

2010 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



County of Santa Barbara

Legislative and Economic Environment



- **State Budget Crisis**

- Current state budget deficit projected at \$21.7 billion
 - \$6.3 billion deficit in FY 2009-10
 - \$14.4 billion gap between revenues and spending in FY 2010-11
- Revenues currently \$1 billion below forecast of \$3 billion revenue loss

- **Economy**

- Unemployment as of November 2009
 - 8.9% in Santa Barbara County
 - 12.2% in California
 - 9.2% nationwide
- Revenues
 - 3 years of flat or declining discretionary revenue in County
 - TOT tax declined by 16.8% in FY 2008, whereas it increased by 17% in prior two years
- Home Prices
 - Median home price in County fell to \$376,090 in August 2009, down from \$417,860 in August 2008. Expected to decline further in 2010
 - As income levels decline, less new homes built

Legislative Principles

- **Efficient Service Delivery/ Operations**
 - Streamline processes and promote operational enhancements; oppose legislation that creases fiscal or operational burden on departments
- **Fiscal Stability**
 - Generate new intergovernmental revenue and /or enhance existing revenue/reimbursement levels; oppose the loss or existing revenues or new unfunded mandates
- **Inter-Agency Collaboration**
 - Partner with neighboring cities when possible; support advocacy efforts of CSAC, NACO, SBCAG, First 5, the Kids Network, and other agencies
- **Local Control**
 - Ensure local control and authority of governance issues, land use issues, and the delivery of services
- **Protection of Safety Net Services (NEW)**
 - Support efforts to maintain and enhance “safety net” health and human assistance services that protect the most vulnerable, including children, the elderly and other “at risk” populations
- **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; engage in federal and state deliberations to ensure local government receives benefits of new policies

Climate Change Guiding Principles

1. Protecting the community from the effects of climate change is a high priority;
2. The County recognizes the State's climate change goals, regulations, and requirements set forth by AB 32 to reduce Statewide GHG emissions and will implement programs to comply with these requirements;
3. The benefits of investing in actions to reduce GHG emissions can outweigh the costs in numerous ways, including: economic vitality, public health and safety, natural resource protection, and infrastructure stability;
4. In order to maintain long-term regional well-being, health and prosperity of current residents, as well as future generations of residents, the County will preserve and balance its shared social wellbeing, economic prosperity, environmental resources, and biodiversity;
5. The County recognizes that challenges associated with climate change are regional in nature and can best be addressed in partnership with both public and private sectors;
6. The County has three strategic roles to play in reducing GHG emissions as a producer, a regulator and an incentivizer;
7. The County will preserve its fiscal health by conserving resources and promoting renewable resources, thereby reducing costs;
8. The County will enhance its local economy through the incubation of clean technology, by attracting innovative firms and talent through private sector incentives, and by creating opportunities for local residents to attain jobs and training in the growing regional green economy;
9. A key component in a successful climate strategy is the development of an effective and inclusive decision making process that promotes the sharing of information and encourages diverse public input; and
10. Through coordinated planning, measurement, evaluation, and reporting, the County will continue to address State requirements, capitalize on economic opportunities, and protect the regional quality of life while strategically progressing towards regional sustainability.

2010 Legislative Priorities

- **State**

- Emergency Medical Services Fund (NEW)
- Local Control of Speed Limits (NEW)
- Social Services- Centralization/ Privatization of Public Assistance Programs (NEW)
- Social Services- Child Welfare Services (NEW)
- Social Services- Cost of doing Business
- Social Services- In-Home Support Services (NEW)
- Transportation- HUTA and Proposition 42
- Williamson Act Subvention Funding (NEW)

- **Federal**

- Disaster Preparedness/ Bioterrorism Funding
- Historic Santa Barbara County Courthouse (NEW)
- Telecommunications Regulations (NEW)
- Transportation- SAFTEA-LU
- Veterans Memorial Building

- **Shared Federal and State**

- Air Quality- Marine Vessel Emissions
- Collections for Probation as an Eligible IV-D Activity (NEW)
- Firefighter Assistance Grant (NEW)
- Goleta Beach County Park
- Homelessness
- Lake Cachuma
- Lake Cachuma Quagga Mussel
- Lower Mission Creek
- Parks/ Open Space
- Proposition 10
- Public Safety
- Santa Claus Lane Beach Access (NEW)
- Social Services- TANF Reauthorization (NEW)
- State Children's Health Insurance Program

New Legislative Priorities for 2010



- **State**

- Emergency Medical Services Fund
- Local Control of Speed Limits
- Social Services- Centralization/ Privatization of Public Assistance Programs
- Social Services- Child Welfare Services
- Social Services- In-Home Support Services
- Williamson Act Subvention Funding

- **Federal**

- Historic Santa Barbara County Courthouse
- Telecommunications Regulations

- **Shared Federal and State**

- Collections for Probation as an Eligible IV-D Activity
- Firefighter Assistance Grant
- Santa Claus Lane Beach Access
- Social Services- TANF Reauthorization

Acknowledgements

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1st District Supervisor Salud Carbajal

2nd District Supervisor Janet Wolf, Chair

Michael Brown, County Executive Officer

Robert Geis, Auditor-Controller

Dennis Marshall, County Counsel