

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Principle	
Job Growth and Economic Vitality	
Strategy	Target
Funding & Legislative	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

We can be successful in improving the opportunities women and girls in Santa Barbara County have by supporting public policies that aim to bolster women's access to equitable health care, affordable and quality child care, economic and workplace advancement opportunities to close the gender-wage gap, and to better support survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking.

In 2020, in the State of California, women earned \$0.89.84 for every dollar their male counterparts earn. Across the United States in 2020, women were typically paid \$0.73 for every dollar their male counterparts earn. Nationally, working women experience an annual wage gap of \$13,551~~10,169~~ according to the National Partnership for Women and Families published in May 2022~~2019~~. Women with children are more likely than their male counterparts to live in poverty, almost 500,000 statewide.—According to the 2017 Children's Scorecard 2020 Santa Barbara County Childcare Planning Council Needs Assessment, the cost of child care can be prohibitively expensive for working women especially single mothers. The average county-wide cost of child care for infants is \$1,171~~\$1,725.98~~ per month and \$788~~1,240.58~~ per month for preschool. And while cases of domestic violence and human trafficking are lower in Santa Barbara County than across the Sstate, much can be done to better aid and support survivors and punish the perpetrators of violence against women.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support funding and legislation for programs and services that improve the lives of women and girls in the following areas:

- Women, Poverty and Economic Empowerment Opportunities
- Women, Working Families and the Workplace
- Women's Access to Health Care
- Affordable and Accessible High Quality Child Care
- Addressing Human Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Girls
- Advocating for additional family leave and permanently extend the child tax credit.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Supporting women and girls is essential. Economic inequality and increased risk of poverty has negative impacts across multiple generations. It has been proven that women make special and unique contributions to organizations (public, private and not-for-profit), and they offer perspectives often overlooked. The more County advocates for opportunities for women and girls, are afforded such as full and equal access to compensation and support such as affordable compensation, affordable and high- quality childcare, and empowerment opportunities. With increased support of the advancement of women and girls, the more our society will benefit.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

No direct cost at this time. Any financial cost will be more than recovered when women can equally meet their full economic capacity. Economic empowerment, legislation that helps working families, access to health care and child care, and addressing human trafficking and violence, will increase the productivity of women, and increase their access to higher paying work and success. In turn, they will be earning and spending more money and expand their tax contribution.

CONTACT

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LOWER MISSION CREEK PROJECT

Principle	
Job Growth/Economic Vitality	
Strategy	Target
Funding & Legislative	Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Lower Mission Creek Project was initiated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to study the flood threat to the City of Santa Barbara. Through a series of feasibility studies, a final project was developed in the 1990's that optimized the costs and environmental features of the project that would provide additional flood protection with a project that was locally acceptable.

The EIS/EIR was completed and certified in 2001 and since that time the permit process was completed and some design work started by the Corps. Today, the project is stalled because the new cost estimate from the recent design work puts the project below the required Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR).

The City and County of Santa Barbara have worked to forward the project starting at the lower end and are implementing elements up to U.S. 101. ~~The County of Santa Barbara~~We desire the Corps to find a way to fund the remainder of the work. This project has seen significant investments by the Corps and local agencies and as such, we need to finish the project. The Lower Mission Creek: County Funding Table, below, shows the amount of money that has been locally invested including a one-time contribution from the State.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support legislative language in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) to keep Lower Mission Creek a viable project.

Support funding for the Corps of Engineers to complete the design of the Lower Mission Creek Project and continue into construction. Both the Corps and local agencies have spent decades developing the current project and each has spent significant dollars on getting to a viable project.

PUBLIC

Lower Mission Creek bisects the City of Santa Barbara. Past flood events, most notably the 1995 flood events have shown the devastating impact these floods have on the community. The 1995 events showed that aside from the obvious devastating impacts to home owners and business owners, there ~~are~~ serious impacts to the transportation system, including U.S. 101 (a major North – South Transportation corridor), the railroad, and local streets. In addition, damages to public and private infrastructure results.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Previous costs estimates put the project costs at about \$80 million, which would leave approximately \$40 million local share. Local funding for this project would take decades without federal assistance.

Local costs could be further mitigated by subventions of the federal project with state funding.

LOWER MISSION CREEK PROJECT – COUNTY FUNDING TABLE

Fund 2610 -- So Coast Flood Zone 2		-
SC8042 LOWER MISSION CREEK CIP	Expenditures	
FISCAL YEAR		-
<u>1997-98</u>		<u>\$390,300</u>
<u>1998-99</u>		<u>\$145,000</u>
<u>1999-00</u>		<u>\$4,600</u>
<u>2000-01</u>		<u>\$47,700</u>
<u>2001-02</u>		<u>\$6,200</u>
<u>2002-03</u>		<u>\$203,200</u>
<u>2003-04</u>		<u>\$95,200</u>
<u>2004-05</u>		<u>\$142,300</u>
<u>2005-06</u>		<u>\$25,000</u>
<u>2006-07</u>		<u>\$61,800</u>
<u>2007-08</u>		<u>\$359,300</u>
<u>2008-09</u>		<u>\$2,013,000</u>
<u>2009-10</u>		<u>\$517,500</u>
<u>2010-11</u>		<u>\$539,300</u>
<u>2011-12</u>		<u>\$3,700,000</u>
<u>2012-13</u>		<u>\$3,300,000</u>
<u>2013-14</u>		<u>\$1,081,600</u>
<u>2014-15</u>		<u>\$584,600</u>
<u>2015-16</u>		<u>\$5,020,900</u>
<u>2016-17</u>		<u>\$2,578,000</u>
<u>2017-18</u>		<u>\$1,366,800</u>
<u>2018-19</u>		<u>\$2,757,500</u>
<u>2019-20</u>		<u>\$954,000</u>
<u>2020-21</u>		<u>\$2,274,370</u>
<u>2021-22</u>		<u>\$6,372,300</u>
	<u>totals</u>	<u>\$34,540,470</u>
		-

Fund 2610 — So Coast Flood Zone 2		-
SC8042 LOWER MISSION CREEK CIP	-Expenditures	
FISCAL YEAR		-
<u>1997-98</u>		<u>\$390,300</u>
<u>1998-99</u>		<u>\$145,000</u>
<u>1999-00</u>		<u>\$4,600</u>

2000-01	\$47,700
2001-02	\$6,200
2002-03	\$203,200
2003-04	\$95,200
2004-05	\$142,300
2005-06	\$25,000
2006-07	\$61,800
2007-08	\$359,300
2008-09	\$2,013,000
2009-10	\$517,500
2010-11	\$539,300
2011-12	\$3,700,000
2012-13	\$3,300,000
2013-14	\$1,081,600
2014-15	\$584,600
2015-16	\$5,020,900
2016-17	\$2,578,000
2017-18	\$1,366,800
2018-19	\$2,757,500
2019-20	\$954,000
2020-21	\$2,274,370
totals	\$28,168,170
-	-

CONTACT

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U.S. HIGHWAY 101 - REGIONAL

Principle	
Job Growth/Economic Vitality	
Strategy	Target
Funding & Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The U.S. 101 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes project is the highest regional transportation and infrastructure priority for the county. The project is being implemented by the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) and California Department of Transportation. The project will ~~reconfigure/increase~~ U.S. 101 from four (4) to six (6) lanes by adding ~~multi-modal, carpool,~~ High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV), lanes ~~for a 10-mile stretch~~ between the Cities of Carpinteria and Santa Barbara. ~~Additionally, SBCAG is implementing several multimodal improvements such as peak hour passenger rail, interregional transit service, and completion of gaps on the California Coastal Trail to increase biking and walking, a distance of 10 miles.~~ The project ~~aims to will~~ improve safety, ~~air quality, and alleviate gridlock traffic by~~, ~~reduce traffic congestion and close~~ addressing a gap ~~closure to connect the HOV lane network along the highway by matching the six-lane highway~~ south of Carpinteria and north of Santa Barbara. U.S. 101 is one of only two north-south highways in California that connect the Los Angeles basin. ~~It serves as the main evacuation route for the County and much of the Central Coast, with a population of 13 million, and the greater San Francisco Bay Area, with a population of seven (7) million.~~ The other north-south highway/arterial, Interstate 5, is ~~notorious for~~ periodic, ~~seasonal closures~~ ~~ally closed~~ due to inclement weather, ~~leaving and~~ U.S. 101 ~~serves~~ as the primary alternate route in California during those periods. ~~Additionally, SBCAG is implementing multimodal improvements such as peak hour passenger rail, interregional transit service and completion of gaps on the California Coastal Trail to increase biking and walking.~~ ~~Ultimately, travelers within their~~ corridor will have multiple mobility options upon completion.

The U.S. 101 corridor provides access from Central Coast agricultural operations to markets around the country. ~~It is responsible for facilitating \$50 billion in goods movement annually and else provides access to 12 universities.~~ U.S. 101 also provides critical access to Vandenberg Air Force Base in central Santa Barbara County, which is headquarters for the 30th Space Wing, which supports west coast launch activities for the Air Force, Department of Defense, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, national programs, and various private industry contractors. The Wing also supports Force Development and Evaluation of all intercontinental ballistic missiles, as well as Missile Defense Agency test and operations.

The entire project corridor is within the Santa Barbara urbanized area that includes the University of California at Santa Barbara, defense-related businesses, and hundreds of businesses related to the tourism industry. ~~On a daily basis, commuters from neighboring Ventura County, interregional truck traffic, and tourists contribute to the facility's average daily traffic of 100,000 vehicles, exceeding the capacity of the four-lane facility for hours at a time, bringing this 10-mile segment of highway to a crawl. Upon completion of the project, the corridor will be a part of a continuous 40-mile, six-lane facility, extending from the City of Ventura in Ventura County to the City of Goleta in Santa Barbara County.~~

The corridor will include 16 miles of continuous HOV lanes. The first six miles were completed in 2015, from northern Ventura County to southern Santa Barbara County and were the first HOV lanes on the California Central Coast. ~~The A portion of the~~ remaining 10-mile segment commenced construction in April, 2020.

REQUESTED ACTION

~~Request the continuation~~ ~~Collaborate with SBCAG in advocacy efforts directed at the pursuit of~~ ~~of s~~ State and ~~f~~ Federal funding for the ~~completion of region's highest regional transportation and infrastructure priority,~~ the U.S. 101 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes project. ~~Advocate, in cooperation with the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), for legislative and administrative action on the critical nature of the project at the State and Federal level.~~

Support SBCAG's efforts to acquire State and Federal funding to fully fund the U.S. 101 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes project.

~~Support SBCAG's efforts to seek congressional authorization to waive the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) application fee of \$250,000 either in a stimulus package, part of the continuing resolution of the FAST ACT, or other administrative action. SBCAG is pursuing next steps with the~~

~~TIFIA application process to secure a loan by January 2022 to take advantage of the low TIFIA rates. The financing is needed due to the Measure A match required for approved SB1 funding awarded by the California Transportation Commission.~~

PUBLIC BENEFIT

~~The project maximizes travel efficiency within the county by completing carpool access, enhances multi-modal connectivity, and fortifies a vital evacuation route, that also facilitates major goods movement, national security operations, and access to public universities. U.S. Highway 101 is one of only two north-south transportation routes between Los Angeles and San Francisco within the State of California. Transportation of commuters and goods and services, including Central Coast agricultural crops, are essential to the overall economic health and vitality of the State. When Interstate 5 is closed, due to an accident, fire, or snow, all north-south traffic is diverted to the U.S. 101. The Thomas Fire and Montecito Debris Flow that occurred in 2017 underscore the necessity of completing the corridor.~~ It is designated as a State Focus Route and High Emphasis Route.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The total estimated cost of all five (5) of the segments of the final phase of the U.S. 101 HOV Project is approximately \$700 million. The U.S. 101 HOV project will be funded by leveraging \$140 million ~~in dedicated, from 2008 unescalated, from~~ Measure A funds, the ~~2008 voter-approved~~ local transportation sales tax ~~measure~~. To date, SBCAG and Caltrans have received \$394 million in Senate Bill 1 (SB1) state funds, ~~which are currently~~ allocated by the California Transportation Commission. ~~The remaining funding needed, approximately \$256 million that is needed includes requests for SB1, Cycle 3 competitive grant funds, as well as State or Federal discretionary transportation funds to fully fund completion of the corridor. The remaining funding needed, approximately \$286 million that includes a request of \$229 million for SB1, Cycle 3 grant funds as well as State or Federal discretionary transportation funds to fully fund completion of the corridor.~~

CONTACT

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CANNABIS STATE LICENSING, TAXATION, AND COORDINATION

Principle	
Job Growth/Economic Vitality	
Strategy	Target
Legislative	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Santa Barbara County wants to encourage a well-regulated cannabis industry, eliminate illegal cannabis operations, and protect the health, life, safety, and general welfare of residents in coordination with the State.

REQUESTED ACTION(S)

Extend Provisional Cannabis Licensing for operators that demonstrate commitment to completing the county's process for obtaining a land use entitlement and business license for cannabis cultivation. Santa Barbara County has very specific concerns regarding the ability of provisional license holders to renew their licenses in 2023. The compressed time frames that the State ~~proposes to apply~~ applied to medium and larger cannabis cultivators is proving to be nearly impossible to meet due to the County's robust public input process, which can be prolonged by months to ameliorate concerns that lead to better, more compatible projects that in result are better for the community. Urge the Department of Cannabis Control and state agencies to consider an extended time frame or some relief for applications under appeal that does not result in current operators losing their ability to continue to operate. Santa Barbara County has increased staffing, to assist in the permit and licensing process and set some internal deadlines of our own, however, ~~to process over 100 permits and licenses to completion and for cultivators to obtain state annual licensing within one year is extremely optimistic~~ several operators continue through our process and do not have the opportunity to convert their provisional licenses to annual licenses until their local permit and license are issued. The danger of closing the permitting pathway is to encourage people to enter back into the illicit market. In addition to losing an important and significant revenue source for the County.

~~Consider legislative actions to review and perhaps update cannabis state tax rates. Consider additional legislative actions to review and update cannabis state tax rates that support the legal market.~~

Support improved access to the state's track and trace system (METRC) and coordination to ensure the data is timely and useful.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Legalization of Adult Use Cannabis offers local government the opportunity to generate significant revenues through the regulation and taxation of the cannabis market. Santa Barbara County received \$14.3 million in revenues from cannabis operators in 2021⁹. Eighty percent of the operators paying taxes currently hold state provisional licenses as they continue through the local permitting and licensing process and are subject to the timeframe for medium and larger cannabis operations established in AB 141. If these operators are forced to shut down the County stands to lose in excess of \$12 million annually. These discretionary funds continue to keep our county fiscally solvent and are used to fund community services such as parks, roads, public facilities, planning, public safety, and housing & homelessness programs.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Loss of potential revenue from current provisional license holders as their licenses expire under current legislation.

CONTACT

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NEW

CANNABIS FEDERAL COORDINATION

Principle	
Job Growth/Economic Vitality	
Strategy	Target
Legislative & Advocacy	Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The county supports federal legislation that removes regulatory, financial, and interstate commerce barriers to the commercial cannabis industry that impedes a competitive environment with effective government regulation and appropriate mitigation of impacts. Santa Barbara County wants to encourage a State and locally regulated cannabis industry, eliminate illegal cannabis operations, and protect the health, life, safety, and general welfare of residents in coordination with State and federal government.

Californians voted to allow for the recreational cultivation, sale, and use of cannabis, however the federal government's ban poses serious roadblocks and risks. State and local control must be respected on the regulation and enforcement of these issues.

REQUESTED ACTION(S)

- Support any effort at the federal level to declassify cannabis as a Schedule I drug and remove all conflicts under federal law.
- Advocate for additional banking services for the cannabis industry to reduce the public safety issues posed by a cash-based industry.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Legalization of Adult Use Cannabis and the development of a legal, cultivation and retail cannabis industry has allowed local governments the opportunity to generate significant revenues through taxation of the commercial cannabis industry. Santa Barbara County received \$14.3 million in revenues from cannabis operators in 2021. These discretionary funds are used to fund community services such as parks, roads, public facilities, planning, public safety, and housing & homelessness programs.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

To be determined, little to no cost anticipated.

