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.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2021, in the State of California, women earned $0.88 for every dollar their male counterparts earn. Across the United States in 2021, women were typically paid $0.77 for every dollar their male counterparts earn. Nationally, working women experience an annual wage gap of $11,782 according to the National Partnership for Women and Families published in March 2023. Women with children are more likely than their male counterparts to live in poverty, almost 500,000 statewide. According to the 2022 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 one infant and one preschooler is $2,675 per month. And while cases of domestic violence and human trafficking are lower in Santa Barbara County than across the State, 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 children 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 County advocates for opportunities for women and girls, such as full and equal access to opportunities 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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COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Principle	
Job Growth and Economic Vitality	
Strategy	**Target**
Advocacy	Federal

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The challenges associated with our nation's broken immigration system has been an ongoing issue that has impacted all levels of our government, multiple sectors of the economy, wage-earners, taxpayers and families across the country. In many communities, including Santa Barbara County, we have seen the impacts of a broken immigration system, especially the agricultural industry that makes up a major part of the local economy. Various proposals for immigration reform have been discussed in recent years but have not resulted in the adoption of any legislation. The need for a bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform solution has created the opportunity for advocacy.

REQUESTED ACTION

Advocate for Congress and the President to enact comprehensive immigration reform that:

- Secures the borders of the United States;
- Includes a national strategy for coordination among federal, state, local and tribal authorities;
- Establishes a sensible and orderly guest worker program;
- Imposes no unfunded mandates on state and local governments;
- Includes no mandates on counties to enforce immigration laws;
- Preserves the eligibility of legal non-citizens for federal-funded health benefits, and provides sustainable funding streams to counties for their cost of providing health services to legal non-citizens who are denied federal-funded health benefits;
- Establishes an earned path to citizenship that includes registering, background checks, demonstrating employment, learning English and civics, paying back taxes and fees that may be required;
- Supports the continuation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program;
- Improves and simplifies the current legal immigration system, and
- Provides green cards for science, technology, engineering and mathematics students who have received a graduate degree from American universities.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/ IMPACT

Legal immigrants, refugees, undocumented individuals and others enter and remain in this country as a result of federal action or inaction. Our current immigration system is confusing and complicated. Communities would benefit economically from comprehensive immigration reform based on the framework identified above.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

While immigration is a federal responsibility, counties are directly affected by the costs associated with the current immigration policies. Counties provide health, education and public safety to all residents, regardless of immigration status. Immigrants and their families, regardless of whether they are authorized or unauthorized to be in this country, contribute to the local economy. As an employer, the County may be impacted by the backlog of employer visas.

CONTACT

County Executive Office

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ECONOMIC VITALITY, ENHANCEMENT AND REVENUE DIVERSIFICATION

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Economic vitality and enhancement offers local government, the private sector, education sector, the nonprofit sectors, community economic development organizations and residents the opportunity to work together to improve the local economy. It aims to enhance competitiveness and encourages sustainable economic growth given the priorities for a specific area.

REQUESTED ACTION

Advocate for enhanced funding and streamlined processes that will encourage the diversification, development, incubation, and growth of business determined to be of priority to California counties in general, the Central Coast Region and Santa Barbara County specifically. Support for funding and process improvements should include, but not be limited to, County's access to:

- Establishing or expanding revolving economic development loan funds,
- Small business grants and loans,
- Community Reinvestment Act, Community Development loans and investments, and
- Equity capital and tax relief for startup businesses.

This funding will enhance opportunities to increase economic vitality and diversify the county's revenue base. In addition, the County supports efforts to secure, where appropriate, direct distribution of federal funds to local governments rather than state pass-through. Priority focus areas for Santa Barbra County include but are not limited to

- Film and tourism
- Agriculture and AgTech
- Wine
- Green technology and manufacturing (Clean Tech), including technologies and services that promote clean, renewable energy and water use, non-fossil-fuel-based forms of transportation, waste minimization and a circular economy, green building and infrastructure, and responsible use of lands and waterways
- Education, University/Governmental Research
- Healthcare Industry
- Aerospace
- Developing hard and soft infrastructure to support economic growth
- Technology infrastructure improvements, including regional broadband infrastructure and services
- Precision Manufacturing

PUBLIC BENEFIT/ IMPACT

Facilitating local job growth, economic enhancement and revenue diversification of local revenues, based on community priorities, creates an environmentally sustainable economy that improves the community's ability to generate and retain local revenues, address priority needs, create jobs, and weather the swings in the economy.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

In the long term, costs to government are reduced as the private and nonprofit sectors expand and diversify.

