



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: CEO
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: 1/13/09
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: 1/6/09
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer, 568.3400
Director(s)
Contact Info: Terri Maus Nisich, Assistant County Execuitve Officer, 568.3400
SUBJECT: 2009 Legislative Platform

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: Select_Other

As to form: Select_Concurrence

Recommended Actions:

- (A) Receive a report on issues and projects included as part of the County's 2009 legislative platform.
- (B) Adopt the County's 2009 Legislative Platform.

Summary Text:

Each year the Board of Supervisors identifies specific issues, projects and/or programs ("legislative priorities") that warrant targeted legislative advocacy and includes these priorities are part of its legislative platform for the upcoming calendar year. This list is generated by surveying department directors, members of the Board of Supervisors and the County Executive Officer. Once the platform is adopted by the Board, staff determines various legislative strategies centered on the identified priorities such as enacting or amending legislation, creating partnerships with federal and state agencies and exploring funding opportunities. The legislative platform is used in communicating the County's guiding principles and position regarding major projects/issues that have a federal-state-local government nexus to the County's federal and state representatives and other intergovernmental entities.

Background:

This item is on the agenda to receive the Board of Supervisors' approval of the County's legislative platform for the upcoming year. The legislative platform has three components or strategies: (1) seek federal funding for projects that have a federal nexus, (2) seek State legislation to promote effectiveness and efficiencies in service delivery, ensure fiscal stability and/or to ensure local control and flexibility and (3) advocate for funding and regulatory changes to specific programs and services administered by the County. The priorities identified as part of

the legislative platform align with the County's legislative principles, noted below. These principles serve as guidelines in determining whether to support/oppose any forthcoming legislation, programmatic change or budget proposals.

1. **Efficient Service Delivery/Operations:** Support efforts to streamline processes and promote operational enhancements germane to a County department's mission and core services, and correspondingly, oppose legislation that creates undue fiscal and operational burdens on departments.
2. **Fiscal Stability:** Support efforts to generate new intergovernmental revenue and/or enhance existing revenue/reimbursement levels and oppose the loss of, or redirecting of, existing revenue and/or the creation of additional unfunded mandates to the County.
3. **Inter-agency Collaboration:** Partner with neighboring cities on infrastructure and other large-scale projects when possible. Support the advocacy efforts of such organizations as the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the National Association of Counties (NACO), Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), First 5 Santa Barbara, the Kid's Network and other local and regional agencies. Collaborate with other institutions and entities on mutually beneficial issues while upholding the other principles of efficient service delivery and operations, fiscal stability and local control.
4. **Local Control:** Ensure local authority and control over governance issues, land use policies and the delivery of services, including flexibility and customization in designing and implementing policies and services that are responsive to the community's preferences.

For 2009, the County will continue to seek federal funding assistance ("appropriations requests") for large-scale infrastructure projects that safeguard the public and promote a high-quality of life for residents, have a direct federal nexus, promote regional collaboration and are project ready (i.e. have necessary permits, are in design or construction phase). Many of these projects are positioned to receive funding in Federal Fiscal Year 2009 for one phase of completion (design, construction, renovation, etc.) so the County will work in tandem with the appropriate federal agency, neighboring city and the County's federal advocate to determine the funding request for Federal Fiscal Year 2010.

1. **Santa Maria Levee:** Repair the most critical seven miles of the levee to prevent flooding; shared project with the City of Santa Maria; Army Corps of Engineers project.
2. **Lower Mission Creek Channel Improvements:** Widen channel and replace bridge to prevent flooding; shared project with City of Santa Barbara; Army Corps of Engineers project.
3. **Lake Cachuma:** Replace sewer lift station(s) and water treatment plant at Lake Cachuma; Bureau of Reclamation project.
4. **Veterans Memorial Building:** Renovate and repair historic County owned building that serves as community meeting hall, especially for area veterans; shared project with the City of Lompoc; current appropriation located within HUD Economic Development Initiative.
5. **Goleta Beach:** Construct permeable pier to prevent beach erosion and protection of beach amenities; Army Corps of Engineers shoreline preservation project.
6. **Emergency planning, response and recovery:** Funding for equipment, software and capital to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of OES operations pertaining to emergency preparedness, response and recovery operations; funding may be available under Homeland Security.

7. Transportation: Various road rehabilitation and repairs and road safety improvements that will be addressed through the reauthorization of the federal transportation program known as SAFETEA-LU.