CONTACT

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NEW

BROADBAND FUNDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Principle	
Job Growth/Economic Vitality	
Strategy	Target
Funding & Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The need for increased capacity in broadband infrastructure in California, while heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic, was formalized in 2010. The California Broadband Council was established through legislation (S.B. 1462 – Padilla) designed to promote broadband deployment in unserved and underserved areas of the State as defined by the Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), and to increase broadband adoption throughout the State. In August 2020, Governor Newsom signed California Executive Order N-73-20 requiring the development of a California State Broadband Action Plan (CBAP) as a response to COVID-19, which exposed the growing digital divide and an increased demand for access to affordable and reliable broadband. State and Federal Legislation supporting broadband deployment and adoption followed in 2021 with funding earmarked for the public sector, specifically for governmental agencies that had historically only supported deployment via local permitting activities. As the need for high-speed internet access has become increasingly heightened, in 2021, Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors allocated \$200,000 in ARPA funding to participate in the Countywide Broadband Strategic Plan Development in partnership with the Broadband Consortium and SBCAG. As additional State and Federal Funding for broadband infrastructure and planning become available, the County seeks advocacy efforts to implement the broadband strategic plan.

REQUESTED ACTION

The County will work diligently with local jurisdictions and partners to seek funding opportunities to improve availability, accessibility, competition, and reliability of high-speed broadband internet services and the development and implementation of those expansion efforts. The County will advocate for services provided to unserved or underserved households, businesses at speeds sufficient to enable users to generally meet their needs, and to meet increasing household and business demands for bandwidth.

The County will work to identify opportunities and pursue funding to improve, develop and expand the availability, accessibility, competition, and reliability of high-speed broadband internet services.

PUBLIC IMPACT/ BENEFIT

Increased funding for broadband deployment and infrastructure will increase residents and businesses access to high speed internet in the County. This will ultimately lead to closure of the digital divide and bring the County closer to achieving broadband access for all. Increased funding will also lend to digital inclusion and greater connectivity throughout the region.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

There is no immediate or additional cost incurred. This plank aims to also seek additional funding and resources for technology and broadband infrastructure improvements to improve public access to broadband.

CONTACT

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COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES

Principle	
Efficient Service Delivery/Operations	
Strategy	Target
Funding	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County of Santa Barbara funds Library services and operations for seventeen city and county libraries. Library services in the County are administered via contracts with the City of Santa Barbara, the City of Carpinteria, the City of Goleta, the City of Santa Maria and the City of Lompoc. Through this arrangement, the county partners with local cities to provide library facilities, services and materials in a cost-effective manner. Library services are provided through the following established zones:

- Zone 1:** Santa Barbara. Services provided to the cities and unincorporated areas located within or in close proximity to Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, and Montecito.
- Zone 2:** Lompoc. Services provided to the cities and unincorporated areas located within or in close proximity to Lompoc, Vandenberg Village and Vandenberg Air Force Base.
- Zone 3:** Santa Maria. Services provided to the cities and unincorporated areas located within or in close proximity to Cuyama, Guadalupe, Los Alamos, Orcutt and Santa Maria.
- Zone 4:** Goleta. Services provided to the cities and unincorporated areas located within or in close proximity to Goleta, unincorporated Eastern Goleta Valley/Community Service Area 3, Isla Vista, Gaviota, Buellton, Solvang, Santa Ynez, Los Olivos and Hope Ranch.
- Zone 5:** Carpinteria. Services provided to the cities and unincorporated areas located within or in close proximity to Carpinteria.

The County’s contribution to library services for each zone is based on the population of the cities and unincorporated areas within the respective zone as certified January 1st of the prior fiscal year by the California State Library Public Library Fund (PLF).

REQUESTED ACTION

Seek State funding for the County’s library system. If funding is provided, the first priority is to fund needed new library technology, books and materials. In addition, the County seeks funding for equipment, furnishings and to expand hours of operations at various library locations.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The demand for countywide library services continues to increase. Residents of the County view library services as an essential part of the community and an avenue for all segments of the population to continue self-improvement and education. Current library facilities are in need of renovation, new books and materials, new technology and increased hours of operation.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The County contributes approximately \$4.6 M annually from its General Fund, for library services and operations countywide. The cost to maintain library operating hours, replace materials, books, and technology far exceeds our current ability to provide funding. The County seeks additional annual funding, to allow for replacement of out dated equipment, furnishings, technology, programming and materials and increase library hours of operation.

CONTACT

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BROWN ACT AND PUBLIC ACCESS FLEXIBILITY

Principle	
Efficient Service Delivery and Operations	
Strategy	Target
Funding, Legislative and Advocacy	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County has dramatically shifted the way they conduct their public business due to COVID-19 in order to maintain the health and safety of staff and the public. Technology has allowed local governments to remain efficient and accessible in the midst of a global pandemic, therefore local governments need to remain ~~to~~ ~~be~~ proactive and use modern technology not only in day-to-day business, but to improve the diversity of government and our appointed commissions all while reducing our carbon footprint.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support state and federal ~~legislative legislation~~ that ~~supports~~ ~~provides~~ public access to public meetings via alternative methods ~~such as~~ ~~using~~ technology ~~and such as~~ video conferencing. In addition, the technology creates greater flexibility for local government committee/commission members and expands opportunities for more diverse participation on these bodies. Advocate for providing greater public access through technology and support efforts to streamline regulatory processes and promote operational enhancements relating to public meetings. Advocate for funding that would provide training on Brown Act requirements.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/ IMPACT

While the County welcomes the opportunity to return to in-person public meetings and events due to the improvements in public health metrics, the County believes that local government and the general public cannot be expected to give up the benefits resulting from the use of modern technology during the pandemic. Allowing flexibility for local governments to conduct business remotely would allow for immunocompromised individuals to continue to work safely, while at the same time allow for local government to provide ~~more~~ greater accessibility to underserved communities.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

There is no immediate or additional cost incurred, however the cost incurred through technology requirements may rise over time through increased use. This plank aims to also seek additional funding and resources for technology improvements to improve public access without negatively impacting the County's budget.

CONTACT

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NEW

INPATIENT ADMINISTRATIVE DAY PAYMENT STRUCTURE

Principle	
Efficient Service Delivery/Operations	
Strategy	Target
Legislative	Fed/State

SUMMARY

At some point during an inpatient hospitalization, a patient may no longer meet criteria for medical necessity but may not have an appropriate placement to which to discharge; i.e. there is no appropriate, non-acute treatment facility with an available bed. After stabilization, a patient might be switched to Administrative Days (Admin Days) while placement efforts are made.

Under certain specific circumstances, the documentation for this patient may meet criteria for reimbursement for Admin Days.

For current reimbursement of Admin Days, the medical necessity documentation of an acute day during the hospitalization is required inclusive of necessary documentation by social services staff of contacts with reimbursable facilities. However, admin days are only reimbursed if a patient is discharged to a specific type of placement facility, and when placement calls follow a specific protocol in the documentation. This results in no payment for discharges for non-designated facilities which are typically community based and creates service and funding barriers for transitions of clients and fiscal operations of Counties of these facilities.

Admin Days for discharges to the following placements ARE potentially reimbursable:

- Augmented Board and Care (a facility which provides extensive psychiatric services),
- Crisis Residential Treatment (CRT),
- Institutes for Mental Disease (IMD),
- Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) with a psychiatric milieu; or
- A Dual Diagnosis Rehabilitation Facility.

However, Admin Days for discharges to the following placements CANNOT be approved:

- To Home, To Friends, To Self,
- Shelters,
- Room and Board (R&B),
- Regular Board and Care (not augmented),
- Sober Living Facility,
- Rehabilitation Facility that does not provide dual-diagnosis treatment; and
- Regular Nursing Home or SNF.

REQUESTED ACTION

- In order to preserve operations of inpatient facilities, the County supports reimbursement of Admin Days for all discharges regardless of type of services at receiving facility, in an effort to promote enhanced treatment options locally for individuals and their families while creating fiscal stability for the operators of these units.

PUBLIC IMPACT/ BENEFIT

The benefit to the community and public is that there will be more sustainable inpatient care resources locally for inpatient treatment options.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Expansion of reimbursement to a larger continuum of care would increase overall reimbursement for care provided at local inpatient facilities and increase sustainability of this level of care for the larger community.

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IMD EXCLUSION

Principle	
Efficient Service Delivery/Operations	
Strategy	Target
Legislative	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Currently, the law prohibits states from using Medicaid to pay for care provided in “institutions for mental disease” (IMDs), which are psychiatric hospitals or other residential treatment facilities that have more than 16 beds.

This is the only part of federal Medicaid law that prohibits payment for the cost of providing medically necessary care because of the type of illness being treated. This discriminatory exclusion has been in place since Medicaid’s enactment in 1965, and it has resulted in unequal coverage of mental health care.

Recently, states were given the option to cover short-term stays in psychiatric hospitals by applying for waivers from the federal government however a permanent removal of the restriction is needed.

People with mental health conditions — just like people with any medical condition — need a range of care options from outpatient services to hospital care. Updating the IMD exclusion to allow for short-term stays in psychiatric hospitals helps strengthen the mental health system and provides those who rely on Medicaid with more treatment options.

- About one in eight visits to hospital emergency rooms involves a mental health or substance use condition. However, emergency departments are often not equipped to help people experiencing a mental health crisis.
- Unfortunately, emergency department staff often have nowhere to send a person in crisis because of the limited number of inpatient psychiatric beds in the U.S., which have decreased significantly over time
- Inadequate service at the inpatient care level can lead to negative outcomes including incarceration, further crisis, and a higher cost to the state and the federal government, and other community impacts.
- Federal Medicaid policy has contributed to the mental health system’s lack of a full range of treatment options, including inpatient care, for people with mental illness.
- Medicaid doesn’t pay for care provided in “institutions for mental disease” (IMDs), which are psychiatric hospitals or other residential treatment facilities that have more than 16 beds.
- This policy, known as the “IMD exclusion,” is the only part of the Medicaid program that doesn’t pay for medically necessary care simply because of the type of illness.
- The IMD exclusion is discriminatory and has a real-life impact on people’s ability to access needed treatment.
- Every person who relies on Medicaid should have access to the full range of treatment options they need — bringing us one step closer towards full and equal treatment

REQUESTED ACTION

The County supports this effort to promote enhanced treatment options locally for individuals and their families resulting the lack in inpatient care facilities state and nationwide

The County supports efforts to provide additional funding for beds in excess of 16 at all IMD facilities

PUBLIC

The benefit to the community and public is that there will be more available local crisis and inpatient treatment options.

Given the cap of reimbursement at 16 current local facilities are not able to match community need and local individuals are hospitalized out of the area removing them from their community and natural supports.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Expanding existing IMD and inpatient resource reimbursement would allow greater economies of scale, would reduce cost of hospitalizing people out of the area.

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NEW

CARE COURT IMPLEMENTATION EFFORTS

Principle	
Efficient Service Delivery/Operations	
Strategy	Target
Funding & Advocacy	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Senate Bill 1338 (Act) creates a Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court program, which authorizes specified persons to petition a civil court to exercise jurisdiction over individuals suffering from specified mental health disorders. If a court determines the individual is eligible for the CARE Court program, it will order a CARE plan, as devised by the relevant county behavioral services agency, and oversee the individual's participation in the plan. This CARE Court creates legal and service obligations for various County departments with unknown fiscal impacts due to lack of State funding for all elements. This new court would engage individuals living with psychotic disorders into treatment under the court's jurisdiction and includes the provision of a public defender and supporter to guide voluntary participants through the process.

The County of Santa Barbara recognizes the significant changes and funding for CARE Court and is ready to assist in implementation but continues to express concerns with lack of full funding, resources and fees that will be imposed on the county in instances of alleged noncompliance. The ongoing need for stable funding and resources inclusive of housing, outreach, training, and workforce is a critical part of enabling counties to provide the expected level of services.

REQUESTED ACTIONS

- Continue to advocate and share concerns regarding SB 1338 regarding process, implementation, and funding. This is inclusive of workforce training, legal advocacy, and housing resources.
- Continue to recommend fiscal provisions that preserve counties' baseline funding needed to serve current recipients and provide a mechanism for determining and providing supplementary annual funding required for activities and services under CARE Court.
- Advocate for additional resources inclusive of adequate and sustainable long-term funding for multiple departments and entities, including county behavioral health, public defender, county counsel, public guardians and conservators, housing and community development, public housing authorities and county social services.
- Continue coordination with Department of Health Care Services to address process of fees and sanctions.
- Advocate for additional resources for additional housing, in support of the CARE Court Program.

PUBLIC IMPACT

The benefit to the public is to create a sustainable program to support those experiencing mental health disorders with appropriate resources and support systems.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

An annual estimate of 450 individuals would be referred for assessment based on psychiatric symptoms in Santa Barbara County, and anticipate 25-33% of those referred assessments would result in court ordered treatment plans of at least one year. The initial annual County cost is estimated at \$7.1 million, not inclusive of housing, with offsetting revenue streams being outlined during the first cohort phase. As a result, the net fiscal impact will become clearer prior to implementation of Cohort 2 in 2024 which Santa Barbara is anticipated to participate in. Additionally, with the creation of a new Court, staffing increases are anticipated

for the Court, Public Defender, Public Guardian, Social Services, County Counsel, and Behavioral Wellness. The Act outlines funding for Courts, Public Defender, and supporters, but not comprehensive funding for county behavioral health and housing. Costs of program implementation fall heavily on county departments, including Public Guardian, and County supports all efforts to ensure successful implementation of program and its various elements.

CONTACT

County Executive Office (805) 568-3400
Behavioral Wellness
Public Defender
Public Guardian
Social Services

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY

Principle	
Efficient Service Delivery/Operations	
Strategy	Target
Funding & Legislative	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County of Santa Barbara has experienced and continues to be susceptible to a wide array of man-made and natural hazards and threats, including wildfires, flooding and debris flows, cyber-attacks, extreme weather, domestic terrorism and drought. The 2022 Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment further illustrates future increases in the severity and frequency of climate-related hazards and 22 distinct frontline populations that are more likely to experience the impacts of climate change earlier and/or to a more severe degree than others. State and federal policy changes and fiscal appropriations that enhance all-hazards emergency planning and response capabilities are vital to ensure the County, public and private partners, and the community are well prepared to respond to and recover when disaster strikes.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support legislation that maximizes the County's ability to effectively mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural and man-made emergencies and disasters in order to protect life and property, safeguard social, environmental and economic assets, and support Whole Community resiliency.

Support legislation and funding designed to promote innovative, local solutions, and permit maximum flexibility in planning and programs that best target individual community needs, hazards, and threats. This includes:

- Support full and flexible funding for county or locally based public education campaigns, governmental continuity of operations, all-hazards emergency and disaster planning, state-of-the-art alerting, incident management and information sharing technologies, and multi-agency testing, training and exercise programs.
- Support grant processes that allow full funding for sufficient personnel necessary to carry out essential emergency management programs and bring obsolete and out-of-date plans into compliance, especially in the wake of back-to-back emergencies, prolonged Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activations, and complex, long-term recovery efforts.
- Work to ensure that state- and federally-driven initiatives and legislative actions that impose mandates upon counties are accompanied by full and flexible funding and resources.

Support legislation that integrates and supports diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) concepts into emergency management planning, including collaboration and coordination with local cultural brokers, advocacy groups, and community-based organizations to strengthen relationships and build trust.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Current, up-to-date emergency management plans and programs enhance the County's ability to provide accessible, targeted and life-saving support and services. Having the resources to work closely with local partners serving vulnerable populations empowers communities to formulate their own vision of emergency preparedness, response, and recovery, and will result in enhanced community resiliency.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Over the years, numerous cost-benefit analyses on disaster mitigation, emergency planning, and resiliency-building activities show that "preparedness pays". By nurturing disaster-resilient communities that can "bounce back" faster and shielding communities and businesses from long-term economic harm as a result of

disasters, the County can significantly reduce personnel and asset response costs, recovery and reimbursement processes, and impacts to tax-based revenue sources.

Additionally, in recent years there have been many new legislative mandates without fiscal or resource support, impacting the Office of Emergency Management's ability to maintain programs to current requirements and best practices. Advocating for any new legislative requirements to include funding and/or resources and to enhance funding and/or resources for current requirements would provide the County a mechanism for implementation, while reducing the need for General Fund allocation to meet mandates.

CONTACT

Kelly Hubbard, OEM Director | khubbard@countyofsb.org

PUBLIC SAFETY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Principle	
Fiscal Stability	
Strategy	Target
Funding, Legislative, & Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The tenet of the public safety departments in the County of Santa Barbara is the protection of life and property through highly competent delivery of emergency response, fire prevention services, constitutional and effective policing services, custody, and rehabilitation services that provide a high level of safety to residents and visitors. The public is well served when victims of crime are protected and individuals charged with a crime have equal access to justice, are prosecuted and defended diligently and ethically, and all involved parties receive a fair and timely resolution of their case.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support funding and advocate for legislation that aligns with the goals of the County of Santa Barbara Public Safety Realignment Act FY 2019-20 Plan, including:

- Enhancing public safety by reducing recidivism through evidence-based and cost effective programming;
- Enhancing the use of alternatives to detention for appropriate offenders pre and post-sentence;
- Providing services and treatment that aid offenders successful re-enter communities;
- Coordinating efforts to eliminate duplication, increase efficiencies and promote best practices; and
- Support a systematic approach to studying and addressing ethnic and racial disparities in the justice system.