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 desires 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. Approximately $40M, including a one-time contribution from the State has been spent locally.

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.

CONTACT

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MARKETPLACE EQUITY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Principle	
Job Growth and Economic Vitality	
Strategy	**Target**
Legislative	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Weights and Measures Programs are important to businesses and consumers in California. Weights and Measures regulatory activities ensure that there is a "level playing field" for business and industries. Likewise, these programs are critical in providing protection for consumers and a method for making value comparisons by providing equity in the marketplace. The Division of Measurement Standards (DMS) within the California Department of Food and Agriculture is the lead agency for weights and measures. DMS has continued to incur significant general fund reductions that have diminished their ability to provide consumer protection.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support legislation that preserves and enhances funding resources for weights and measures programs at the state (DMS) and local (Sealer) level for consumer protection including the use of state general funds for the Division of Measurement Standards.

Support legislation that establishes funding for quantity control and package inspection.

Support legislation which assures clear labeling and accuracy of the net quantity of packaged products to promote value comparison and to ensure the consumer receives the correct product and the quantity of product for which they pay.

Oppose legislation that would allow for industry self-certification of commercial weighing and measuring devices.

Oppose legislation that would diminish or remove protections now afforded to consumers for transactions measured by weighing or measuring devices or computed by Point of Sale systems.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/ IMPACT

Weights and measures programs serve the people of Santa Barbara County and California by preserving and defending the measurement standards essential in providing the citizens a basis of value comparison and fair competition in the marketplace.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Since 2011-12 fiscal year, CDFA has continued to experience General Fund reduction. Funding for many important programs continues to be affected including those in DMS. These same weights and measures programs continue to lack the necessary funding to provide adequate services to the public and businesses alike.

CONTACT

Jose Chang, Agricultural Commissioner, Agricultural Commissioner's Office, (805)681-5600 County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

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 U.S. 101 from four (4) to six (6) lanes by adding multi-modal, 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, completion of gaps on the California Coastal Trail to increase biking and walking, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The project will improve safety, air quality, and alleviate gridlock traffic by addressing a gap closure to connect the HOV lane network 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. The other north-south arterial, Interstate 5, is notorious for periodic, seasonal closures due to inclement weather, leaving U.S. 101 as the primary alternate route in California during those periods. Travelers within the 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 provides access to 12 universities. U.S. 101 also provides critical access to Vandenberg Space Force Base in central Santa Barbara County, which is headquarters for Space Launch Delta 30, which supports west coast launch activities for the 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 remaining 10-mile segment, Highway 101: Carpinteria to Santa Barbara began construction in 2020. Progress is being made in efforts to secure funding to complete construction in Montecito and Santa Barbara. This relies on a strong local, state and federal funding partnership. Construction through Santa Barbara is set to be completed in 2028, pending funding.

REQUESTED ACTION

Collaborate with SBCAG in advocacy efforts directed at the pursuit of state and federal funding for the completion of the U.S. 101 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes project.

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

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The project maximizes travel efficiency within the county by completing carpool access, enhancing multi-modal connectivity, and fortifying a vital evacuation route, that also facilitates major goods movement, national security operations, and access to public universities. 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 $1 billion. The U.S. 101 HOV project will be funded by leveraging $140 million in dedicated from Measure A funds, the 2008 voter-approved local transportation sales tax measure. To date, SBCAG and Caltrans have received $400 million in Senate Bill 1 (SB1) state funds, which are allocated by the California Transportation Commission. The remaining $145 million that is needed includes requests for SB1 Cycle 4 competitive 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)

Consider additional legislative actions to review and update cannabis state tax rates that support the viability of a legal market. Current taxes and fees continue to hinder the ability of legal operators to compete with the illicit market.

Support improved access to the state's track and trace system (Metrc) and coordination so that data is timely and useful. The State can aid in local compliance by working to ensure that Metrc can "flag irregularities" as required by State law. This information is imperative for local jurisdictions to regulate cannabis operators and prevent product diversion. In addition, the County supports any effort to coordinate compliance and enforcement with the State.

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 $5.4 million in revenues from cannabis operators in 2022. 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

Loss of potential revenue from sustained, illegal market activity estimated to hold more than sixty percent of the market share.

CONTACT

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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 $5.4 million in revenues from cannabis operators in 2022. 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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BROADBAND FUNDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

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, which is in need of increased capacity throughout 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 with funding earmarked for the public sector, specifically for governmental agencies that had historically only supported deployment via local permitting activities. Recognizing the critical need for high-speed internet access, the County of Santa Barbara in partnership with the Broadband Consortium and SBCAG developed a Countywide Broadband Strategic Plan to identify gaps in service with goal of providing affordable and accessible internet access for all. As additional State and Federal Funding for broadband infrastructure and planning become available, the County seeks advocacy efforts to implement the broadband strategic plan as well as advocate for funding to build out broadband infrastructure throughout the County.

