



**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: 1/5/10
Placement: Set Hearing
Estimated Tme: 1 hour on 1/12/10
Continued Item: No
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: 2010 Legislative Platform

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors set a hearing on January 12, 2010 for 1 hour to consider the following:

- (a) Receive a report on issues and projects included as part of the County's 2010 Legislative Platform; and
- (b) Adopt the County's 2010 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 as 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 a draft platform is formulated, it is reviewed by the Legislative Program Committee, which is comprised of Supervisors Carbajal and Wolf, the County Executive Officer, the Auditor-Controller, and County Counsel, and is then forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for consideration. 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 and issues that have a federal-state-local government nexus to the County's federal and state representatives and other intergovernmental entities.

Much of the 2010 Legislative Platform is focused on monitoring the State Budget, which requires ongoing scrutiny and diligence on the part of County staff. Given the State's continued budget shortfall, currently projected at \$20.7 billion, and declining revenues, which are currently more than \$1 billion below the State Budget forecast of a \$3 billion revenue loss, keeping abreast of various State budget proposals will continue to be a significant portion of the County's advocacy efforts this year and beyond.

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 County's 2010 Legislative Platform align with the County's legislative principles, as noted below. The principles serve as guidelines in determining whether to support/oppose any forthcoming legislation, programmatic change or budget proposals. Two new principles have been added for consideration given the ongoing policy framework at the state and federal level: protection of safety net services and community sustainability/economic stability.

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.

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.

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 such as protection of children, the elderly and other "at risk" populations while upholding the other principles of efficient service delivery and operations, fiscal stability and local control.

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.

Protection of Safety Net Services (New): Support efforts to maintain and enhance "safety net" services that protect the most vulnerable within a community, including, but not limited to, children, the elderly and other "at risk" populations. Such services in the area of health and

human assistance include, but are not limited to, preventive and emergency health care services to the uninsured and underinsured; HIV/AIDS programs; maternal and children health; adult protective services; child welfare services; adoptions and foster care; food stamps and unemployment assistance and workforce development. The County supports collaboration between the federal, state and local governments in the delivery and funding of such services. The County opposes the further erosion in federal and state funding of these vital services.

Community Sustainability/Economic Stability (New): Support efforts to foster communitywide sustainability by promoting economic stability and environmental stewardship through participation in the growing green economy. Continue to engage in related federal and state deliberations to ensure that local government receives the economic and financial benefits associated with new policies. Support efforts to catalyze community renewal, redevelopment and reinvestment, incubate and support innovative businesses, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, incentivize energy efficiency, water conservation, and the use of renewable energy. To maintain and protect rural resources, coastal areas, and bio-diversity, the County recognizes the need to promote mutually beneficial partnerships with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors across the region. These collective efforts aim to engender healthy communities by balancing social well-being, economic prosperity, and environmental responsibility.

For 2010, 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 received funding in Federal Fiscal Year 2009 for one phase of completion (design, construction, renovation, etc.), thus the County will work in tandem with the appropriate federal agency, neighboring cities, and the County’s federal advocate to determine the funding request for Federal Fiscal Year 2010-11.

- 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.
- Lake Cachuma: Replace sewer lift station(s) and water treatment plant at Lake Cachuma; Bureau of Reclamation project.
- 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.
- 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.
- Historic County Courthouse: Renovate the facility in order to correct deficiencies and provide structural rehabilitation and upgrades.

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

- Air quality protection via reduction of marine shipping vessels’ emissions (federal).
- Emergency preparedness and response, including bioterrorism and health related disaster preparedness (federal).

- Homelessness prevention via funding of continuum of care and housing programs (federal/state).
- Proposition 10 (tobacco tax to fund health and education initiatives for children age 0-5) and Proposition 42 and HUTA (gas tax for road repair and transportation projects) (primarily state).
- Social services funding restoration, including IHSS, Child Welfare Services, and CalWORKs (state).
- Fire: continued funding for Assistance to Firefighters Grant program (federal).
- Health: reauthorization/expansion of State Children's Health Program (SCHIP); continuing funding for the Emergency Medical Service Fund (federal/state).
- Parks: funding to prevent the introduction of the quagga mussel at Lake Cachuma and promotion of intergovernmental cooperation and funding of various park projects like Santa Claus Lane beach access, Gaviota Coast preservation, Point Sal access, and Walter Capps Park; analyze potential long-term options for Goleta Beach and interact with the California State Coastal Commission, Regional Water Quality Control Board and the State Lands Commission (federal/state).
- 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/In-Home Support Services (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).
- Child Support: funding for collections on behalf of Probation Department (federal/state).
- Williamson Act: restore subvention payments to local governments (state).

In addition, the County will also partner with the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) on its forthcoming identified 2010 legislative priorities, as well as support the National Association of Counties (NACO) 2010 legislative priorities, as follows:

- support the surface transportation and aviation program reauthorizations;
- support for county priorities in any jobs creation package and promote county fiscal relief;
- support county priorities in health care reform efforts;
- repeal the three percent tax withholding requirement taking effect in 2011, which mandates that federal, state, and local governments withhold three percent from payments for goods and services;
- obtain co-sponsors for HR.3332, the Restore the Partnership Act, and seek introduction of a similar bill in the Senate;
- promote broadband deployment and adoption to provide and support county services to the citizens; and
- oppose and reduce unfunded mandates, support preservation of county revenues, and pursue new funding opportunities.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

The FY 2009-10 budget for the legislative program is \$282,964 and includes a portion of County staff salaries and benefits allocated to the program, costs of federal and state advocate contracts, and related travel expenses. The budget is referenced in the County's Operating Plan on page D-24.

Attachments:

County of Santa Barbara 2010 Legislative Platform

Authored by:

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CC:

Tom Walters, Tom Walters and Associates, Inc.
Cliff Berg and Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates, Inc.
Scott McGolpin, Director, Public Works
Tom Fayram, Deputy Director Flood Control/Water Resources
Dace Morgan, Deputy Director, Transportation
Bob Nisbet, Director, General Services
Dan Hernandez, Director, Parks
Michelle Mickiewicz, Interim Director, Public Health
Kathy Gallagher, Director, Social Services
Pat Wheatley, Director, First 5
Bill Brown, Sheriff
Pattie Stewart, Chief Probation Officer, Probation
Carrie Topliffe, Director, Child Support Services
Michael Dyer, Fire Chief