Support continued State investment in local facilities and programs that will aid in addressing the “revolving door” problem in state and local detention facilities.

Support State funding that improves the delivery of inmate physical and mental health care services for all inmates and reimburses counties for these expenses incurred when serving realigned populations.

Support the local application of the national Stepping Up Initiative efforts to safely reduce the number of adults with mental and co-occurring substance use disorders in jail by connecting them to community-based treatment and services when possible.

Support State funding and policies in adult probation that build a continuum of intervention, prevention and supervision services for adult offenders.

Support State funding and policies that fully support Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) initiatives.

Advocate for increased juvenile placement options due to further restriction of group homes, especially residential and intensive outpatient treatment for the most seriously disturbed or at-risk youth, that are child welfare involved or clients of Behavioral Wellness.

Advocate for targeted funding designed to provide local jurisdictions funding for “co-response teams”, that is a collaboration between law between law enforcement officers trained in Crisis Intervention and mental health case workers.

Seek changes in legislation allowing costs incurred providing mental health treatment services to inmates housed in county jail facilities to be reimbursed through MediCal.

Advocate for changes to federal law to expand the maximum number of beds within Institutes for Mental Disease (IMD) beyond the current 16 beds.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Improving the means and tools for the Public Safety Departments that will allow them to provide quality public service to the people in Santa Barbara County by:

- Safeguarding them from the impacts of crime, fires, medical emergencies, and disasters;
- Providing information and recommendations to the Courts;
- Enforcing the laws and providing correctional services;
- Enforcing court orders and post-release community supervision conditions;
- Requiring offender responsibility and accountability;
- Delivering safe and effective juvenile detention, treatment, and rehabilitation services;
- Prosecuting the guilty, protecting the innocent, and preventing crime;
- Ensuring constitutional rights of all; and
- Delivering effective and timely policing services that are responsive to the community's needs and desires.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Public safety services can be very costly and demanding on local government budgets. This plank aims to seek additional funding and resources without negatively impacting the County's budget. There is no immediate or additional cost incurred.

CONTACT

County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

~~DJJ REALIGNMENT BACKFILL~~

Principle	
Fiscal Stability	
Strategy	Target
Funding, Legislative, & Advocacy	State

~~SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE~~

~~The Governor's January Budget in 2020 proposed to transfer the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to a newly created independent department within the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) on July 1, 2020. That approach was intended to align the rehabilitative mission of the state's juvenile justice system with trauma-informed and developmentally appropriate services supported by programs overseen by the state's Health and Human Services Agency. The unprecedented fiscal impact of COVID-19 resulted in the withdrawal of this proposal. Subsequently, the May Revision proposed to expand on previous efforts to reform the state's juvenile justice system by transferring the responsibility for managing all youthful offenders to local jurisdictions. The final language was included in trailer bill SB 823 (Chapter 337, Statutes of 2020) where it outlined the provisions for the realigned responsibilities.~~

~~823 (Chapter 337, Statutes of 2020) states that the intake at DJJ will cease beginning July 1, 2021. Prospective transfer of responsibility with new adjudications will begin on July 1, 2021. Full implementation of population shift is expected to be reached in 2024-25. The trailer bill did not provide counties and probation departments with sufficient time to prepare local programs and facilities for the new population being shifted to local government and did not leave sufficient time to distribute current year funds to counties through a competitive process to prepare for implementation. In addition to the issues associated with the allocations, the assessment of costs associated with dispositions occurring in adult court which are beyond the county's control have the potential for significant fiscal implications on the county.~~

~~As with previous realignments, the county believes that a shift in programmatic responsibility must be accompanied by stable, sufficient and protected funding as well as the flexibility to design responsive local systems that meet the needs of our community, permit innovation, and encourage partnership with community organizations. Authority and responsibility must remain connected to ensure the system can function and respond appropriately. Unanticipated consequences to this legislation must be addressed promptly in order to ensure counties have the ability to engage in long-term planning for the realigned population.~~

~~REQUESTED ACTION~~

~~Support stable and equitable state funding and secure proper backfill to ensure that the County and its Probation Department does not experience loss in revenue. Address costs, which remain out of the county's control, such as the cost of commitments to the DJJ out of the adult court and ensure oversight roles are properly defined.~~

~~PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT~~

~~Improving the means and tools for the County that will allow them to provide and achieve the goals of improving outcomes for this population of young people.~~

~~COST TO GOVERNMENT~~

~~Public safety and probation services can be very costly and demanding on local government budgets. This plank aims to seek additional funding and resources without negatively impacting the County's budget. There is no immediate or additional cost incurred.~~

~~CONTACT~~

~~County Executive Office, (805)568-3400~~

PANDEMIC AND RECOVERY FUNDING RELIEF FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Principle	
Fiscal Stability	
Strategy	Target
Funding, Legislative, & Advocacy	Federal and State Funding

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County has faced severe revenue shortfalls due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which include a decline in sales and other taxes and major declines in fees on hotels, tolls, and motor fuel. As we face a post pandemic world, Counties continue to need assistance to fully recover from the economic shortfalls. Counties continue to need fiscal assistance to stabilize local government operations to offset the devastating impacts the crisis ~~is having~~ has had on our communities.

Furthermore, all local governments are at the forefront of response and recovery efforts to the pandemic in their communities. Over the past few years, the County has increased spending to provide crucial public health services, emergency costs and help communities adapt to State COVID-19 Guidelines. Counties seek additional assistance for recovery efforts coming out of the pandemic and supports ~~legislative~~ legislation that prioritizes economic recovery at both the State and Federal level in order to maintain the highest quality of services to residents.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support state and federal funding for ~~the ongoing~~ pandemic relief and secure backfill or stimulus to support local governments in order to ensure that the County does not continue to experience tremendous loss in revenue as well as support state and federal funding for a variety of COVID recovery efforts.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

If provided proper state and federal funding, the County will be able to continue to provide their range of critical public service and promote healthy recovery in the County.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Public health services can be very costly on local government budgets, ~~especially during a pandemic~~ especially during and after the pandemic. This plank aims to seek additional funding and resources without negatively impacting the County's budget. There is no immediate or additional cost incurred.

CONTACT

County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

LOCAL BRIDGE FUNDING - REGIONAL

Principle	
Fiscal Stability	
Strategy	Target
Funding & Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The local street, road, and bridge system holds California's transportation network together. From the moment we open our front door and drive to work, bike to school, or walk to the bus stop, we depend on safe, reliable roads, bridges, and essential street components. Police, fire, and emergency medical services need safe, reliable roads to react quickly to calls – delay can be a matter of life and death. Further, California's economy relies upon an efficient, multi-modal transportation network to safely move people and goods.

Local streets and roads make up over 85% of the roadway network in California. There are 12,339 local bridges, making up 48% of all the bridges in California. Conservatively, this network is valued at over \$220 billion. Nearly all public and active transportation modes, including buses, bicycles, and walking, require access to the local system.

For decades, local bridge replacement and repair needs have outpaced available funding. California's local bridges are deteriorating rapidly, with 4,401 bridges in need of repair and 451 in need of replacement. Almost a fifth of the State's 12,399 local-owned bridges are over 80 years old. At current funding levels, local bridges will need to be in service for more than 200 years, or 3 times their intended lifespan. There is currently a backlog of over \$4B in local bridge projects needing funding. At current funding levels, ~~of only \$300M/year for local bridges,~~ it would take approximately ~~1816-~~20 years to fund bridges that are already eligible to be repaired or replaced, not including the hundreds of bridges that become eligible each year for work.

REQUESTED ACTION

At the federal level, continue advocating for inclusion of a local bridge set-aside in federal highway bill crafting or in an infrastructure spending bill. Current legislation includes this set-aside for local bridges that are off the federal aid system, a helpful first step. However, the bill does not include specific funding for local on-system bridges, which is where the majority of the need lies. ~~It appears the current bill will not include this set-aside. While the recently-passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provides funding that is eligible to be used on local bridges, it leaves it to the States to determine what level of funds will be apportioned/apportioned to local bridges. Also, some of the funding used for local bridges may sunset with the expiration of the IIJA.~~

~~At the state level, a~~ All government stakeholders, including cities, counties, regional agencies, and the ~~state~~ State recognize the importance of the local transportation network. This recognition should include providing commensurate funding from state and federal funds available for transportation infrastructure in statewide funding decision-making. Seeking legislative opportunities and factoring this need into discussion of funding formulas for available transportation funding is critical. The local bridge program needs ~~a minimum of~~ approximately \$800M annually just to maintain local bridges at current health levels. Legislation that will protect and enhance public safety by maintaining and improving local bridge health includes three elements: 1) a specific set-aside for local bridges on Federal Aid routes 2) consistent local bridge funding indexed to inflation and 3) funding for local bridges commensurate with the resources needed to preserve local bridge health. At a minimum the \$300M, which has been fixed funding since at least 2009, should be adjusted for the inflation and include indexed increases mirroring other funding increases. Examples of such increases include as a construction cost index or and the increases in National Highway Performance Program funding intended to maintain transportation infrastructure. For the longer term, d Dedicated funding at levels sufficient to properly address local agency bridge needs will improve safe, reliable access to all Californians and enhance the State's economic vitality.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Every trip begins and ends on a local road. Safe, efficient mobility and access across bridges is critical to the movement of people, goods, and services.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The minimum annual cost should be \$800M/year. This represents a ~~\$500M~~\$220M/year increase from today. This amount should be increased over time to match the needs as costs increase.

CONTACT

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County Executive Office, (805) 568-3400

HOLLISTER/STATE STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Principle	
Inter-Agency Collaboration	
Strategy	Target
Funding	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Hollister Avenue from San Antonio Road to Modoc Road and State Street from Modoc Road to State Route 154 are primary arterials in Santa Barbara County. This corridor serves as an alternative route to U.S. 101 and needs improvements to accommodate multimodal travel at current and future traffic volumes.

Proposed improvements include widening the corridor to ~~create additional capacity and improve multimodal circulation~~ improve circulation and integrate multimodal improvements. The project will add ~~pedestrian boulevards~~ sidewalks, bike lanes, bus accommodation, transportation enhancements, and replace a narrow, ~~and~~ outdated railroad overhead crossing to accommodate the road widening. The project is supported by the community and will promote a unified sense of community, improve public health and welfare, provide alternative routes for movement of goods and services, and stimulate economic development throughout the area.

REQUESTED ACTION

Requests funding of \$8 million for design and construction of the improvement project of Hollister Avenue between San Antonio and Modoc Roads.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

This project supports multimodal transportation and infill development. Some of the benefits to the community include:

- Reduced ~~travel~~ time for the movement of people, goods and services, resulting in less congestion, and pollution and improved regional air quality
- Reduced costs to build and maintain expensive new infrastructure
- Improved health and welfare with opportunities for active transportation
- Added vibrancy and a unified sense of community to the corridor
- Implements complete streets concepts, accommodating vehicles, pedestrians, and bicycles
- Improve ds facilities to comply with the American Disabilities Act

COST TO GOVERNMENT

\$8 million

CONTACT

Scott D. McGolpin; Public Works Director, (805)568-3010
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LAKE CACHUMA

Principle	
Inter-Agency Collaboration	
Strategy	Target
Funding & Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

As a result of a biological opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Federal Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) has evaluated the impacts of raising the water level at Lake Cachuma to protect the endangered steelhead trout. The increased water capacity, coupled with the need to replace outdated and aging infrastructure, is the catalyst for funding requests to continue Parks operations listed below. Extensive drought conditions have increased the need and the opportunity to fund needed capital improvements to Lake Cachuma.

REQUESTED ACTION

State and federal legislative support for new appropriation requests as follows: Road repair, fire flow and water distribution system improvements - \$6.8 million; new water treatment plant and related systems - \$4.8 million; Sewage treatment - \$7.5 million; Recreational and pavement improvements - \$44.68 million.

PROJECT	TOTAL COST	AMOUNT FUNDED	FUNDING SOURCE
BIOLOGICAL OPINION / SURCHARGE INITIATED PROJECTS			
Fire Flow and Water Distribution Improvements	\$ <u>1,800,000</u>	<u>\$166,500</u>	BOR
Construction Road Repair & Access Improvements (connected to fire flow for fire truck access)	\$ <u>5,000,000</u>	-	BOR
New Water Treatment Plant and Related Systems	\$ <u>4,800,000</u>	\$280,000	BOR/SB County
Sewage Treatment Plant and Related Systems	\$ <u>7,500,000</u>	-	BOR
TOTAL	\$<u>19,100,000</u>		
OTHER CAPITAL FACILITIES AND RECREATIONAL PROJECTS			
Boat Ramp Extension	\$ <u>3,900,000</u>	-	DB&W
Boat Dock Replacement	\$ <u>660,000</u>	-	DB&W
Pavement Repair and Rehabilitation (not connected to Road Repair for fire truck access)	\$ <u>7,770,000</u>	-	BOR
New Overnight Accommodations (Cabins/Yurts)	\$ <u>5,550,000</u>	-	BOR
Recreation Improvements (RV Facilities)	\$ <u>16,500,000</u>	<u>\$521,300</u>	BOR/SB County
Recreation Improvements (Pool Facilities)	\$ <u>10,300,000</u>	-	BOR
TOTAL	\$<u>44,680,000</u>		
GRAND TOTAL FOR ALL PROJECTS	\$<u>63,780,000</u>		

PUBLIC

The County provides an array of recreational amenities including boating, fishing, camping (tent, RV, yurts and cabins), seasonal naturalist programs, and nature cruises to approximately 500,800,000 visitors annually.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The Bureau owns all “project” facilities and operates Bradbury Dam, which was constructed under contract with the Santa Barbara County Water Agency to provide irrigation and water supplies. The County operates and maintains all “project” facilities and provides an array of recreational amenities through a long-term management agreement with the Bureau.

CONTACT

George Chapjian, Director, Community Services Department, (805)568-2467
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~~CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – YOUTH AND ADOLESCENCE~~

Principle	
Inter-Agency Collaboration	
Strategy	Target
Funding & Legislative	Fed/State

~~SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE~~

~~Community health surveys conducted by Santa Barbara County Public Health Department, Dignity Health and Cottage Health all indicate that behavioral health is a primary concern for youth throughout Santa Barbara County. When behavioral health is compromised, symptoms of mental illness may become apparent. Indicators occur across a wide spectrum and are classified as mild to moderate or severe, depending upon the extent to which the symptoms disrupt daily functioning. Symptoms can be temporary and situational or chronic and persistent. The signs of mental illness in children vary by age and type of illness, with some psychiatric disorders appearing even in preschool years.~~

~~Significant mental health problems can and do occur in young children. Children can show clear characteristics of anxiety disorders, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, conduct disorder, depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, and neurodevelopmental disabilities, such as autism, at a very early age. That said, young children respond to and process emotional experiences and traumatic events in ways that are very different from adults and older children. Consequently, diagnosis in early childhood can be much more difficult than it is in adults.~~

~~Statistics from the National Institute on Mental Health tell us that:~~

- ~~• Approximately 13% of children ages 8-15 had diagnosable a mental disorder within the previous year, with 8.5% being diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The identification of delays in social and emotional development during early childhood could provide opportunities for early intervention.~~
- ~~• Approximately 70% of youth in state or local juvenile justice systems have a mental illness (in Santa Barbara County, 84% of youth in custody in 2015 were receiving mental health services). If treated earlier, they may have avoided incarceration.~~
- ~~• Approximately 50% of students with mental illness drop out of high school, lowering their lifetime earning potential.~~

~~The cost of untreated mental health is significant to the county. The National Institute for Mental Health (NIMH) estimates that untreated mental illness costs the nation as much as \$300 billion each year. Therefore, investment in mental health research, services, criminal justice collaborations and supportive housing is essential to helping people with mental illness lead healthy, productive lives.~~

~~REQUESTED ACTION~~

~~Advocate with State and Federal leaders to maintain and/or increase state and federal funding and legislation for quality youth and adolescence that includes:~~

- ~~• Universal screenings of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in medical homes~~
- ~~• Programs that promote early mental health consultation in schools and other trusted venues~~
- ~~• Strengthen the continuum of care in Santa Barbara County to include crisis services for children and youth.~~

~~PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT~~

~~Each year, the Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness serves over 3000 children and youth who are severely emotionally disturbed and/or who meet medical necessity criteria for Medi-Cal and are moderate to severe in their level of impairment. Those with Medi-Cal who are low to moderate in level~~

~~of impairment receive specialty mental health services through CenCal Health (via contract with the Holman Group). If a child does not meet Behavioral Wellness criteria and has private insurance or no insurance, the family may experience challenges as they attempt to navigate provider networks, insurance plans, eligibility requirements and treatment options and the costs can be an impediment to the County system.~~

~~**COST TO GOVERNMENT**~~

~~There is no direct cost to government. Funding leveraged through state and federal advocacy for the County will support the development, expansion and enhancement of the already existing system of care.~~

~~**CONTACT**~~

~~Wendy Sims-Moten, First 5 Executive Director (805)884-8086~~

~~Michelle Robertson, First 5 Assistant Director (805)560-1039~~

~~Barbara Finch, KIDS Network Director (805)681-4678~~

~~County Executive Office, (805)568-3400~~

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Principle	
Inter-Agency Collaboration	
Strategy	Target
Funding & Legislative	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

There is an overwhelming need to prioritize and support the youngest children in our communities to ensure that they are ready for school and are prepared to lead healthy and productive adult lives. Children birth to through age five across Santa Barbara County are experiencing conditions that are less than optimal for their development such as poverty and exposure to traumatic experiences and research shows that attending high-quality early learning opportunities helps to mitigate the risk factors that preclude children from being prepared to enter school. Due to a variety of reasons, many children still do not access the available slots due to prohibitive cost or are on long wait lists. In addition, families often rely on high-quality early learning opportunities in order to stay gainfully employed.