The County also seeks advocacy efforts to prioritize resiliency and redundancy efforts related to broadband, specifically in relation to middle-mile infrastructure along State Route 154 as a critical transportation artery in the County. Inclusion of State Route 154 in broadband infrastructure deployment at the State and/ or Federal level is imperative as it is a crucial route for commerce and communication in rural communities and serves as a primary corridor in northern and southern regions of the County. In relation to emergency management planning, building out this route is integral for effective emergency response.

REQUESTED ACTION

The County will work diligently with local jurisdictions and partners to seek funding opportunities to improve availability, accessibility, competition, resiliency 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 advocate for prioritization of planning efforts to build resiliency, redundancy, and safety networks in the region. including middle-mile infrastructure along Highway 154.

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 affordable and reliable 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 capacity and 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, , 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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IMPROVING LOCAL GOVERNANCE: UNINCORPORATED POWERS

Principle	
Efficient Service Delivery and Operations	
Strategy	**Target**
Legislative & Advocacy	State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

States grant cities and counties the ability to administer government at the local level. Santa Barbara County as a general law County operates under California Government Code Title 3, and other applicable California laws. General Law cities operate under California Government Code Title 4 and other applicable California laws.

In many counties in California, more than half of a county's population is in an unincorporated area, as opposed to an incorporated city. Therefore, the county government is responsible for the provision of services and addressing infrastructure needs. Counties, however, do not enjoy the same taxing, revenue generation, and governing authorities as cities. In 2014, legislation was passed that allows voters in the unincorporated areas of a county to vote on a tax measure and the resulting revenue can only be applied within the unincorporated area. While this change provides for the imposition of sales and use tax within a specific unincorporated area, increasing of the opportunities available for revenue generation, a general law county's ability to enjoy the full spectrum of governance powers provided to general law cities remains limited.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support legislation which provides general law counties all governance powers afforded general law cities in order to adequately address full spectrum of services and infrastructure needs in unincorporated areas. Work with the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) to fully assess spectrum of differences in powers of general law cities vs general law counties.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/ IMPACT

Unincorporated areas of counties must have mechanisms in place to address service and facility needs. Residents of unincorporated areas of a county should not be limited in the ability to achieve goals and address needs as a result of a lack of governance powers provided via the State. Preserving, enhancing and managing the revenue base in addition to employing all tools currently available to cities is essential to govern effectively and address collective and community specific needs. Tools to be explored will include but are not limited to levying of all administrative fines, forfeitures and penalties.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Counties will be better able to manage operating budgets if afforded the instruments to recover costs for services and infrastructure in unincorporated cities. Current services require funding sources that are acquired through indirect means. Using tools such as but not limited to fines, forfeitures and penalties will better equip counties with the potential for full cost recovery.

CONTACT

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MODERNIZATION OF THE CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Flexibility, Efficiency, and Modernization in Child Support Enforcement Programs final rule became effective in the Federal Register on January 19, 2017. (The dates that States must comply with the final rule vary for the various sections of the Federal regulations). This rule is intended to carry out the President's directives in *Executive Order 13563: Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review*. Implementation will require some changes in California legislation, as well as decisions about whether to implement state-optional parts of the Rule. The proposed changes are intended to move the program toward a more family-friendly philosophy that acknowledges that Child Support occurs in a context that necessarily includes recognition of employment challenges, custody and visitation arrangements, and co-parenting challenges. Mindful that some of the Child Support enforcement tools can create needless damage to struggling individuals, the proposed changes in regulations will also permit families to seek assistance from the Child Support Program without being enrolled in all of its available services.

REQUESTED ACTION

The Flexibility, Efficiency, and Modernization in Child Support Enforcement Programs final rule became effective in the Federal Register on January 19, 2017. Implementation will require some changes in California legislation, as well as decisions about whether to implement state-optional parts of the Rule.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/ IMPACT

Many aspects of the Child Support program have not been updated in 40 years. The public will benefit from increased program flexibility, efficiency and modernization; adaptations that take advantage of advances in technology; and the correction of technical errors in current regulations.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

The proposed changes will utilize existing state and federal resources currently budgeted for the Child Support program.

CONTACT

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805) 451-4743

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 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. In addition, in order to streamline processes and increase efficiency, the County strives to move towards paperless processes for printing and distribution of agendas and materials.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support state and federal legislation that provides public access to public meetings via alternative methods using technology 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.