Another possible strategy is to amend existing laws and regulations via introduced legislation to encourage program effectiveness and efficiencies and promote fiscal stability. Proposed issues at the State level that may be subject to legislation include:

1. Cancer detection program: Allow reimbursement for digital mammograms (only analog mammograms are currently covered under this program);
2. Disaster proclamation protocol: Amend the amount of time that elapses before a governing body is required to reaffirm a locally declared emergency (currently a local proclamation needs to be reviewed by the governing body every 14 days);
3. Payment in lieu of taxes and/or mitigation for UC long range development plans: Require State to provide grants to local governments to compensate for loss of property taxes from tax exempt State institutions and/or require a State university to appropriately mitigate a city or county for municipal services and infrastructure improvements necessary to accommodate planned university growth (long range development plan);
4. Property tax relief for Tea Fire: Allow State reimbursement for the loss of property taxes associated with diminished assessed values for homes that were damaged or destroyed in the Tea Fire;
5. Revenue sharing on tideland leases: Allow a city or county to share in the revenues (up to 20+1%) paid to the State from the production of oil, gas or other hydrocarbons from any tideland lease.

The legislative platform also includes concentrated advocacy related to funding and local control of various federal and state issues including:

1. Air quality protection via reduction of marine shipping vessels' emissions (federal);
2. Emergency preparedness and response, including health related disaster preparedness (federal);
3. Energy efficiency and conservation grant funding to local governments (federal/state);
4. Health: increased Medicare and Medi-Cal reimbursement to providers; funding of healthcare-related IT; reauthorization/expansion of State Children's Health Program (SCHIP) and protecting Proposition 10 funding from being "borrowed" or redirected (federal and state);
5. Homelessness prevention via funding of continuum of care and housing programs (federal);
6. Parks funding to help prevent the introduction of the quagga mussel at Lake Cachuma (federal/state);
7. Parks funding to develop Walter Capps Park, a two acre bluff top passive park facility equipped with walks, benches, public restroom, turf play area and a natural native coastal species habitat restoration area and promotion of intergovernmental cooperation with the California Coastal Commission (federal/state);
8. Promotion of intergovernmental cooperation with CALTRANS, State Lands Commission and California Coastal Commission to continue progress to secure a safe, legal access across the railroad to Santa Claus Lance Beach. Future funding request via parks and/or transportation to acquire a railroad crossing with armatures, lights and bells (federal/state);
9. Promotion of intergovernmental cooperation with Vandenberg Air Force Base to allow public access to Point Sal and funding for fencing and signage (federal/state);

10. Mandate reimbursement and relief to advocate for the receipt of sufficient funds to fully cover the cost of providing a mandated service; removal of performance standards and penalty sharing if funding is unstable and insufficient; and supporting a comprehensive review to determine the cost-benefit ratio of mandated services (federal/state);
11. Protection of dedicated funding sources of Proposition 1A (local government property tax, sales tax and vehicle license fees), Proposition 10 (tobacco tax to fund health and education initiatives for children age 0-5) and Proposition 42 (gas tax for road repair and transportation projects) (state);
12. Public safety: funding for programs that prevent and control crime and improve the criminal justice system (Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant and Community-Oriented Policing grants); increased and timely reimbursement for State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) for the costs of incarcerating of undocumented criminal aliens and program expansion to include undocumented juveniles in custody; ensure inmate and juvenile entitlement programs of Medicaid/Medicare/IHSS/SCHIP; promoting greater integration of mental health treatment programs into jail and juvenile hall settings, including expanding the number of mental health beds allowed in the jails; partnering with the State on new jail construction (AB 900 implementation) (federal/state);
13. Social services funding, including adult protective services and CalWORKs (state);
14. Partner with California State Association of Counties (CSAC) on its forthcoming identified 2009 legislative priorities. Partner with National Association of Counties (NACO) on its 2009 legislative priorities:
 - o opposing unfunded mandates;
 - o supporting economic stimulus and funding of program like CDBG, HOME, JAG, Homeland Security, WIA, rural development, transportation/water infrastructure;
 - o supporting health reform including reauthorization/expansion of SCHIP, ensuring inmate entitlement benefits, opposing federal financing that shift Medicaid costs to state and local government and promoting healthy communities and access to care;
 - o tax issues including opposing the 3% withholding tax for goods and services and opposing preemption of county telecommunications and other taxing authority;
 - o supporting the transportation and aviation reauthorization programs and supporting energy legislation that provides research/development and other incentives of investment in alternative/renewable/efficient technologies and full funds the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative: The 2008-09 budget for the legislative program is \$236,079 as referenced in the County's Operating Plan on page D-20, which includes a portion of County staff salaries/benefits allocated to the program, costs of federal and state advocate contracts and related travel expenses.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

0

FTEs:

0

Attachments:

County of Santa Barbara 2009 Legislative Platform

2009 Legislative Platform

1/13/09

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