Data from First 5 Santa Barbara County's Strategic Planning and Data Briefing Book (August 2020)

states: In fiscal year 2020-2021, approximately 69% of Santa Barbara County's children enter kindergarten lacking the social, cognitive, and or emotional capacities they need to succeed in school.

- Childcare capacity falls short of the need with fewer than 18,000 licensed early care and education spaces for an estimated 30,000 children age birth to five, living in Santa Barbara County
- The greatest need is for infants and toddlers (birth to age 3) with available spaces for only one in five children.
- The cost of care can be prohibitively expensive for working families, who may not qualify for subsidy with the average annual cost being \$13,327 for infant care
- There is a potential unmet need of 8,089 infant-toddler spaces if all parents were working and seeking child care.

REQUESTED ACTION

Advocate with State and Federal leaders to maintain and/or increase state and federal funding stream for quality early care and education that includes:

- Advocate for the expansion of new subsidized childcare slots/spaces provided by the CA Department of Education and Department of Social Services, specifically for infants and toddlers.
- Advocate for Early Care and Education facilities development dollars in order to increase capacity.
- Continue to support the expansion of the California Earned Income Tax Credit & the Young Child Tax Credit so ITIN filers could qualify
- Support the expansion of job protections for workers in workplaces of 5+ employees who take Paid Family Leave to care for a new baby or ill loved one.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

By exploring and advancing opportunities to preserve and increase funding streams committed to early childhood programs, the County is working to ensure that California's youngest children and their families thrive. Researchers and economists have documented that high quality early care and education offers a high return on investment, especially for children with risk factors. The childcare industry contributes significantly to the local economy, by providing childcare employment and supporting parents to be full-time employed. Therefore, providing families with high quality, accessible, affordable childcare experiences

ensure children's school readiness and productive members of the community and counter-acts the negative impacts of such conditions as poverty,

COST TO GOVERNMENT

There is no direct cost to local government. Funding leveraged through state and federal advocacy for the County will support the development, expansion and enhancement of the already existing early care and education infrastructure and system. Additional funding and legislation is needed in the area of early identification and intervention, quality early learning, childcare facility funding, subsidized care, and early care and education workforce development.

CONTACT

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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES — FAMILY STRENGTHENING

Principle	
Inter-Agency Collaboration	
Strategy	Target
Funding & Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Many families in Santa Barbara County are raising children with the added pressures of economic stress and family dysfunction. Poverty compounds other stressors, such as marital discord, domestic violence, mental health concerns, or drug and alcohol abuse; all of which cost the county in intervention efforts. Generally, recent immigrants, single-parent families, and very young families have substantially higher rates of poverty than the general population and are therefore at increased risk of having higher levels of parenting stress.

Family strengthening efforts is the shared responsibility of many county departments including First 5, Department of Social Services, Public Health, and Behavioral Wellness. Often families access the various departments for unique services, yet there is no system in place to track and share information among departments. We recognize that it is our obligation to ensure that the services we are providing are coordinated, timely, and trauma-informed. We must come together as one government to break down silos and build a culture that is focused on delivering services that are person-centered, and not program-centered.

More than ever, meeting the needs of our children and families requires our continued collaboration as interagency teams. In facing the colliding challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting budget impacts, multi-agency partnership will provide crucial opportunities for maximizing the impact that our services and resources have in supporting the safety and wellbeing of the children and families we serve.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support funding and legislation that improve the lives of families in the following areas:

- Support the implementation of Assembly Bill 2083 (Chapter 815, Statutes of 2018), which requires each county to develop and implement a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the roles and responsibilities of the various local entities that serve children and youth who have experienced severe trauma.
- Develop inter-agency policies and programs that address the effects of poverty, including access to educational opportunities for parents to ensure economic stability and mobility across county departments and with local non-profit social service agencies.
- Support the financial stability of community centers, family resource centers, and behavioral health services that act as hubs for families to access

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Family Strengthening interventions prepare lifelong skills that create opportunities for families to connect with trusted community resources and organizations, empowers families to be community ambassadors to connect their peers/neighbors that may be having difficulty, and values the diversity of our Santa Barbara County demographics. If families feel a part of a community, they will feel valued and be active and engaged participants. Children will model after their parents and contribute to our community vibrancy.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

No direct cost at this time.

CONTACT

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County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

TELECOMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION

Principle	
Local Control	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Section 332(c)(7) of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 prevents local governments, including the County of Santa Barbara, from opposing the placement and regulation of personal wireless service facilities on the basis of the environmental effects of radio-frequency emissions to the extent that the proposed facilities comply with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations concerning such emissions. The California Public Utilities Code also limits the authority of local governments to regulate wireless facilities in public rights of way.

Currently, the ability of local governments to include a consideration of the ~~health and~~ environmental (e.g., visual) effects of these facilities when deciding whether to approve or deny the construction or modification of a cellular communications facility is limited to established Federal radio frequency emissions thresholds. Existing regulations regarding telecommunication facilities also hamper local agencies' ability to protect the visual quality of their communities. Protecting a high-quality visual environment is vitally important to community residents; it is equally important to protect the desirability of an area as a tourist destination.

In addition to regulating the scope of local review, local jurisdictions are limited by federal and state law, in the time they have to review and process, including environmental review and permits for telecommunications facilities. The planning review process must be complete in: (1) 60 days for modifications to existing facilities that would not substantially change their physical dimensions; (2) 90 days for modifications to existing facilities that would substantially change their physical dimensions and new collocated facilities; and (3) 150 days for new facilities; otherwise, the facilities are deemed approved.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support state and federal legislation that repeals limitations on state and local authority imposed by federal and state law that limit the authority of local governments to regulate the placement, construction, and modification of telecommunications towers and other personal wireless service facilities on the basis of ~~the health and~~ environmental effects (e.g., visual impacts) of these facilities.

~~Oppose sections of the Act that preempt local control and prevent local governments from considering health effects.~~

~~Advocate for the FCC to work in cooperation with the FDA and other relevant federal agencies to revisit and update studies on potential health concerns arising from wireless emissions in light of the national proliferation of wireless use. In particular, the County believes it is imperative that the FCC undertake longitudinal health studies to determine whether its existing exposure limits are adequate to protect public health. The longitudinal studies should encompass a broad demographic (e.g., children and people with compromised health) in order to fully protect public health.~~

Advocate that the FCC revise the processing deadlines for new telecommunication facilities to ensure that local agencies have adequate time to fully evaluate proposed projects under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) or, if exempt from CEQA environmental review, other planning laws (e.g., zoning codes) to address siting and design options to minimize visual and site disturbance impacts and protect a high quality visual environment. The 2019 National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Priorities supports the County's position: "NACo urges Congress and federal agencies to recognize counties as co-regulators, providers and partners in extending the benefits of advanced telecommunications and broadband technology — including improvements to county emergency preparedness and response systems — to all Americans. Federal policymakers should support local decision-making and accountability of local elected officials and should oppose any actions that would preempt or limit the zoning and siting authority of local governments."

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Citizens would be better served by allowing local government greater flexibility to regulate the placement of cellular facilities near areas ~~marked by unique environmental resources such as residences, schools, daycares, or parks~~. Longer processing times would give local agencies the opportunity to evaluate alternative locations and designs in order to maximize the protection of a high-quality visual environment.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

This is largely a regulatory function to allow local governments' greater discretion to decide how, when, and where cellular facilities should be sited.

CONTACT

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TRIBAL RELATIONS AND COLLABORATION

Principle	
Local Control	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The County of Santa Barbara supports government-to-government relations as well as collaboration that recognize the role and unique interests of tribes, states, counties, and other local governments to protect all members of their communities and to provide governmental services and infrastructure beneficial to all. In addition, the County recognizes and respects the tribal right of self-governance to provide for tribal members and to preserve traditional tribal culture and heritage. In similar fashion, the County recognizes and promotes self-governance by counties to provide for the health, safety, and general welfare of all members of our communities. In order to provide for full participation by all community members, the County supports the full involvement of local government agencies on issues and activities taking place on tribal fee or trust lands, which may create direct and indirect impacts to public health, safety or the environment.

The County of Santa Barbara recognizes that gaming on tribal land in California is governed by a unique structure that combines federal, state, and tribal law. While the impacts of gaming fall primarily on local communities and governments, policy is largely directed and controlled at the state and federal level. However, consistent with the legislative platform adopted by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), many compacts do not adequately address impacts of tribal gaming. It is critical to promote tribal self-reliance with policies that promote fairness and equity and that protect the health, safety, environment, and general welfare of all residents of the County of Santa Barbara the State of California and the United States.

Impacted counties find that the compacts as well as distribution of funds via the Special Distribution Fund (SDF) fail to adequately address these impacts and/or to provide meaningful and enforceable mechanisms to prevent or mitigate impacts.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support the restoration of full funding of the county share as a direct contribution of the annual Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund with letters of support, as well as, the appearance and testimony of County lobbyists. If the SDF is retained in new and amended compacts, it should serve as an additional mechanism to ensure that counties are guaranteed funds to mitigate off-reservation impacts caused by tribal gaming. The SDF program should be amended to provide greater reliability of local government funding, as well as increased flexibility in the use of mitigation funding to reasonably address casino impacts.

In the spirit of developing and continuing government-to-government relationships between federal, tribal, state, and local governments; the County of Santa Barbara will coordinate work with CSAC, NACo, and the legislative delegation to improve existing and future Compact language in the following areas, as well as ensure that judicially enforceable agreements between tribes and local governments are pursued between tribes and local governments., These agreements include the concern for the concerning the mitigation of impacts of development on tribal land, including gaming expansion.,;

1. A Tribal Government constructing or expanding a casino or other related businesses or development that impacts off-reservation land will seek review and approval of the local jurisdiction to construct off-reservation improvements consistent with state law and local ordinances including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and negotiate and establish a judicially enforceable mitigation agreements with local jurisdictions prior to the construction of new or expanded gaming facilities, to fully mitigate identified direct impacts. Further, to address social economic impacts that are not easy quantified, in addition to direct mitigation, agreements shall provide for a percentage of

revenues generated by the casino or other revenue operations to counties to address any —
those broad socio- economic impacts. impacts

- 1-2. A Tribal Government operating a casino or other related businesses or development will mitigate all off-reservation impacts caused by project. In order to ensure consistent regulation, public participation, and maximum environmental protection, Tribes will promulgate and publish environmental protection laws that are at least as stringent as those of the surrounding local community plan and the County's Comprehensive-Plan and comply with CEQA.
- 2-3. A Tribal Government operating a casino or other related businesses or development will be subject to the authority of a local jurisdiction over environmental health and health and safety issues including, but not limited to, water service, sewer service, fire inspection and protection, rescue/ambulance service, food inspection, and law enforcement, and reach written agreement on such points.
- 3-4. A Tribal Government operating a casino or other related businesses or development will pay to the local jurisdiction the Tribe's fair share of appropriate costs for local government services not provided for by the Tribal Government to or on any land held in Trust. These services include, but are not limited to, water, sewer, fire inspection and protection, rescue/ambulance, food inspection, health and social services, law enforcement, roads, transit, flood control, mutual aid, and other public infrastructure.
- 4-5. The ~~Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund~~, created by Section 5 of the Tribal-State Compact will not be the exclusive source of mitigation, but will ensure that counties receive some funding to mitigate off-reservation impacts caused by tribal gaming .The SDF program should provide greater reliable of funding to counties on an annual basis and provide greater flexibility to counties to determine overall use of funds to mitigate impacts of tribal gaming, including expansion of, on the local area.
- Any material changes in the use of trust land particularly from gaming to non-gaming gaming purposes shall require sperate approval and environmental review by the DOI and the engagement of local government to ascertain and develop judicially enforceable agreements to mitigate for those impacts. ,

~~The area.~~ The County of Santa Barbara continues to support the policy and platform positions of CSAC and NACo stating that judicially enforceable agreements between counties and tribal governments must be required in order to ensure that potential impacts resulting from projects are fully analyzed and mitigated to the satisfaction of the surrounding local governments. These agreements would fully mitigate local direct and indirect socio-economic impacts from a tribal government's business and development activities and fully identify the governmental services to be provided by the county to that tribe. Furthermore, the County will continue to work in conjunction with the CSAC Housing, Land Use & Transportation Committee to assist in the development of information and policy positions for consideration by CSAC. The County also supports regional collaboration and partnerships with local tribes.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Involvement of the local government, general public and technical consultants in matters pertaining to future land use and potential development is critical to the overall review of any project to ensure compliance with Community Plans and the County's General Plan. Failure to fully engage critical stakeholders in project development and review impairs the ability of a local government to seek appropriate mitigation and/or provide critical public services, which may have long-term impacts on a region as a whole. Collaboration and partnerships with local tribes is also encouraged and supportive to contribute to a regional approach to various projects.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The County of Santa Barbara previously received a distribution from the SDF of approximately \$1.4 million annually. The State has not made funds available for gaming impact mitigation grants since FY 2013-14. These funds were previously utilized to fund fire, law enforcement, and capital projects. In addition development which occurs on lands taken into fee to trust are taken off property tax rolls thus critical revenue to address service and infrastructure related impacts are lost to a local government in perpetuity.

CONTACT

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ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

One of the most important ways of supporting the health of Santa Barbara County residents is to ensure their access to health care coverage and health care services. The Affordable Care Act and subsequent Medi-Cal expansions have made many more residents eligible for health care coverage. All health care coverage plans include most essential benefits like maternity, mental health, preventive, and pediatric dental care. To maintain the health of our residents, we are committed to assisting residents to enroll in benefits for which they are eligible, providing health care services through Federally Qualified Health Centers for individuals who receive Medi-Cal or Medicare in addition to those without other coverage options, maintaining infrastructure for a quality health service agency, and pursuing related requirements to receive federal funding for public healthcare organizations.

REQUESTED ACTION

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors support measures which establish, enhance or fund policies, programs, research, standards, educational material and public awareness campaigns that prevent disease, promote wellness and ensure access to needed health care.

- Assistance for health care coverage – Support direct assistance with applications and patient education concerning health care coverage, support for renewals and re-application for health benefits, coordination with our county and state partners at the Department of Social Services, CenCal Health, and Covered California.
- Organizational infrastructure for public healthcare organizations – Support automated systems and staffing that manage, report on and evaluate health care delivery, programs and incentives to maximize the capacity of our systems and coordination of care. Support accreditation of the PHD to support quality.
- Provision of essential health care services – Support measures that would provide for the continued support and expansion of both county and community Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHCs) and the provision of quality health care services. Favor approaches such as the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) and California Innovating and Advancing Medi-Cal (CalAIM) that promotes partnerships and coordination in the provision of services ~~to patients. Continue to advocate for programs and FQHC payment reform~~ that provides for reimbursement for the necessary wrap around and support services of the treatment team, such as pharmacists, ~~and~~ Marriage & Family Therapists (MFTs), and Community Health Outreach Workers.

Support should include no decreases in current funding levels in these health related programs.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

There will be an increase in access to health care coverage and a decrease in morbidity and mortality among residents in Santa Barbara County.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

There is no immediate or additional cost incurred directly.