Support and advocate for legislation that reduces or eliminates the amount of paper copies required for Brown Act body meetings. Support legislation that works towards improving overall efficiency and encourages modern technology in order to reduce the County's carbon footprint.

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 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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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.

CONTACT

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John Doyel, MA, LAADC, CCS, Assistant Director, Department of Behavioral Wellness (805) 681-4907

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.

CONTACT

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CARE COURT IMPLEMENTATION EFFORTS

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Senate Bill 1338 (Act) created 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 inadequate 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.

Currently Senate Bill 35 (SB 35) is working its way through the legislature and provides clean up language for the CARE Court Act that provides added protections for CARE Court participants' private health information, clarification on county behavioral health agency obligations, and specifies program funding requirements. SB 35 also includes language for clarification in Penal Code 1370 regarding the optional use of CARE Court referral by courts for those found mentally incompetent to stand trial.

Santa Barbara County is in the 2nd cohort as identified in the Act and must go live with its CARE Court by December 31, 2024. Santa Barbara County Behavioral Health does not meet the threshold to apply for an implementation extension.

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; adequate resources, including housing; and proposed 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.

The Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Grant is the primary mechanism that the State has identified to support the immediate and relatively short-term anticipated housing needs of future CARE Court recipients. The BHBH funds that are being awarded to the County for the creation of $9.9 million in transitional housing supports over the next 5 years are to be prioritized for CARE Court clients and provide housing for maximum of 2 years. Currently options for the long-term and ongoing care of persons to be assisted in CARE Court are very limited.

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' current baseline funding needed to serve current treatment 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 more and longer term housing, in support of the CARE Court Program recipients beyond the two years of the program to ensure their long-term emotional and housing stability and reduce likelihood of inadvertently creating yet another revolving door of

homelessness and intensive service needs.

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 and fiscal allocations that allow full funding for sufficient personnel at the local level 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.

Support and advocate for legislation that encourages state and federal public safety partners - including agency funding allocations and programmatic initiatives - that can impact and enhance local emergency preparedness and resiliency efforts.

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

ofdisasters, 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

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM INTEGRATION

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

In recent years, the issues of homelessness and the inappropriate treatment of persons diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI) and/or co-occurring disorders who are involved in the courts and jail system have led to an increased focus on changes in the State's County Behavioral Health, Criminal Justice, and housing system. Over the past few years, significant legislation has either been passed or is currently in process that will dramatically alter the way in which the County prioritizes, designs, and funds mental health, substance use disorder treatment and housing support. Specifically, bills including the CARE Court Act, Senate Bill 43, and Senate Bill 326 seek to add significant numbers of new persons eligible for services without the addition of sufficient additional funds for County services. The mandated and proposed changes will negatively impact services provided to the counties most at risk and under resourced populations. Providing housing without access consistent treatment systems will run the risk of ongoing cycles of homelessness for persons with chronic behavioral health and justice related issues. Recidivism rates within the behavioral health and criminal justice systems will not likely be reduced over time with inadequately funded state and federally mandated programs impacting County operations. A full range of stepdown, lower level, and supportive housing services for persons with SPMI and co-occurring disorders within both systems is critical for reducing recidivism. Additionally, these legislative changes and proposals are primarily focused on adult treatment populations, which will result in the inability to adequately fund the County's services to all Santa Barbara County residents, including children.

REQUESTED ACTION

1) Advocate for legislators to fully review and evaluate the impact to funding and program operations as current bills rollout and to modify legislation as needed to create adequate funding to support the entire system of care to sustain its full range of care continuum to include both housing, diversion and sufficient treatment supports.
2) Support trailer bills to enacted legislation and modifications to those yet passed that will support the funding for continued maintenance of treatment services, leverage federal funds for Medi-Cal services and ensure a full continuum of services to address the complex issues of recurring homelessness and incarceration for persons challenged by living with a severe and persistent mental illness.
3) Oppose further legislation that seeks to further expand the populations whom the County, such as the expansion of Behavioral Health, is charged with serving without also providing adequate funding to support the changes; and/or which reduces local control and flexibility to ensure the County's behavioral health and criminal justice systems are appropriately meeting the needs of Santa Barbara County residents.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/ IMPACT

The benefit to the community and public is that these actions will ensure well-developed and sustainable County systems of care, meeting community needs from crisis intervention, housing and treatment services necessary for long-term stabilization of functioning for sustained for recovery.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

If treatment options are not adequately funded at the State and Federal level, the creation of new housing and additional support systems, such as diversion, will be ineffective and utilization of new and proposed

legislation related funding will not be maximized. Success of the legislation will be based on programs that adequately fund housing, Criminal Justice, and Behavioral Wellness systems.

