



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: 1/14/2014  
Placement: Departmental  
Estimated Time: 45 minutes  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director(s) *JB on behalf of the Legislative Program Committee*  
Legislative Program Committee

Contact Info: Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, 568-3400

SUBJECT: 2014 Legislative Platform

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive a report on issues and projects included as part of the County's 2014 Legislative Platform;
2. Adopt the County's 2014 Legislative Platform; and
3. Receive and file year-end federal advocacy report from Tom Walters and Associates Inc. and state advocacy report from Governmental Advocates

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda to receive the Board of Supervisors approval of the County's Legislative Platform for 2014. Each year, the County identifies specific issues, projects and/or programs ("priorities") to include within the County's legislative platform. Once adopted by the Board of Supervisors, the 2014 Legislative Platform ("platform") will be used by the County to communicate priorities to the federal and state governments.

## **Background:**

The development of the platform began in September, when the County's Legislative Program Committee ("Committee") reviewed the legislative principles. County departments, advocacy firms and other organizations such as the National Association of Counties (NACO) and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) were contacted during September to solicit input regarding potential priorities. The Committee discussed and considered platform elements at the October meetings. The Legislative Program Committee approved the 2014 Platform with some recommended changes and directed to submit the Draft 2014 Legislative Platform to the Board on November 12, 2013 for discussion. The Board identified changes to the Draft 2014 Platform. Staff made the requested changes and on December 2, 2013, the Legislative Program Committee voted to recommend Board adoption of the final version (attached) of the 2014 Santa Barbara County Legislative Platform.

During the development of the platform, County staff also discussed potential issues and projects with its federal and state delegation and began designing a legislative strategy. Strategies involve funding requests, crafting new or amending existing legislation and advocacy of program and grant funding and regulatory reform. Once the platform is adopted by the Board, it will be used to communicate the County's priorities to the County's federal and state government and other intergovernmental entities.

This year in developing the overall platform the Legislative Committee reaffirmed the current Legislative Principles to focus and align advocacy issues countywide. The committee is continuing to recommend to the Board, inclusion of a specific legislative principle pertaining to job growth and economic vitality. The Legislative Principles proposed include the following:

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

*Definitions of all of the principles may be found in the attached proposed 2014 Legislative Platform.*

The proposed 2014 Platform includes the following components:

1) **Funding Requests:** The County submits appropriation requests to the federal and state government for various infrastructure projects and programs. Many of these projects usually have a federal nexus. Requests often include the cost of completing a phase or portion of a project rather than the entire project, as such, project funding requests may extend over multiple years. 2014 Funding requests include:

- Agricultural/Williamson Act Subvention
- County Library Services and Capital
- Economic Enhancement/Revenue Diversification
- Exclusion and Early Pest Detection Programs Against High Risk Pests
- Health in Our Community
- Historic Santa Barbara County Courthouse
- Hollister Avenue Corridor

- Homelessness
  - Lake Cachuma
  - Lower Mission Creek
  - Parks/Open Space
  - Pavement Preservation
  - Resource Recovery Project
  - U.S. Highway 101
  - Veterans Memorial Buildings
  - Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization
- 2) **Proposed Legislation:** The County proposes ideas for new legislation or amendments to existing law that would help improve the effectiveness and efficiency of departmental operations and service delivery. The 2014 Legislative Platform includes the following legislative proposals:
- Farm Bill and Disease Management
  - Boater Safety and Enforcement Financial Aid
  - California Arson registry
  - Sexually Violent Predators
  - Drug Overdose Prevention
  - Regional Sediment Management Projects
- 3) **Targeted Advocacy:** The County advocates for specific issues, programs, and projects. This includes advocacy for retention or enhancement in funding for existing programs including:
- Marine Vessel Emission Reduction
  - Bridges
  - Regional Housing Needs Assessments
  - Safety Net Preservation
  - Reauthorization of the Older American Act
  - In Home Supportive Services Funding
  - Subsidized Child Care
  - Telecommunications Legislation
  - Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Reauthorization
  - Tribal Gaming Compacts & Land Use

County staff works closely with our state and federal advocates and partners to develop effective strategies to address the countywide needs as well as effective strategies to address platform items. The federal and state advocates for Santa Barbara County will provide the Board and public with 2013 year-end reviews of the legislative environments in Washington and Sacramento and the work accomplished on behalf of Santa Barbara County.

### **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

The 2014 Legislative Platform includes requests for project and program funding, legislation and advocacy for public service improvements that may increase available revenue, change service levels and thereby reduce or increase the cost of doing business.

### **Attachments:**

- A – 2014 Legislative Platform
- B – Federal Advocacy Year-end Report from Thomas Walters and Associates
- C – State Advocacy Year-end Report from Governmental Advocates
- D – 2013 Legislative Platform Activity Update Log

### **Authored by:**

Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the County Executive Officer, 805-568-3400.

### **CC:**

Tom Walters, Thomas Walters and Associates, Inc  
Cliff Berg and Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates, Inc.  
Scott McGolpin, Director, Public Works  
Cathleen Fisher, Director, Agricultural Commission/Weights & Measures  
Herman Parker, Director, Community Services Department  
Matt Pontes, Director, General Services  
Dr. Takashi Wada, Director, Public Health  
Daniel Nielson, Director, Social Services  
Ben Romo, Director, First 5  
Joyce Dudley, District Attorney  
Bill Brown, Sheriff  
Beverly Taylor, Chief Probation Officer  
Michael Dyer, Fire Chief