CONTACT

~~Van De Reynoso, PhD~~ Daniel Nielson, MPA, Director, Public Health Department, (805)681-5115
County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

HEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

We can be successful in improving the health of all residents by supporting legislation that prevents chronic disease, prevents the spread of illness, promotes healthy behaviors and promotes wellness. Legislative, policy, environmental changes and education can influence behavior and thus impact health and health outcomes. Three behaviors (poor diet, physical activity levels and tobacco use) contribute to four chronic diseases (vascular disease, cancer, lung disease and type 2 diabetes) that cause more than 50 percent of the deaths in Santa Barbara County. ~~In a 2015 survey, residents reflected priority areas of healthy eating, active living, mental healthcare, and housing to improve health in Santa Barbara County.~~ We can directly impact behaviors that drive chronic and communicable diseases and poor health outcomes. We can also directly impact social determinants of health with access to services, preparedness, and our response to health conditions. Health looks at the whole person including physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being.

REQUESTED ACTION

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors support measures which establish, enhance or fund policies, programs, research, standards, educational material and public awareness campaigns that prevent disease, promote wellness, ensure access to needed health care and maintain a safe and healthy environment.

- Healthy behaviors and activities to promote wellness- Support programs and funding that encourage physical activity, healthy eating, breastfeeding, healthy parenting practices, healthy and safe foods, and reduce the prevalence of smoking and obesity.
- Disaster preparedness and emergency medical response to protect the community - Support programs and funding that prepare our emergency response procedures, training, and disaster command structures for the entire community including vulnerable populations and medically fragile residents. Support legislation and regulatory measures that improve the quality and delivery of emergency medical services and pre-hospital care.
- Promote public health and safety, and prevention of harmful environmental conditions and ensures access to health care. Support programs and funding that ~~prevent injuries and violence,~~ prevent the spread of communicable disease, promote infection control and laboratory practices and prevent injuries and violence,
- ~~Protect public health by cleaning up and maintaining hazard free streambeds.~~

Increase the integration of behavioral and physical healthcare, and identify opportunities to address the social determinants of health, health equity, diversity and inclusion. Support should minimally include no decreases in current funding levels in these health related programs and measures that maintain or strengthen local agency roles.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

There will be a decrease in disease and illness, communicable diseases and a decrease in premature death. Enhancement in health equity, diversity and inclusion with services provided to residents in Santa Barbara County. ~~among residents in Santa Barbara County.~~

COST TO GOVERNMENT

There is no immediate or additional cost incurred directly.

CONTACT

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HOMELESSNESS

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Unsheltered homelessness in Santa Barbara County has increased by nearly 35% since 2017. According to the Point-in-Time Count conducted in 2022, 1,367 persons were living unsheltered. Encampments of persons experiencing homelessness are present in nearly every area. The conditions of encampments impact the health and safety of those experiencing homelessness and the community at large, as well as the environment. The County of Santa Barbara works in partnership with cities, health care providers, housing providers and landlords, the faith community, community stakeholders, the business community and service providers ~~and community organizations~~ to address homelessness. The County seeks funding support to implement effective strategies to address and prevent homelessness issues. These strategies are: 1) increasing access to safe, affordable housing; 2) use best practices to deliver supportive services to meet individual needs; 3) build a collection action plan and improve data sharing; 4) strengthen support systems to help residents obtain and maintain housing; and 5) build provider capacity to address needs of specific populations. ~~of replacement, including financing a comprehensive system of housing, sheltering services and treatment to help prevent homelessness.~~

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Funding & Advocacy	Fed/State

REQUESTED ACTION

Support existing and new legislation to address the issue of homelessness. Specifically, the County requests the Federal delegation's support for expansion of four programs that support housing for families with the lowest incomes: the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, Project-Based Rental Assistance, Public Housing Operating Funds, and Public Housing Capital Grants. Additionally, continue to support Housing Voucher Program, funding McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants, including the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program, and the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. As COVID-19 emergency funding ends, there must be adequate funding to sustain program expansion. An immediate need is the County's support for HUD's revision to the federal ESG allocation formula and improve funding eligibility of jurisdictions. This revision would better target funding to communities with high rates of unsheltered homelessness, such as Santa Barbara County. According to the ~~2022~~ 2020 homeless Point In Time (PIT) survey, 70.64% of the County's homeless residents are unsheltered. Advocate for State support of multi-year funding streams that allow communities to address the shelter and housing crisis, such as the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP), Homekey, Behavioral Health Bridge Housing, and expansion of the California Encampment Resolution Funding (CERF) Program ~~Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP)~~. Legislation supporting streamlining approvals and construction of housing units is essential to homelessness efforts. Support funding of supportive housing, services and treatment programs to end chronic homelessness.

Support the inclusion of provisions that allow for additional flexibility in the use of State and Federal funds on the local level to address housing for unhoused persons ~~the homeless~~. The County also requests continuing support for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, and the HOME program, and HOME ARP program. These two programs provide additional public services, capital improvements, and new affordable housing, which work together to reduce homelessness and prevent additional persons and families from becoming homeless. Programs, such as the U.S. Treasury's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and the State's Housing Is Key and subsequent enactment of SB115 for an emergency rental assistance program Cash Flow Loan to local jurisdictions, meet a critical need to keep families housed. Expansion of the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program provides incentives for private investment in the development of new affordable and supportive housing units. Support No Place Like Home (NPLH) funding regulations that provide local discretion on program design to address the needs of mentally ill persons experiencing homelessness.. Continue support of programs like the Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) Program which created a reliable flexible funding stream to support homeownership, new housing construction, Tenant Based Rental Assistance, and supportive services to keep people stably housed. ~~experiencing homelessness.~~ In addition, continue to actively seek funding for long-term supportive services for homelessness issues in Santa Barbara County.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/ IMPACT

Each year more than 6,300 people in Santa Barbara County experience homelessness; on any given night, nearly 2,000 people are homeless. Of the people who are homeless, nearly 50% or as many as 1,000

people are chronically homeless. Santa Barbara County's chronically homeless population is growing as rents soar out of reach and vacancy rates hover near 1%. The market prevents persons experiencing homelessness particularly those with disabling conditions from securing a rental unit leading to longer episodes of homelessness. Many of these individuals have serious mental illnesses; two-thirds of all people with serious mental illness have been homeless or have been at risk of being homeless at some point in their lives.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

In 2018, the League of California Cities and California State Association of Counties published its Homelessness Task Force Report. One of the report's conclusions is that addressing homelessness early on and implementing preventative services and strategies, using a coordinated and specialized support to homeless individuals at greatest risk, can result in significant cost savings to local government. Chronically homeless people may consume more than 50% of all the services provided to homeless people, such as hospital emergency rooms, mental health crisis services, and criminal justice system, due to their continued movement through the service system without obtaining the help they need. The provision of permanent supportive housing, with easily accessible services for residents, is an evidence-based model that ends homelessness, and is the most humane and cost-effective way to end long-term homelessness.

CONTACT

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OCEAN WATER TESTING

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Funding Funding & Advocacy	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Ocean water testing is performed year-round at sixteen Santa Barbara County beaches on a weekly basis to identify any areas where bacterial health standards are exceeded. When sampling results indicate water quality meets state health standards, the beaches are open. Warnings are posted at beaches when one or more of the state health standards have been exceeded. Beaches are closed when water is contaminated by sewage at the location and there is an imminent public health concern. The current EPA-approved testing methodology provides test results 24 hours after the ocean water has been tested. However, there are new rapid polymerase chain reaction (PCR) ocean water testing technologies that provide point in time water testing results. These results could be provided to the public more quickly (i.e. same day results), thus supporting timely postings of beach warnings and closures to keep our visitors and residents safe and healthy.

REQUESTED ACTION

Request advocacy for funding support in the amount of \$75,000 from or the State Water Resources Control Board to fully reimburse the local the costs associated with the implementation of new rapid PCR ocean water testing in Santa Barbara County. These increased testing costs will be incurred are due to the "parallel" testing and enhanced analysis (i.e. running duplicate methods to ensure accurate and consistent results) is required for the first year of prior to rapid PCR testing method implementation. State funding levels for mandated local ocean water monitoring programs have not increased since 2015.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Beaches are a significant environmental resource in Santa Barbara County used by many visitors and residents. If visitors or residents enter ocean water when water quality exceeds safe standards, there are increased health risks. Ocean water testing results are shared broadly on our website, in media and through various organizations as a public health service to our community. Rapid PCR testing methods would allow ocean water quality testing results to be more quickly disseminated to the public.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

During Fiscal Year 2021-22, the laboratory testing cost was approximately \$51,000 utilizing the existing EPA-approved testing methodology. The new rapid PCR testing method is projected to increase one-time costs by approximately \$750,000 for the first year of implementation due to because of the parallel testing and State approval requirements for alternative ocean water testing methods. This projected ongoing additional laboratory costs to utilize rapid PCR testing methods is also one-time cost is currently unfunded.

CONTACT

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SAFETY NET PRESERVATION

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Federal/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

According to 20~~2019~~ Census figures, in Santa Barbara County, ~~57,907~~~~50,817~~ people (12.~~90~~% of residents) are living below the federal poverty level (compared to 12.~~05~~% in 201~~98~~). There are approximately ~~13,900~~~~11,270~~ (~~14.4~~~~12.5~~ %) of the County's children living in poverty (compared to 13.5% in 2007). Seniors, children and families are disproportionately represented, leaving their "basic" needs of food, shelter, personal and financial security, health and welfare at risk of being unmet and leading to food insecurity, diminished health, and homelessness. Though the above number is gradually decreasing, there is still a need to ensure the basic needs of families living below the poverty level are met, if not, this can lead to food insecurity, diminished health, and homelessness.

For those workers and their families who are getting by living paycheck to paycheck with little to no assets to fall back on, the loss of a job or serious illness can plunge their families into poverty. Many will turn to government-run safety net programs for help. Many core public services remain underfunded following years of deep cuts. The shrinking public safety net has put extreme pressure on underfunded faith-based and community-based organizations to "catch" these needy families. If the safety net, "public" or "non-public," cannot respond to the growing need to temporarily assist those in need until their economic conditions improve, more residents will fall into poverty.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support the maintenance of existing safety net program funding levels at both the Federal and State levels in order to preserve the safety net for the County's most vulnerable citizens.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Hunger and malnutrition exacerbate chronic and acute diseases and speed the onset of degenerative diseases among the elderly, which affects their quality of life and increases the cost of caring for them. Children who are hungry or sick cannot learn, and may fail to reach their full potential, leading to an uneducated future workforce who compromise future personal self-sufficiency and economic competitiveness. Residents that do not qualify for Medi-Cal expansion of coverage or are unable to pay the insurance premium through Covered California continue to be without health insurance and turn to emergency rooms, which shifts the burden and cost of health care to local communities. They may forego preventive or basic care, which increases the risk they will need more expensive care in the future. Without child care subsidies, low-income working parents may be forced to quit their jobs as the costs of child care becomes too expensive and staying home to provide child care affects their ability to maintain their employment and self-sufficiency.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Poverty imposes enormous costs on society and can have devastating implications on the short-term and long-term economic vitality of Santa Barbara County. The long-term economic impacts of poverty include the lost potential of children raised in poor households. The short-term impacts include lower productivity, earning, and purchasing power of poor adults, poor health, increased crime, and broken-down neighborhoods.

CONTACT

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SENIOR SERVICES FUNDING

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Federal/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Our aging population is a priority in our county and state alike. Additional resources are needed beyond what the Older Americans Act provides to increase service capacity to meet the growing demand, not only for basic needs like food, transportation, and housing but also for workforce development i.e. geriatric specialization and caregiver support.

Recognizing that California's over-65 population is projected to grow to 8.6 million by 2030, Governor Gavin Newsom signed executive order (N-14-19) calling for the creation of a Master Plan for Aging to be developed by October 1, 2020. The Master Plan serves as a blueprint that can be used by state government, local communities, private organizations and philanthropy to build environments that promote healthy aging.

According to ~~2021~~²⁰¹⁹ Census data, there are over 70,000 seniors age 65 and older within the County of Santa Barbara (16% of the County's population). This number is expected to double by the year 2050 placing additional demands on a variety of health and human services programs. Key issues facing seniors within the County are in-home care, food, housing, ~~affordable in-home care~~, and transportation, as well as public assistance needs for those that live below the poverty level. **Affordability is an issue for seniors who live on fixed incomes and do not qualify for public assistance, especially when it comes to healthcare, home and community-based supports, assisted living, and memory care.** It is critical to ensure that the programs and services that are needed to meet the needs of the growing population and low-income seniors are available. Additionally, the Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the need for virtual and home-delivered aging and disability services, check-ins and warm lines to address isolation, caregiving support, and digital divide resources.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support re-authorization of the Older Americans Act.

Support for California's Master Plan for Aging, including the development of local implementation strategies.

Support increased Federal and State funding and support for services that promote health and well-being, as well as support family and informal caregivers of seniors, thereby enhancing the quality of life of low-income seniors.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

California's baby boomers are turning 65 years of age at the highest rate in the nation. By 2030, one in five Californians will be age 65 or older. Additionally, the number of older adults in California with disabilities will increase from 1 million in 2015 to nearly 3 million in 2060. California's aging population is also an increasingly homeless population. Approximately 50 percent of homeless individuals are over age 50, and half of those became homeless after age 50. Among persons 65 years of age or older, an estimated 70% will use long-term services and supports. Additionally, the projected average life expectancy has increased to over 81 years for women and over 75 years for men.

While seniors are the fastest growing sector of the population, little funding is provided to address overall spectrum of needs faced by individuals as they age. Without assistance, seniors often lack the ability to remain in their own homes and thus must resort to assisted living facilities at extraordinary costs or rely on family members and professional or informal caregivers for continued care. When seniors are not healthy and lack transportation options, it deprives the community of their involvement in civic activities and the sharing of their professional or personal experiences in the community. In addition, because of increasing

medical needs, seniors utilize emergency rooms and public clinics at an increasing rate as a result of lack of appropriate health coverage.

This demographic shift provides an opportunity to design, develop and deliver a blueprint for California that is age-and-disability-friendly for all. The Master Plan for Aging addresses five bold goals:

1. Housing for All Stages & Ages – We will live where we choose as we age in communities that are age, disability, and dementia-friendly, and climate and disaster-ready.
2. Health Reimagined - We will have access to the services we need to live at home in our communities and to optimize our health and quality of life.
3. Inclusion & Equity, Not Isolation – We will have lifelong opportunities for work, volunteering, engagement, and leadership, and will be protected from isolation, discrimination, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
4. Caregiving That Works – We will be prepared for and supported through the rewards and challenges of caring for aging loved ones.
Affording Aging – We will have economic security for as long as we live.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Although the Master Plan for Aging represents first steps toward improving a fragmented and under-funded system of care, services and supports are not funded at the level needed to meet the aging populations' needs. Preventative, proactive, geriatric specific services for the aging population are more cost effective and better practice in comparison to institutional placements. Evidence confirms that skillful case management, community centered services, safe housing options, and nutrition-based programs are important in maintaining the health and functional independence of older adults. Said services can reduce costly hospital admissions and delay nursing home placement. A majority of older adults in the US have diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol or a combination of these chronic conditions. These conditions can be successfully managed with appropriate interventions that will improve health and quality of life. Unchecked, these conditions result in increased costs.

Without action, older adults will face even greater consequences of poverty and vulnerability than what we see today, further exacerbating the economic impact on both state and local resources.

CONTACT

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SOCIAL SERVICES TANF REAUTHORIZATION

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program was founded on the idea that states should have the flexibility to design their programs in a way best suited to their unique populations in order to help families transition from assistance to self-sufficiency. In California, TANF is known as the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program. The last reauthorization of TANF, which was part of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, and ~~has been renewed through a series of short term multiple extensions signed by the Presidents,~~ are heavily weighted toward Federal oversight and penalties instead of state flexibility. As previous progress demonstrates, the success of TANF depends on counties' flexibility to target local needs and support participant's work activities. Without that flexibility and the funding to implement it, the working families who are struggling toward self-sufficiency will lose supportive services and many will be unable to successfully end their reliance on cash assistance. Welfare reform is an ongoing process of supporting working families in gaining self-sufficiency, not a one-time removal of families from the welfare rolls.

~~Most recently, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 which extends TANF through September 30, 2021.~~ A long-term TANF reauthorization with substantive program improvements and adequate funding is critical for all counties, which invest over \$58 billion annually in federal, state and local dollars in human services programs. The county supports long-term reauthorization with flexibility that allows States and counties to meet the individual needs of their caseloads. We support establishing Federal rules that measure the effectiveness of welfare programs by utilizing more outcome-based measures.

