



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: BOS - 4th District Office
Department No.:
For Agenda Of: December 13, 2011
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 10 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Board Member(s) Joni Gray, 4th District Supervisor, BOS Chair
Contact Info: Terri Maus-Nisich, 568-3404

SUBJECT: CSAC Finance Corporation Funding Ballot Initiative

Conf for Supr. Gray

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

Provide direction to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors-CSAC representative regarding a position on the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Finance Corporation funding of a constitutional amendment ballot initiative.

Summary Text:

During the CSAC Board of Directors Annual Conference meeting held on December 1, 2011, the issue of CSAC Finance Corporation funding a constitutional amendment ballot initiative was discussed. CSAC receives funds from a variety of private sources that could be used to fund a statewide ballot initiative to protect counties from future financial risks resulting from the realignment of services from the state to counties beginning in 2011.

On January 5, CSAC staff will propose to the CSAC Board of Directors that private, non-public funds be made available for the constitutional amendment campaign. This item is now on the Board agenda to provide direction to the County's CSAC representative on this matter.

Background:

CSAC’s budget is comprised of public (dues) and non-public funds. The non-public funds are received by the CSAC Finance Corporation from private sources. CSAC currently uses these non-public funds to subsidize CSAC operations, including the programs, services, and advocacy offered to California counties. This year, CSAC received approximately \$3 million in these non-public funds to help keep county dues to a minimum. CSAC dues have not increased for four years. A significant portion of the Finance Corporation revenues are generated from private activities and, therefore, could be utilized to fund a ballot measure campaign. State law is very clear that public funds cannot be used to support a ballot initiative campaign.

CSAC has continued to communicate that securing constitutional protections to guarantee counties with a reliable source of revenues to carry our realigned services is one of the greatest priorities our organization has faced in decades. Taking this action is absolutely vital for the prosperity of counties and the vital services provided to California residents. If CSAC is to move forward with this campaign, it will have to raise the necessary non-public funds to gather the signatures necessary and provide a minimum advocacy effort for the ballot the measure.

CSACs ability to maintain the existing levels of programs and services without the private fund subsidies will require an increase in dues effective in the 2012-13 fiscal year. Attached is a chart that shows the current dues and potential increase by county. The average increase over all 58 counties is \$18,100 with a range of \$1,039 to \$122,911, based upon a straight line increase in current dues. Current dues are calculated based upon a formula of county population and budget.

At an upcoming special meeting, the CSAC Board of Directors will be asked to authorize the activities necessary to initiate a constitutional amendment ballot initiative as well as taking action on the proposed dues increase. Direction on this matter will enable the County’s CSAC representative to accurately reflect the desire of the Board to CSAC’s Board of Directors.

Performance Measure:

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis: CSAC fees for Santa Barbara County will increase from \$52,600 to \$72,300 a differential of \$19,700. Ongoing realignment revenue to sustain county operations will result in apportionment 3 to 5 million annually.

<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:

CSAC – Q&A

CSAC Chart – Current Dues & Potential Increase by County

Authored by:

Terri Nisich, Asst. CEO

CC: