



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: 1/15/08
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: Yes
If Yes, date from: 12/11/07
Vote Required: Majority

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: Adoption of 2008 Legislative Platform

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: Select_Other

As to form: Select_Concurrence

Recommended Actions:

Adopt the County's revised 2008 legislative platform.

Summary Text:

The Board of Supervisors considered the County's 2008 legislative platform on December 11, 2008, which included the following actions: seeking funding from the federal and state governments for several infrastructure-related projects; concentrated advocacy to maintain or enhance funding related to the delivery of County services, including services mandated by the State; and the possible pursuit of legislation to address County specific issue related to local control, fiscal stability and the delivery of services. During this meeting, the Board proposed the following revisions to the proposed 2008 platform:

1. Removal of supporting Assembly Bill 1634, the California Healthy Pets Act, which mandates the spay/neuter of certain animals (the issue will be pursued through a local ordinance).
2. Inclusion of a funding request to support the implementation of the Countywide Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness (language included under Appropriation Requests/Advocacy section of the 2008 Legislative Platform Synopsis, which is attached).

Other minor changes to the 2008 Legislative Platform include modifying the funding requests for Lower Mission Creek and the Santa Maria Levee to reflect the next phase, construction, for these projects. It should be noted that the County is expected to receive federal funding of \$215,000 for the design phase of Lower Mission Creek, \$280,000 for a feasibility study of the Santa Maria Levee repair options and \$967,000 for the replacement of water and sewage treatment facilities at Lake Cachuma as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act signed by the President on December 26, 2007.

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Per the Board directive on 12/11/07, the Legislative Program Committee also considered the priority ranking of the County’s appropriation requests for infrastructure projects to submit to Senator Feinstein during its 1/7/08 meeting. Senator Feinstein’s Office has requested that the County prioritize its funding requests to assist the Office in ranking competing appropriation requests it receives statewide. Based on the advice of both the County’s federal advocate and staff from the various Congressional delegations, the Legislative Program Committee determined that the following projects should be submitted to Senator Feinstein based on (1) public safety needs, (2) regional collaboration, (3) nexus to the federal government and (4) status of the project. County proposes the following ordering of projects be submitted to Senator Feinstein’s Office. The Legislative Program Committee ranked the projects as follows: (1) Santa Maria Levee, (2) Mission Creek, (3) Lake Cachuma, (4) EOC Equipment and (5) Goleta Beach

It should be noted that funding requests are tailored to align with the geographical area and interests of the respective delegation member, so the County has the flexibility to submit other projects and/or a different ranking of projects to the remaining County representatives.

The Board also requested that staff research possible strategies for assisting the Casmalia Water District. Staff believes that the District may qualify for funding either through a direct expenditure or through a competitive grant process under Proposition 84, the Water Quality, Safety and Supply bond initiative passed by the voters in November 2006. This bond includes funds for projects related to safe drinking water, water quality and supply, flood control, natural resource protection and park improvements. Staff will request that its delegation support the funding for water infrastructure within the Casmalia Water District if Prop 84 funds are applicable to such a project and included within the upcoming State budget..

It should also be noted that the Legislative Program Committee, based on the directive of the Board, considered HR 2421, the Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007, at its January 7, 2008 meeting. This bill would replace the term "navigable waters" with the term "waters of the United States" and, the crux of the policy debate of this bills, is centered on federal control and regulatory authority. The Committee unanimously recommended that the County not take a position at this time and continue to monitor the progress of the bill as the definition of navigable water is unclear and likely to be subject to further refinement by Congress.

Background: *

This item is on the agenda for the Board to (1) adopt the revised 2008 legislative platform and (2) receive a summary regarding other legislative issues that emerged during the Board’s December 11, 2007 meeting.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative: There is no immediate fiscal impact associated with this action.

Staffing Impacts

Legal Positions:

0

FTEs:

0

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board shall submit a certified copy of the minute order to Stephanie Fodor within the County Executive Office.

Attachments:

Adoption of the 2008 Legislative Platform

1/15/08

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Authored by:

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cc:

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