REQUESTED ACTION

The County requests that its delegation advocate at the Federal level to enact a long-term reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to restore and enhance state and county flexibility to tailor work and support services that move families into self-sufficiency based on their unique needs. TANF Reauthorization must reverse the damaging effects of the 2005 TANF Reauthorization changes to the Work Participation Rates (WPR) formula and definition of "work." The County is interested in a balanced approach between federal oversight and state flexibility with better and more outcome-based measures of success.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Federal regulations present challenges for Santa Barbara County and other California counties in implementing best practices towards assisting our families in achieving self-sufficiency while trying to achieve the federal WPR, placing our county at risk of fiscal sanction. Comprehensive TANF Reauthorization offers an opportunity to change the current one-size fits all Federal rules that penalize States and Counties instead of offering flexibility and incentives gauged toward effective measures of welfare program success.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Since TANF Reauthorization in 2005, the current required Federal participation rate of 50% ~~for all families and 90% for two-parent families~~ has been a challenge to meet at the county level. TANF Reauthorization offers an opportunity to change the current one-size fits all Federal rules that penalize States and Counties instead of offering flexibility and incentives gauged toward effective measures of welfare program success.

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SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The CalWORKs childcare program is three different stages with Stage 1 administered by County Welfare Departments and Stages 2 and 3 administered by the California Department of Education. Effective July 1, 2021, the Early Childhood Development Act of 2020 (Senate Bill (SV) 98, Chapter 24, Status of 2020) authorized transfer of many child care programs from California Department of Education to California Department of Social Services. Stages 2 and 3 CalWORKs child care programs were included as part of the identified programs. Without child care subsidies, low income working parents are unable to obtain employment, are forced to quit their jobs, or put their children in substandard care which impacts children's future and our communities' viability. Without adequate investment in child care infrastructure, providers and parents lack the support necessary for a strong system.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support maintaining or increasing State funding for quality and quantity of child care slots, subsidies, reimbursement rates, infrastructure, and support services to align with current programming, changes in regulations, and trends in early care and education.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Researchers and economists have documented that high-quality early care and education offers a high return on investment generating up to \$7.30 per dollar invested, especially for children with risk factors. The long-term benefits for children include increased cognitive abilities, improved language development, and improved relationships with peers. In addition, reductions in juvenile crime, teen pregnancy, high school drop-out rates and intervention services are well-documented for children who attended such programs. The child care industry contributes significantly to the local economy both in their workforce, and the ability for parents to be gainfully employed. Therefore, providing children with a strong start can counteract the negative implications of disadvantaged environments.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

In FY 2020-21 Santa Barbara County received \$3,819,976 in Stage 1 child care funding, compared to \$2,979,078 in FY 2019-20, translating to a 28% increase in funding. The increase supports Senate Bill (SB) 80 (Chapter 27, Statutes of 2019 effective October 1, 2019) to expand Immediate and Continuous Child Care for 12 months or until CalWORKs recipients are transferred to Stage 2 and due to continuing increase in caseload due to COVID-19 pandemic. When former CalWORKs families cannot work due to the reduction or lack of child care benefits, their self-sufficiency is threatened and many end up back on aid (cash, CalFresh, and Medi-Cal). Costs shift from a relatively reasonable cost for keeping people employed to a more expensive model in which the State and Counties pay for people to remain on public assistance. Additionally, reduced access to high quality early care and education services for children at risk will result in higher social service and law enforcement costs in the near future.

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WORKFORCE INNOVATION & OPPORTUNITY ACT FUNDING

Principle	
Workforce Development	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014 is the nation's public/private partnership on workforce development. The WIOA empowers private-sector led local Boards (WDB's) to develop and oversee workforce strategies, policies, and implementation to assist businesses to compete and local residents to acquire the skills and training necessary for well-paying jobs. In Santa Barbara County, County government is an equal partner with the WDB, tasked with fiduciary responsibility for the WDB's WIOA funding.

Although recent Federal, COVID-recovery funding has provided temporary opportunities for WDBs to receive additional funding, Over the past decade, the federal government has decreased formula funding by 50 percent for workforce programs. Nevertheless, public workforce systems have been the lifeline to more than 4 million job seekers annually through a coordinated and professional network of 2,500 "America's Job Centers" nationwide. WIOA funds are used to establish these "one-stop centers" that serve job seekers and employers alike; and support youth programs that help develop a solid work ethic in young people, as well as the all-important summer jobs program for the thousands of 14-24 year olds who want the opportunity to work and earn money.

In California, ~~with the transition of Gavin Newsom as Governor,~~ the statewide workforce system is being primed for dramatic changes. ~~A new State Department (the "Better Jobs and Higher Wages") is being created to coordinate workforce development~~ with local, regional, and statewide economic development activities in order to position California – and its workforce, to meet the future challenges of advanced technology, collaborative industry sector strategies, and upgrade/incumbent worker training.

Our local workforce system is especially challenged due to minimal WIOA funding (a combined \$3 million), a vast geographical area – with three distinct industry sector "anchors," and two economic mini-regions: Santa Barbara/Ventura, and Santa Maria/San Luis Obispo.

REQUESTED ACTION

The County requests that its delegation advocate at the Federal level for passage of WIOA Reauthorization with increased funding for all three funding streams of WIOA in the U.S. Department of Labor's budget: adult programs; youth program; and business serving programs. Statewide organizations like the California Workforce Association (CWA) have impressive statistics that speak to California's successes—and we know other states have similar information.

In Santa Barbara County, we have succeeded in building successful partnerships with (among others) the State EDD, our two local community colleges (SBCC, AHC); as well as success in putting over 300 (WIOA enrolled) adults per year into sustainable wage, career pathway jobs, countless others via job fairs and specialized recruitment events. Moreover, the Santa Barbara WDB has achieved a successful regional partnership with the SLO WDB, collaborating as the South Central Coast Regional Planning Unit (designated by the Governor), and receiving approximately \$3 million in total funding.

In addition to increased funding, we request enhanced advocacy in the area of program flexibility and innovation to meet local needs. Granting performance measurement relief for serving individuals with

extreme barriers (e.g., justice-involved ex-offenders), as well as for self-employed/entrepreneurial training would allow local creativity in Santa Barbara County.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Santa Barbara County continues to struggle with attracting opportunities for our citizens to live and work here, while also recovering from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Research has already shown the percentage of low-wage jobs in the county to be very high; near the top for California counties. This is what happens when there is not a coordinated, strategic planning system between WDBs, community colleges, adult education, the chambers of commerce, and economic vitality groups. In response, †The role of the WIOA-funded WDBs (within the capacity that their budget allows) is viewed as the local “Convener”-- to convene bringing together stakeholders and partners; educate the business community; in order to understand and engage the growth industry sectors that offer middle-wage jobs; and to assist the citizens of the community to raise their incomes in proportion to a booming economy.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The WIOA program does not require a county match. If additional federal resources were to be secured it is anticipated that no additional county match would be required.

CONTACT

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AGRICULTURE/WILLIAMSON ACT SUBVENTION

Principle	
Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection / Job Growth and Economic Vitality	
Strategy	Target
Funding	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, also known as the Williamson Act, allows local governments to enter into ten-year contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use. Landowners are assessed property taxes based upon farming and open space uses as opposed to full market value of the land. Local government in exchange receives an annual subvention of forgone property tax revenues from the State via the Open Space Subvention Act of 1971. Approximately 515,000 acres of land are enrolled within the Williamson Act within the County of Santa Barbara. The FY 2009-10 state budget reduced the Williamson Act Subvention payments from \$39 million to \$1,000 statewide, effectively suspending the payments to local governments during an already difficult economic time. There have been no subvention payments to the County since then. Historically, the County had received an annual subvention payment from the State of approximately \$653,000.

California's agricultural sector is the most important in the United States, leading the nation's production in over 75 different products including dairy and a number of fruit and vegetable "specialty" crops. The large variety of crops grown allows California to set the pace as the country's largest agricultural producer and exporter. California is the sole U.S. producer of 17 crops such as almonds, artichokes, celery, kiwifruit, olives, pistachios, and walnuts¹.

Locally, agriculture continues to be the County's major producing industry. The 2021~~0~~ gross production was valued at \$1.~~8-9~~ billion. This is a \$~~99219~~ million (5.1%) increase in gross value when compared with the 2021~~9~~ figures and is the ~~fifteenth-sixteenth~~ year in a row that agriculture has surpassed the one-billion-dollar benchmark². The County is the second largest producer in the state for strawberries, flowers and foliage, cauliflower, squash and blackberries³⁻¹. Farming and ranching operations are also one of the most important industries and economic drivers in the County.

REQUESTED ACTION

Restore State subvention funds that reimburse counties which continue to have a Williamson Act program.

PUBLIC

The Williamson Act program has been an effective tool to preserve farmland and open space. It assists local government with general plan and zoning objectives and promotes orderly growth.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

There has been no appropriation of subvention funds for the Williamson Act program since FY 2011-12.

CONTACT

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¹ California Agricultural Statistics Review ~~2019-2020-2021-2020~~

² 2021~~0~~ Santa Barbara County Agricultural Production Report

³ ~~California Agricultural Statistics Review 2019-2020~~

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Principle	
Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection	
Strategy	Target
Funding & Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The National Association of Homebuilders/Wells Fargo Housing Opportunity Index reported nationally just 42.8% of new and existing homes sold in the 2nd quarter of 2022 were affordable to families earning the U.S. median income of \$90,000. This is a sharp drop from the 56.9% of homes sold in the first quarter that were affordable to median-income earners. In Santa Barbara County 10.8% of homes were affordable to households earning the 2022 median family income of \$100,100 as 2nd quarter median sales prices rose to \$765,000. This has earned the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara, CA metro area a low ranking in both national and regional comparisons of housing affordability, as the County's housing market is more expensive than San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA or the Oakland-Berkeley-Livermore, CA metro areas. The recent COVID-19 revealed significant need in the local housing market, with more 2,459 households eligible for \$21.9 million in federal U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), with thousands of renter households still needing rental assistance, on average \$10,000 per household, and housing navigation/housing stability services to locate and retain housing. Fortunately, the County has benefited from State and Federal housing and community development resources, such as the U.S. Treasury ERAP and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) programs, and State Housing is Key ERAP pass through funding. The County's 2022 CDBG allocation decreased by 5% while HOME funding increased 5%. Funding fluctuations and reductions negatively affect the ability to plan long term infrastructure improvements, and affect our community as this funding provides an important resource to address County needs in the areas of capital infrastructure, public service, microeconomic development, and affordable housing. Construction costs have escalated and, in recent years, has surpassed \$400,000 per unit. Ability to site interim housing to address the housing needs of unhoused persons is often impacted by infrastructure limitations, such as electrical utility connections, water and waste water connections, and transportation linkage from housing sites to community resources. Beginning in 2018, the State provided significant new funding resources to address housing and homeless service needs, such as the California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH) Program, and the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) authorized by SB 850 Housing, Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program, Homekey, and the California Encampment Resolution Funding (CERF) and SB 2 Building Jobs and Homes Act. Such funding is critical in addressing immediate housing and service needs of the most vulnerable community members, and improving the community's overall quality of life, resulting in a growing and vibrant economy. The County supports creative strategies to preserve, build, and make housing available and affordable for individual and family households countywide.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Support the following policy and funding commitments to community development programs at the state, and national level:

- 1) Provide resources to address the housing needs of all households, but in particular: elderly persons, persons with disabilities (including developmental disabilities), low-moderate income households, workforce households, large families, farmworker households, single parent headed households, persons needing emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing, and veteran households; and
- 2) Advocate that the State allocate State funds to jurisdictions by formula rather than on a competitive basis. Allow jurisdictions to directly administer their allocations of State funds for eligible uses via grants or loans, and allow the use of loan repayments to support additional eligible uses. Example funding sources include Housing Trust Fund, the complete pool of No Place Like Home, and others.
- 3) Support the creation of public-private partnerships to develop housing and services.

At the state level, the County supports advocacy for housing finance bills in the Legislature, which create a dedicated source of revenue to produce new housing. The pandemic demonstrated that housing resources are inadequate for the need. At the federal level, the County supports continued advocacy for affordable housing and community development programs including, but not limited to, CDBG, HOME, the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program, funding for new housing construction, additional housing voucher programs, and the National Housing Trust Fund. Consistent with the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), the County supports passage of the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act (~~S.1703/H.R.3077~~) that will increase the allocation of Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) and permanently set the 4 percent LIHTC rate. The County's Phase II Regional Action Plan to Address Homelessness identified a long-term rental subsidy need for over 531 homeless households, at a cost over \$7.6 million annually. For that reason, the County also supports the full funding of the Housing Choice Voucher Program, Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance Program, and the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Program. The County also supports full funding of HUD's homeless assistance programs, such as the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and the Continuum of Care (CoC) programs. Cross collaboration across federal and State programs, exemplified by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) recent report "Home, Together: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness" and the State's Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council and the State Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency, will result in greater coordination between partners and improved service delivery for community consumers.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/ IMPACT

The development of affordable housing at all income levels will not only help mitigate the County's housing crisis, but will increase construction jobs and tax revenues. Federal and state efforts to develop creative funding strategies, the LIHTC Program, and the National Housing Trust Fund, among other federal and state programs, will help to address housing needs. The availability of housing and community services supports stronger communities, improved outcomes in schools, and work-ready community residents. Federal and state legislation in support of housing and community infrastructure would stimulate the construction industry, generating tax revenue and positive ripple effects throughout the economy.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The Federal CDBG and HOME programs provide up to 20% and 10%, respectively, of the annual grant amount to offset program administration costs to government. Advocates point out that for every \$1 in CDBG or HOME funds expended, the community leverages over \$4 from other sources. In terms of the cost benefit to government in providing funding to supportive housing for homeless persons, a 2010 study by the National Alliance to end Homelessness found that the use of permanent supportive housing was cost effective and reduced the use of shelter, ambulance, police/jails, health care, emergency room, behavioral health, and other service costs. Secondary positive impacts include improved outcomes for children and families, low/moderate income households, senior adults, disabled households, and veterans.

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HISTORIC SANTA BARBARA COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Principle	
Community Sustainability	
Strategy	Target
Funding	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Santa Barbara Courthouse is owned by the County of Santa Barbara and serves as a community resource for the area's civic groups, non-profit groups, and other residents. However, this aging building requires funding to correct deficiencies and undertake historic rehabilitation of the structure for it to continue serving the community ~~going forward~~. The historic [City Landmark (1982), State Historic Landmark (2003), and National Historic Landmark (2005)] Santa Barbara Courthouse, constructed in 1929, is a 156,000 square foot complex of buildings and home to the Superior Court of California and Civic Government.

REQUESTED ACTION

Request \$10 million in funding, over the next five years, for the continued conservation and preservation of this iconic National Historic Landmark through the Department of the Interior, National Endowment for the Arts, Housing and Community Development, Homeland Security, or direct Budget Appropriation.

PUBLIC

The complex is occupied by multiple offices, courtrooms, and historic ~~spaces~~~~rooms~~ that are able to accommodate hundreds of people. Moreover, it serves as a vital component of civic society, primarily as a gathering place for community celebrations in the area. The Courthouse hosts multiple weddings, private or public celebrations, and serves as a backdrop in commercial ad projects. There is a strong public-private partnership of fund raising with the help of the Courthouse Legacy Foundation and Courthouse Docent Council. These organizations have raised almost \$3,000,000 over the previous five years for projects at the Santa Barbara Courthouse. This has allowed the County of Santa Barbara to leverage public resources to assist with the many projects underway at the Santa Barbara Courthouse annually.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The County has estimated the cost of life-safety, conservation, preservation and restoration projects to be approximately \$55 million, which includes:

- ADA upgrades including ramps, restroom upgrade, handrails, signage installation (\$2,235,000)
- Life-Safety upgrades including installation of exit signs, fire rated doors and related hardware, fire alarm and fire sprinkler system (\$6,000,000)
- Architectural Conservation: stone and cast stone restoration, ~~leather and furniture restoration~~, painted ceiling restoration, draperies and textile restoration, wrought-iron, ceramic tiles, ~~and~~ general plaster repairs, ~~and leather and furniture restoration~~ (\$25,000,000)
- Structural upgrades, retrofitting and stabilization of non-bearing elements (\$2,775,000)
- Mechanical upgrades to existing heating and plumbing systems (\$6,475,000)
- Electrical upgrades including replacement of circuitry and re-wiring of building elements (\$3,760,000)
- Hazardous material abatement including asbestos, lead paint abatement, and organic material destroying organisms (\$4,600,000)
- Exterior modifications including repair of existing sidewalks, curbs and gutters and hard/soft landscaping elements (\$4,000,000)

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PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

Principle	
Community Sustainability	
Strategy	Target
Funding	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Santa Barbara County Parks provides services to over seven million annual visitors to 71-day use parks, open space locations, two aquatic facilities and two camping parks as well as a network of trails and coastal access easements. The County is interested in preserving and expanding the amount of open space located within its boundary. As such, the County is supportive of funding opportunities that enable local governments to: (1) maintain existing facilities (i.e. funding for park and trail maintenance); (2) acquire additional land for open space preservation and (3) ensure safe access to beaches, parks and open space. Examples of these projects are listed below as well as in other areas of the [2022-2023](#) platform.

