following:

- Job Growth/Economic Vitality
- Efficient Service Delivery/Operations
- Fiscal Stability
- Interagency Collaboration
- Local Control
- Health and Human Services
- Community Sustainability.

Definitions of all of the principles may be found in the attached proposed 2012 Legislative Platform.

The proposed 2012 Platform includes the following components:

- 1) **Federal Funding Requests:** The County submits appropriation requests to the federal government for various infrastructure projects and programs. These projects usually have a federal nexus. Requests often include the cost of completing a phase or portion of a project rather than the entire project. This year the Legislative Committee prioritized federal funding requests with those with a public safety nexus being the highest priority.

Projects include:

Federal Funding Requests (Top Four prioritized)

1. Santa Maria River Levee-Reach 3 Extension of Improvements
2. Lower Mission Creek
3. Lake Cachuma Capital Improvements
4. Safety Improvements Beach Access

Other Federal Funding Requests (non public safety)-Not prioritized:

- Goleta Beach County Park
- Historic Santa Barbara County Courthouse
- Parks/Open Space Preservation & Acquisition
- Resource Recovery Park/Conversion Technology

- Santa Barbara Health & Human Services Campus Upgrades
- Veterans Memorial Building – Santa Barbara and Lompoc

2) **SAFETEA-LU Reauthorization – Transportation Projects (Top three prioritized)**

1. Highway 101 Widening (Critical regional transportation project)
2. Hollister Avenue Widening (Sub-regional)
3. Roadway Treatment & Drainage (Countywide)

Other Federal SAFETEA-LU Eligible projects – Not prioritized:

- Old Town Orcutt Streetscape & Circulation
- Purisima Road Widening
- Refugio Road Safety
- Union Valley Parkway Corridor

3) **Proposed Legislation:** The County proposes ideas for new legislation or amendments to existing law that would help improve the effectiveness and efficiency of departmental operations and service delivery.

Proposed State legislation seeks to address the following issues:

- Highway 154 Safety - Regulate the size and the weight of trucks that use the road.
- Lake Cachuma (Quagga Mussels and Boater Safety) - Develop statewide mussel prevention/inspection programs and boater safety.
- District Attorney - Ensure parents are accountable for truant children; strengthen prosecutions to reduce cyber bullying; and strengthen prosecution of sexual crimes.

4) **Targeted Advocacy:** The County advocates for specific issues, programs, and projects. This includes advocacy for retention or enhancement in funding for existing programs including:

- Agriculture/Williamson Act Subvention Funding
- Affordable Housing Opportunities/Rent Control/Preservation of Mobile Homes
- Children Issues (Child Care, Proposition 10 funding for early childhood development and school readiness and State Children’s Health Insurance Program)
- Economic Enhancement/Revenue Diversification
- Disaster Preparedness/Bioterrorism, Firefighter Assistance Grant, Public Safety Funding
- Homelessness
- Social Services (Child Welfare Services, In-Home Supportive Services, Privatization of Public Assistance Programs, TANF Reauthorization)
- Housing Element and RHNA requirements

County staff works closely with our state and federal advocates and partners to develop effective strategies to address the countywide needs as well as effective strategies to address platform items.

Attachments:

2012 Legislative Platform
Annual Report-Thomas Walters and Associates, Inc.

Authored by:

Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 568-3400

CC:

Tom Walters, Thomas Walters and Associates, Inc.
Cliff Berg and Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates, Inc.
Scott McGolpin, Director, Public Works
Herman Parker, Director, Community Services Department
Bob Nisbet, Director, General Services
Dr. Takashi Wada, Director, Public Health
Kathy Gallagher, Director, Social Services
Pat Wheatley, Director, First 5
Joyce Dudley, District Attorney
Bill Brown, Sheriff
Beverly Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Michael Dyer, Fire Chief