Countywide Recreation Master Plan. The County of Santa Barbara is preparing a Countywide Recreation Master Plan that will help guide and facilitate new recreation development throughout the County and its eight cities, including new trail opportunities. The purpose of the Master Plan is to conduct a system-wide assessment of the general needs and opportunities, and facilitate coordination between agencies and nonprofit and private recreation service providers throughout the County to address and fund identified needs, while aiming to streamline planning and permitting processes. The Master Plan will plan for the current and future needs of parks and recreation facilities throughout Santa Barbara County. The Master Plan will be designed to address community issues and trends, including regional coordination, aging facilities, new property acquisition, new facilities or park amenities, recreation programs, and funding. Coordination between the County, cities, federal and state agencies, as well as nonprofit and private recreation service providers will help inform this first ever countywide blueprint for recreation. This could be particularly important for smaller cities that lack the resources to perform detailed recreation planning. The planning and environmental documentation is being funded by the County, however, capital funding for projects has not been identified.

Gaviota Coast Preservation: The Gaviota Coast is a largely undeveloped area along Highway 101 North of Goleta and South of Lompoc that consists primarily of agricultural land in private ownership, Vandenberg Space Force Base, US Forest Service land, and three state parks. There are a number of endangered or threatened species in the area, including the red-legged frog, steelhead trout, and California tiger salamander. A National Park Service Study looked at various conservation methods, including a potential federal designation, and concluded that the area is “nationally significant” and the best conservation approach was through local and private conservation efforts. Currently there is no interest in reconsidering a potential federal designation for the Gaviota Coast. There is a need for federal funding and assistance for planning efforts and land conservation acquisition by local government and/or private land trusts.

Point Sal Access and Management Plan and Implementation: This project will provide public access to Point Sal “Reserve”, which consists of 2,600 acres of publicly and privately owned lands located along the coast of the Pacific Ocean in the northwestern corner of the County. In 1991, an original management plan was developed and revised in 2002 under an internal administrative draft to include parcels acquired by the County since the original 1991 plan. Costs total approximately \$~~7.6-98~~ Million to update the management plan (\$~~5053~~,000), implement public access including land acquisition and vehicle improvements to the pedestrian trail (\$~~7.2-56~~ Million) and install signage and cattle control (\$~~350368~~,000). The United States Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service provided a \$136,000 California Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) Grant for the preparation of environmental documents and design for a parking lot at the Southern Point Sal public access point and culvert enhancement permit applications for improved public access, and the County provided funding and completed construction of the parking lot and culvert enhancements in 2019.

Orcutt Community Countywide Trail Development: A goal of Santa Barbara County is to establish and enhance public access through acquisition of open space and completion of new and long planned trail systems throughout Santa Barbara County, including Orcutt, Santa Maria, Santa Ynez, Los Alamos, Goleta, Santa Barbara, Montecito and Carpinteria. Many County trails are located in dedicated open space areas, creating a natural relationship between trail expansion and open space acquisition. Completion of missing and high value trail segments will serve existing communities and growing populations where there is currently limited trail access, and connect community to recreation. Within the Orcutt Community Trail system located in northern Santa Barbara County, This project consists of the development of the remaining 27 miles of trails remain to be developed within the 42-mile planned Orcutt community trail system located in northern Santa Barbara County. The total project cost is approximately \$2.317.67M.

Jalama Beach Facility Improvements: This project will improve existing facilities to better serve the public at one of the only overnight camping parks in northern Santa Barbara County. The total project cost is approximately \$3.41.7 million and includes systematic renovations to the restroom and shower facilities to meet major maintenance needs and bring facilities into ADA compliance. California State Parks has provided \$554,422 in funding through the Prop 68 Per Capita grant, the local Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund (CREF) has provided \$551,000, and the County has provided \$806,000 to facilitate some of the restroom improvements.

Goleta Beach Park: This project includes ongoing efforts to ensure sand replenishment at the County's most visited beach. Essential to the sand replenishment project is the work intensive task of a future long-term sustainable plan, including federal and state permitting, to address beach access and erosion.

REQUESTED ACTION

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors County requests support from its delegation to: (1) assist the County in its interaction with other affected agencies and (2) identify funding opportunities for these projects.

PUBLIC

These projects enhance the opportunities of residents and visitors to the County to gain safe access to beaches, partake in recreational activities and learn more about natural habitat.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The County has secured partial funding for many of these projects and is seeking additional funding to complete these projects.

CONTACT

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REGIONAL COASTAL SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT PROJECTS - FEDERAL AUTHORITY FOR CALIFORNIA

Principle	
Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Our coast provides unique recreational and economic benefits and includes significant ecological resources. However, the California Coast is under severe threat from coastal erosion, storm damage, and coastal environmental impacts—all of which are expected to be exacerbated with increases in climate change-induced sea level rise.

These threats not only impact the ecological, recreational, and economic threats to the coast, but the ability to maintain navigation channels as well. Regional Sediment Management solutions to these threats include:

- Recognizing coastal sediment as an ecological resource;
- Maintaining and enhancing the natural sand (sediment) supply on the coast;
- Ensuring regular small-harbor dredging and improving the beneficial reuse of sediment (i.e., use of dredged sand from harbors);
- Coordinating with other sediment management programs (i.e., flood-control maintenance) as a source of beneficial sediment for beaches;
- Linking coastal sand needs with availability; and
- Transportation of material from flood control debris basins to beach sediment deposit locations;
- Undertaking beach nourishment projects and considering other innovative technologies to maintain our coastal beaches and;
- Re-establishing kelp forests in Goleta Bay to increase carbon sequestration and reduce climate impacts that limit sediment input into littoral systems;

With the exception of harbor dredging, there are no specific federal authorities in place designed to fund ~~Regional Sediment Management~~ projects that can result in a systems approach to a sustainable and resilient California Coast. ~~Over the past fifteen years, 11 regions along the California Coast have prepared or are preparing Regional Sediment Management plans that define appropriate projects and address regional challenges. As a result, California is ready to act. Local jurisdictions within Santa Barbara and Ventura counties have relied on the Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and (BEACON), a California Joint Powers Agency (JPA) established in 1986, to implement projects to address coastal erosion, beach nourishment and water quality within the Central California Coast from Point Conception to Point Mugu. The California Coastal Commission encourages local jurisdictions to implement regional sediment management projects like the ones that BEACON implements, and is requesting local jurisdictions to include such projects/programs in their local coastal programs to address sea level rise.~~

Finally, Santa Barbara County worked extensively with Coastal Commission staff on amendments to the County's Local Coastal Program to address sea level rise. This seven-year effort, which was partially funded with a Coastal Conservancy grant and administered by Coastal Commission staff, involved extensive coordination with Coastal Commission staff, subject matter experts, the public, etc., to develop a (1) vulnerability assessment and (2) program to address the hazards identified in the vulnerability assessment. Due to some fundamental disagreements over the interpretation of certain key regulations of the Coastal Act the County had chose to withdraw its application for the sea level rise Local Coastal Program amendments. Efforts to re-engage with CCC staff will resume when funding is available.

REQUESTED ACTION

- Continue funding BEACON and/or other regional sediment management programs to develop and implement local jurisdictions' sea level rise policies and programs that are consistent with Coastal Act requirements. This support could include Support establishment of, and funding for, a federal authority that is consistent with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) mission of coastal risk reduction, ecosystem restoration, and navigation, and that will fund Regional Sediment Management projects on the California Coast. The purpose of the federal authority will be to implement Regional Sediment Management solutions including those identified above.
- Support beach nourishment projects utilizing materials from within flood control infrastructure or other similar operations.
- Support legislation and other efforts, to resolve policy disagreements between local jurisdictions and the Coastal Commission. :

It is important to note that recent legislative attempts to resolve these disagreements have involved the formation of advisory groups consisting of staff, elected officials, subject matter experts, etc., to develop administrative guidelines for the implementation of sea level rise policy. However, the County is concerned about the use of guidelines to resolve policy disagreements between local jurisdictions and the Coastal Commission. Guidelines interpretation and application can vary widely, thereby creating confusion regarding their enforceability. Therefore, the County supports new legislation rather than administrative guidelines to clarify the requirements of the Coastal Act and resolve these on-going policy disagreements between local jurisdictions and the Coastal Commission.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The 1,100 mile California Coast is one of the most prized natural resources in the nation. It provides enormous recreational and economic benefits and includes an extensive array of ecological resources. However, this vital resource is under constant threat from upland and coastal development, ocean pollution, rising sea-levels, increasingly frequent intense coastal storms, and a reduction in the natural sediment supply. To address these threats, Regional Sediment Management plans funded through the USACE and cost shared with the State have resulted in with federal and state funding can create a comprehensive and integrated approach for resolving coastal issues in California.

Resolution of the outstanding legal and policy disagreements between local jurisdictions and the Coastal Commission with regard to the interpretation and implementation of the Coastal Act will enable local jurisdictions to more effectively implement sea level rise policies through updated local coastal programs.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The total projected cost to implement the Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON) Coastal Regional Sediment Management Plan is \$187.5M over 20 to 30 years.

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SUPPORT FOR WASTE RECOVERY AND REDUCTION PROGRAMS & FACILITIES

Principle	
Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection	
Strategy	Target
Funding, Legislative, & Advocacy	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Communities are continually affected by new state and federal mandates regarding the management of solid waste, including the increased recovery of materials for beneficial reuse and recycling, as well as the appropriate management of a growing number of commonly used hazardous products. In order to implement new programs and to build facilities to comply with growing regulations, the County would greatly benefit from receiving resources, funding, and permitting assistance associated with the efficient management of waste.

REQUESTED ACTION

1. Support legislation that provides flexibility to local government agencies in meeting state and federal waste reduction mandates and that provides for performance-based standards rather than prescriptive requirements; conversely, oppose legislation that is overly prescriptive and/or inflexible.
2. Support legislation and policies that promote the development and operation of facilities, such as the County's ReSource Center, that divert materials from landfills, and ensure that these facilities qualify for incentives associated with renewable energy production, landfill disposal reduction, reduced carbon fuels production, and greenhouse gas emission reduction.
3. Support funding opportunities and subsidies for the operation of composting facilities, particularly anaerobic digestion facilities like the County's ReSource Center, which generate green energy and result in lower water consumption and a smaller land use footprint when compared with traditional aerobic composting operations.
4. Support proposals to provide funding to local governments for the environmentally safe management of hazardous and electronic waste.
5. Support legislation and funding that encourages circular economy initiatives, and promotes and expands ~~to expand~~ markets for diverted materials and recycled-content products. Additionally, support legislation and funding that incentivizes research and development for manufacturing of recycled-content products and materials reuse, including California's ~~and support measures for~~ Recycling Market Development Zones program.
6. Support extended producer responsibility legislation and manufacturer take-back programs that require producers to fund the end-of-life management of their products, thereby reducing public costs and motivating improvements in product design.
7. Support legislation that facilitates funding for and/or strengthens the ability of local governments to prevent and remediate illegal dumping of solid waste.
8. Support legislation that reduces the negative environmental impacts of single-use items by implementing extended producer responsibility programs for single-use products and packaging; promoting more sustainable alternatives to single-use items; and phasing out the use of single-use items on a statewide basis when environmentally preferable alternatives are available.
9. Support legislation that provides resources to local agencies to increase edible food recovery programs.

10. Support legislation that provides funding to green business programs in California that certify and recognize businesses and organizations that excel in the areas of waste reduction, environmentally preferable purchasing, energy and water conservation, and pollution prevention.

11. Support proposals that establish greater multi-disciplinary coordination of state environmental policies and programs.

12. Oppose legislation which bans new hazardous materials from landfill disposal unless the proposals also provide a funding mechanism and/or establish programs and guidelines for local governments to manage the banned materials.

13. Oppose legislation that adversely affects low income or rural communities, or small businesses with minimal waste generation.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The recommended actions above would result in a variety of local benefits to the community including:

- Conservation of water, energy, and other natural resources
- Reduction in the use of toxic chemicals
- Prevention of hazardous materials from entering our environment
- Decrease in costs to local government
- Improved worker safety
- Increase in local waste management jobs
- Reduction of greenhouse gasses
- Reduction in air emissions
- Support of low income and rural communities
- Improved relationships with local businesses

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Local governments are responsible for providing waste management programs and infrastructure for their communities. The cost to do so is quite high, especially for new facilities and for managing hazardous wastes. Securing external resources greatly benefits these efforts. Additionally, legislation that alleviates the burden on local agencies, such as extended producer responsibility programs, would result in significant cost savings and potentially enhanced customer service for local governments.

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VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDINGS

Principle	
Community Sustainability	
Strategy	Target
Funding	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Santa Barbara, Lompoc, and Carpinteria Veterans Memorial Buildings are owned by the County of Santa Barbara and serve as a community resource for the area's veterans, non-profit groups, and other residents. Veterans of foreign wars are often overlooked, forgotten, and misunderstood. Giving them a place to interact with other veterans regardless of wartime experience is not only important, it is our duty to do so. The generation of the 1920s and 1930s understood this obligation; the generation of this decade needs to follow through. This request will enable the Veterans Memorial Buildings within the County of Santa Barbara to continue to serve our returning veterans for decades to come.

Historically, Veterans Memorial Buildings came into being through the counties of California, which provided publicly-owned or donated land for the construction of memorial sites to be built in their cities. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, memorial halls and structures were constructed and dedicated as a tribute to those who fought in World War I. The usage of these spaces is guided and governed by the California Military and Veterans Code, which provides for the use of such facilities by veterans and persons or organizations other than veterans, either free of charge or for stated compensation, to aid in defraying the cost of maintenance. These facilities are being closed in many counties. It is desired to save these buildings and ensure the usage for many years to come.

In 2022 \$1,370,000 federal funds were earmarked for renovations to the historic (City Landmark and eligible for the National Register) Santa Barbara Veterans Memorial Building. Constructed in 1927, it is located on Santa Barbara's premier waterfront and is heavily used by veterans and the community alike. The improvements to the aged infrastructure include seismic retrofitting, framing and foundation stabilization, electrical system upgrades and energy efficiency improvements to the water distribution systems, HVAC, utility regulation equipment, HVAC and window upgrades.

REQUESTED ACTION

Request funding for needed health and safety improvements to the County's Veterans Memorial Buildings.

PUBLIC

~~Santa Barbara Building~~

~~The historic (City Landmark and eligible for the National Register) Santa Barbara Veterans Memorial Building, constructed in 1927, is located on Santa Barbara's premier waterfront. It is heavily used by veterans and the community alike. Historically, Veterans Memorial Buildings came into being through the counties of California, which provided publicly-owned or donated land for the construction of memorial sites to be built in their cities. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, memorial halls and structures were constructed and dedicated as a tribute to those who fought in World War I. The usage of these spaces is guided and governed by the California Military and Veterans Code, which provides for the use of such facilities by veterans and persons or organizations other than veterans, either free of charge or for stated compensation, to aid in defraying the cost of maintenance. These facilities are being closed in many counties. It is desired to save this building and ensure the usage for many years to come.~~

Lompoc Building

The historic (City Landmark and eligible for the National Register) Lompoc Veterans Memorial Building, constructed in 1936, is a 20,393 square foot building home to several veterans' groups. It is comprised of multiple offices, a large commercial kitchen, and two large halls that are able to accommodate hundreds of people. Moreover, it serves as a vital component of Lompoc civic society, primarily as a gathering place for the military veterans in the area.

Carpinteria Building

The historic (City Landmark and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places) Carpinteria Veterans Memorial Building, constructed in the early 1930s, is a 13,400 square foot home to the Carpinteria Valley Veterans of Foreign Wars and many local non-profit community service organizations. Due to the age of the building, major areas of work include: electrical systems, seismic upgrading or retrofitting, exterior and interior ADA improvements, replacement of aging and failing wood components, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The work items listed below are in priority order for each building.

Lompoc Building

The County has estimated the cost for restoration to be \$1,~~55215~~,000, which includes:

- **Architectural:** This section includes exiting, fire protection, accessibility for the disabled and other life-safety related projects; replacement of doors and windows, and related buildings systems upgrades. Federal Share request is \$~~825865~~,000.
- **Hazardous Materials:** This section includes removal of lead-based paints and asbestos materials. Federal Share request is \$~~330350~~,000.

Carpinteria Building

The County has estimated cost for restoration to be \$1,~~430505~~,000, which includes:

- **Architectural:** This section includes exiting, fire protection, accessibility for the disabled and other life-safety related projects; roofing, replacement of doors and windows, and related buildings systems upgrades. Federal Share request is \$~~825865~~,000.
- **Hazardous Materials:** This section includes removal of lead-based paints and asbestos materials. Federal Share request is \$~~330350~~,000.
- **Seismic Safety:** The main spaces and bell tower require seismic stabilization and the building in general requires seismic retrofitting to attach roof, wall, and foundation systems for movement during an earthquake event. Federal Share request is \$~~275290~~,000.

CONTACT

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WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

Principle	
Community Sustainability & Environmental Protection	
Strategy	Target
Funding	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Onsite wastewater treatment systems (septic systems) that are properly sited, installed and maintained provide a safe and effective means of handling domestic wastewater in areas where the public sewer is unavailable. Conversely, antiquated systems or systems installed in areas that are not especially suitable for the use of septic systems represent a potential health and safety hazard as they may expose the public to sewage and noxious odors as well as contaminating surface water (creeks) and groundwater.

In 2012, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted the Water Quality Control Policy for the Design, Operation and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) that for the first time established statewide regulations for OWTS. The policy not only sets stringent standards for new systems but also for the repair or modification of existing systems. The Santa Barbara County board of Supervisors approved the County Local Agency Management Plan (LAMP) in late 2015 that outlines how the county will implement the state policy. Depending on location specific conditions, the cost of installing or repairing an OWTS has increased significantly. This is especially true in the county designated special problems areas that include places such as Los Olivos, Janin Acres and Mission Canyon. As a result, homeowners may delay making needed repairs or upgrades to their systems.

By providing financial assistance in the form of grants or low or no interest loans, property owners will be more proactive to replace or repair a failing or antiquated OWTS, or to connect to a nearby sewer system, where available. Such a program would enhance the public health and safety by eliminating exposure to sewage and preventing contamination of the County's water resources.

REQUESTED ACTION

Request funds, in the form of grants, low interest loans or no interest loans, to assist homeowners that must make expensive repairs or upgrades to their OWTS or to connect to a nearby sewer system, where available. in order to be in compliance with new state standards be made available.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Providing inducements to replace or repair antiquated or failing OWTS or to connect to a nearby sewer system will reduce the potential for exposure to sewage and contamination of surface water and groundwater provide greater protection of the public health and safety.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

No immediate direct cost but unknown administrative costs associated with working with a financial institution or other entity with expertise to manage a grant or loan program.

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HOUSING LEGISLATION

Principle	
Community Sustainability	
Strategy	Target
Funding/Legislation	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

As part of each legislative session since 2017, California has passed a number of aggressive new bills into law which either mandate, or reduce local jurisdictions' ability to impede, the development of housing sufficient to meet the state's housing needs. Although these bills include a number of disparate methods to address housing needs, in general these bills are an attempt to: increase opportunities for affordable housing; streamline and remove barriers to housing production; hold cities and counties accountable for addressing local housing needs; and reform planning, regional housing needs, and fair housing laws. For example, in 2018 and 2019, several bills went into effect which amended State Density Bonus Law (SDBL) and the Housing Accountability Act (HAA). In part, the SDBL legislation expanded the types of projects eligible for density bonuses and other entitlements, and the HAA legislation elevated the evidentiary standard necessary for local jurisdictions to deny, conditionally approve, or reduce the density of housing development projects and emergency shelters. Additional bills passed in 2018 and 2019 increased the reporting requirements for annual progress reports and revised Housing Element law to require an assessment of fair housing and surplus land available for low-income housing within each jurisdiction.

However, despite efforts to reduce regulatory and other barriers to housing development, the County continues to see a deficiency in housing stock, particularly for very low- and low-income categories due to the high price of land and lack of sufficient funding sources for affordable housing developers. Indeed, for the last annual reporting period (i.e., 2021), the County did not meet its pro-rata share of lower-income Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) and is unlikely to do so in future years, unless more aggressive efforts are initiated to assist with the development of such housing.

Furthermore, new State requirements that apply to the County's current housing element update have made it challenging to complete the housing element update pursuant to the statutory deadlines. State Housing and Community Development Department is also having difficulty providing timely feedback to local jurisdictions given increased workloads to meet the new State requirements..

REQUESTED ACTION

- Support state and federal legislation to directly fund/create new housing and/or create new funding streams and opportunities for developers of housing, to serve very low and low-income households.
- Support incentives (e.g., relaxed development standards) for affordable housing and market rate housing that is close to employment centers or transit stops.
- Draft legislation that creates incentives for employers to either build, or subsidize the building of, workforce (moderate and upper moderate) housing for their employees.
- Support legislation that addresses the unique housing needs and demographics of each jurisdiction, by allowing jurisdictions the opportunity to implement creative solutions that work for their community and provide the needed housing., including addressing the long-term affordability of units.
- Restore the Mortgage Credit Certificate program and don't allow the California Housing Finance Agency (CalFHA) to make unilateral decisions on how the bond cap intended for single-family will be used, e.g. diverting SF bond cap to commercial uses and discontinuing homebuyer programs.
- Amend the Coastal Act by reprioritizing the hierarchy of resource protection values, such that affordable housing for very low and low income households has equal or greater value than agricultural resources under certain circumstances (e.g., on agricultural lands that have non-prime soils and/or impervious surfaces, are not in agricultural production, are located near urban areas and urban services, and/or are not located near environmentally sensitive habitat areas).

- Amend the Government Code to allow State HCD to grant extensions to afford local jurisdictions additional time to complete housing element updates, provided State HCD finds that the jurisdiction is making meaningful progress.
- Support legislation that improves State departments' ability to provide needed services to local jurisdictions (e.g., State HCD's certification of housing element updates and Coastal Commission certification of local program amendments),

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

The provision of local affordable housing would have multiple social, economic, and environmental benefits. The County historically has lacked sufficient housing for very low and low-income households; however, the housing shortage has expanded beyond these income categories to now include moderate income households, as well. When affordable housing is available, renters and homeowners are able to spend more of their income on goods and services (e.g., health, food, and education costs), rather than housing costs, which provide economic advantages to the immediate community. Furthermore, affordable housing accommodates individuals with a variety of skills that are critical to the community (e.g., teachers, nurses, retail workers, health care workers, and construction workers), and creates a more economically viable and socially viable community. The provision of housing for these income categories also would reduce the number of those who must commute relatively long distances to their place of employment, thereby reducing vehicle miles traveled, traffic congestion (primarily along State Route 101), and associated greenhouse gas emissions.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Cities and counties ~~may~~ incur significant costs to implement recent State housing legislation. The Senate Bill 2 Planning Grants Program and Local and Regional Early Action Planning Grants Programs have provided important funding to assist local governments ~~in preparing, adopting, and implementing~~ plans and processes that accelerate housing production. However, these programs only offer one-time financial and technical ~~assistance.~~ Additional Continued grant opportunities are essential ~~to implement~~ future housing legislation--especially given that (1) recent trends suggest that the State will continue to require jurisdictions to revise existing and develop new procedures and regulations to meet Sstate housing requirements, and (2) ~~the County's approved, sixth-cycle RHNA is 5,664 units, representing an over 800 percent fifth-cycle RHNA of 661 units.~~

CONTACT

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SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

Principle	
Community Sustainability	
Strategy	Target
Funding & Legislative	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Two groundwater bills became effective January 1, 2015 (SB 1168, and SB 1319). Together these bills comprise the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The intent of the Act is the sustainable management of California's groundwater within about 25 years. SGMA is being implemented by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

Basins that are subject to the legislation include all medium and high priority basins as defined by DWR that have not previously been adjudicated. Within Santa Barbara County, there are five such basins. They are the Cuyama Valley, San Antonio Creek Valley, Santa Ynez River Valley, Montecito, and Carpinteria.

The Act requires the completion of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for each basin. The general components of GSPs will include technical information about aquifer yield, use, and balance, measurable objectives for sustainability, and actions to meet the sustainable yield. The entity responsible for complying with the requirements of the Act is each basin's Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA).

~~Although Proposition 68 includes \$103 million in grant funds for SGMA, it is a relatively small amount for the 127 basins subject to the Legislation. Although Proposition 68 and the Budget Acts of 2021 and 2022 provided significant funding for SGMA efforts, they did not establish sustainable, long-term funding that GSAs are able to rely on ongoing operations.~~ Therefore, we desire the State to provide additional funding mechanisms for ongoing GSA operations and SGMA implementation as compliance will require the expenditure of significant resources over a period of decades.

REQUESTED ACTION

Develop additional funding mechanisms by the State for Santa Barbara County and GSAs to implement the requirements of SGMA. Without funding SGMA becomes essentially an unfunded mandate for comprehensive analysis and management of groundwater basins in Santa Barbara County.

PUBLIC

~~Prior to SGMA implementation,~~ California ~~was~~ one of the last remaining States ~~to that has not~~ require ~~d~~ some form of sustainable management of groundwater. As a result, many California basins are in a state of critical imbalance that has resulted in degradation of water quality, land subsidence, loss of surface water interaction, and economic hardship among users. In addition, the decreasing reliability of the State Water Project has reduced the water available for use during periods of drought. Creating additional funding mechanisms for the implementation of SGMA will allow for sustainable management of the County's basins that will ultimately benefit several of the 2022~~0~~ Legislative Principles— including Economic Vitality, Community Stability, and Health and Human Services. It will allow basins to retain their value as sources of ~~emergency~~ water supply, maintain agricultural vitality, and environmental resources.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Precise cost estimates for the implementation of SGMA are unavailable at this time because the State has not yet finalized all future funding guidelines and because associated costs will extend far into the future.

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ARTS & CULTURE

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Arts and Culture are a proven force in developing sustainable economic and community ~~—~~vitality. Recent studies of arts funding initiatives at the national and state level demonstrate the vital impact of arts and culture. Per a 2020 study produced by the Economic Development Collaborative (EDC), the creative industry of Santa Barbara County generated \$3.45 billion in economic output in 2018, which is 7.5 percent of the gross county product; in Santa Barbara ~~Annually, the County's, the~~ not-for-profit arts sector ~~generates over \$200 million dollars in revenue each year and~~ provides almost 6,000 full-time-equivalent jobs for residents. Arts and culture catalyze civic engagement, increased property values and improve public safety. As it pertains to Santa Barbara County, art includes, but is not limited to: literary arts and publishing; textiles and fashion; visual arts, entertainment, film and new media; performing arts, music, dance and drama; culinary arts; landscape arts; cultural traditions and practice; and creative enterprises.

Principle	
Community Sustainability & Economic Vitality	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy & Funding	Fed/State

Arts as an essential tool for creating catalyst economic vitality and resilience, and stimulating job growth

Art and the creative industries ~~have~~ proven to be invaluable as a tool in stimulating and creating economic development, job growth, neighborhood revitalization and greater vitality while building safer, more inclusive communities and neighborhoods. The creative sector is an essential economic catalyst; in addition to boosting local economies, the creative sector ~~it~~ can help to accelerate economic recovery and resilience across industries. ~~A growth in arts employment has a positive and causal effect on overall state employment.~~

According to the EDC's study, direct labor income from salary and wage employees in Santa Barbara County's creative industries totaled over \$748 million. The Santa Barbara metropolitan area also ranks 9th out of 367 municipalities surveyed nationally in working artists per capita. Additionally, Santa Barbara County has one of the highest relative arts and culture nonprofit organizations in the state. Studies released in 2018 ~~6~~ demonstrated that in Santa Barbara County, participating arts and culture nonprofits provided \$131,421,000 in household income, spent \$126,303,269 locally and generated almost \$20 million dollars in ~~city, county and state~~ tax revenue. ~~Per the 2016 National Endowment for the Arts Study, Nationally, Arts account for 4.2 percent of the GDP. The production of arts and cultural goods in the U.S. added \$730 billion to the economy in 2014, and included a \$30 billion international trade surplus.~~

Creating a workforce for the 21st Century: Support for Arts Education in Schools

In California, one in ten jobs available to graduating students ~~throughout the state~~ is part of the creative economy. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis, California ranks 1st in the nation in employment for arts and culture production. ~~Studies have proven that workforce needs~~ Workforce are dramatically shifting—creativity is the top attribute sought in today's CEOs. Private sector companies are looking for employees with new skill sets that focus on creative thinking and solutions, and workers that do well as part of a team. A global survey released in 2021 by UNESCO estimates that creative industries employ more people ages 15-29 than any other sector.

Studies have demonstrated repeatedly that arts in schools ~~help students develop these skills and~~ better prepare ~~students~~ them for the evolving job market and new career paths, as well as encouraging them to stay in school. Every child should have access to a well-rounded education that includes the arts and support to pursue self-expression. Arts-integrated instruction helps strengthen elementary school students' reading, fluency, and comprehension. Students engaged in arts learning have higher GPAs, standardized test scores, and college-going rates as well as lower drop-out rates.

Arts as a tool for addressing-improving Social Services and addressing Social Justice Issues

A number of recent initiatives are successfully employing arts to solve social issues nationally and this has been true in Santa Barbara County. Examples include programs that engage veterans and their families in the arts, generating a direct positive impact on mental health; art programs in incarceration facilities provide

trade skills and effectively reduce recidivism. Additionally, increased arts programming for students has directly correlated to a decrease in minors' gang participation in Santa Barbara County. The Office of Arts & Culture has partnered with County Probation and the Sheriff's Office to produce arts classes and workshops at Santa Maria Juvenile Hall, the Northern Branch Jail and the Southern Branch Jail.

Additionally, areas with a public art component have a statistically higher level of public safety. Researchers have demonstrated that a high concentration of the arts leads to civic engagement, more social cohesion, higher child welfare, and lower poverty rates. Within historically underrepresented communities, arts and culture contribute to strengthening cultural identity, acknowledging and healing trauma, and fostering shared vision for community. Arts and culture enable understanding of the past and envisioning of a more equitable and just future. Arts and culture organizations and practitioners are uniquely poised to ~~become a platform~~ build for social bridgesing in our communities.

Creative Placemaking, Community Resilience and Cultural Equity

Nationally, Creative Placemaking brings together the public and private sectors, nonprofit organizations, artists and community members to strategically influence the physical and social character of communities through arts and cultural activities and public art. Arts and culture are critical elements of an equity framework; they reflect the assets of communities and enable cohesion in a pluralistic nation. Equitable development brings a diversity, equity ~~and~~, inclusion and accessibility lens to the community development and creative placemaking field; this centers the engagement of historically marginalized communities, including communities of color and low-income communities, in prioritizing, designing, and implementing their aspirations for the futures of their neighborhoods, cities, and towns.

Cultural districts or a high concentration of cultural facilities and programs can serve as both social and economic anchors. Public art can increase community cohesion, civic engagement and public safety. Cultural facilities can also serve as hubs and physical spaces for emergency preparedness and resilience efforts. Santa Barbara County and its municipalities are actively pursuing local arts placemaking efforts. The County Office of Arts & Culture is partnering with the County Arts Commission as well as local jurisdictions and constituents as part of a multi-year countywide cultural placemaking and master planning initiative.

REQUESTED STRATEGY AND ACTION

Advocate for increased funding of art and culture initiatives from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the California Arts Council (CAC). ~~Encouraging charitable gifts and provisions to support community access to the arts.~~ Support grant opportunities that link the public and private sectors, and programs that link arts to addressing social services. Encourage charitable gifts and provisions to support community access to the arts. Pursue public-private partnerships to continue the role of cultural arts in equitable and relevant community development. Promote creativity and public access to the arts. ~~Advocate for economic impact research to determine the economic impact of art and culture.~~ Support funding to make creative and cultural engagement opportunities in local planning more equitable and accessible. Advocate for ~~economic impact~~ research to determine the economic impact of ~~art and culture~~ the creative sector. Pursue measures to provide continuing education and trainings for creative workers, and facilitate entrepreneurship in the creative economy. -Support legislative efforts to increase funding for school-based arts education and prepare the next generation workforce.;

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

- Quality of life and lifelong learning
- Economic growth and revenue
- Significant and diverse employment opportunities
- Public spaces and parks activated through the arts
- Increased public safety
- Providing youth with opportunities and skills for careers to meet a changing workforce
- Increased property values

- Decreased levels of recidivism
- Preserving cultural assets and practices
- Increasing cross-cultural understanding

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Grant funds from National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and California Arts Council (CAC) are used to attract private sector support and to leverage matching public sector funds. As an example, the County Office of Arts and Culture was recently awarded ~~\$62,750 from the CAC to support administrative expenses as well as a regional poetry program for high schools called Poetry Out Loud.~~ 4.75 million dollars from the CAC to implement a workforce development program to support pandemic recovery for the state's most impacted communities and effectively advance community health and resilience, as well as environmental, civic and social engagement by prioritizing locally-focused, contextually, and culturally sensitive creative messaging.

CONTACT

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