CONTACT

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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 and quality of life 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 2022-23 Santa Barbara County Public Safety Realignment Act 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 in successful re- entry into 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

Sheriff Department

County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM FUNDING

Principle	
Fiscal Stability	
Strategy	Target
Funding	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

A number of significant invasive species are routinely introduced and detected in California that threaten agriculture and the environment. Continued funding of Pest Exclusion, Pest Detection Trapping and Survey Activities, Rapid Response, Pest Management and Eradication (if feasible), Canine Detection Teams, and Public Education Outreach Programs is critical in protecting California's resources.

REQUESTED ACTION

- Protect existing revenue sources and enhance state and federal funding of Pest Prevention Program activities.
- Provide full cost recovery for new programs.
- Maintain or enhance funding for current programs.
- Support all reasonable efforts by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, County Agricultural Commissioners, and the agricultural industry to acquire funding and to prevent the introduction and potential spread of invasive pests in California.
- Support legislation and/or state and federal programs that provide for effective pest management and eradication activities.
- Provide local flexibility to enhance the abilities of Agricultural Commissioners to respond to pest emergencies and high priority local pest exclusion pathways.
- Support budgetary efforts to restore and maintain funding for agricultural border stations.
- Support research on invasive species pathways as well as funding mechanisms to close potential pathways.

PUBLIC

Continued funding of Invasive Pest programs and Farm Bill Specialty Crop specific programs is critical in protecting Santa Barbara County agriculture and its natural resources.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

A reduction or elimination of federal and state funding for the State and counties to perform early pest detection and surveillance activities will result in either an additional cost to local governments to cover the costs of these critical pest exclusion activities or a reduction or elimination of these services all together. This will lead to the agricultural industry, the public and environment being put at risk for further invasive pest infestations. California's agricultural losses to exotic pests exceed $3 billion annually[1].

CONTACT

Jose Chang, Agricultural Commissioner, Ag Commissioner's Office/W&M

(805)681-5600 County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

[1] UC Riverside Center for Invasive Species Research website: https://cisr.ucr.edu/resources/invasive-species-faqs#what_economic_impact_do_invasive_species_have_on_california

SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Every trip begins and ends on a local road, bridge or sidewalk. Local transportation systems are critical for moving people, goods, and services reliably and safely to their destination. Traditional sources of revenue for transportation are declining as communities develop more sustainably, and vehicles become more fuel-efficient. The County requires additional funding to respond significantly to transportation needs.

In order to maintain the transportation system in a safe and serviceable condition the philosophy of system preservation must be embraced by our country's leadership to provide the right treatment, to the right facility at the right time. This issue is well documented at every level of government in needs assessments throughout the country.

Sustainable and dedicated transportation funding is needed to provide certainty for businesses and communities, create jobs, and make necessary policy updates that lay the foundation for lasting economic growth. Transportation infrastructure is too essential to suffer continued neglect. We must commit to finding ways to support maintenance of existing infrastructure.

REQUESTED ACTION

Advocate with Federal leaders for a sound, long-term financial solution that will ensure stable funding of the surface transportation system.

The solution must include dedicated funding to properly maintain existing transportation infrastructure including, but not limited to pavement, bridges and pedestrian facilities.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Maintaining local roads to ensure safe and efficient movement of people, goods, and services is critical for public safety and economic development. This plank supports maintaining the existing transportation network that provides the first and last part of every trip. If the backlog of existing maintenance is not addressed now, the cost to maintain it will double in the next decade. For Santa Barbara County, this means the transportation maintenance backlog will increase from $315M to $630M. An additional $6-$8M of annual funding is needed for pavement maintenance alone to prevent roads from deteriorating further and even more is needed to implement pavement best management practices.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Ongoing sustainable funding to maintain roads and other essential transportation infrastructure is critical to the health, safety and welfare of the nation. The lack of a consistent source of funding leads to costly deferred maintenance, extensive repairs, less safe roads, loss of efficiency, and increased liability claims.

CONTACT

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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 continue to adapt to a post pandemic world, Counties continue to need assistance to fully recover from the lasting impacts and economic shortfalls of the pandemic. Counties continue to need fiscal assistance to stabilize local government operations to offset the devastating impacts the crisis has had on our communities over the past few years.

Furthermore, all local governments are now focused on recovery efforts 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 as we continue into a post pandemic world and support 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 ongoing pandemic recovery not public health services, emergency costs, and ~~or~~ economic 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 and economic recovery services can be very costly on local government budgets, 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

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County Executive Office, (805)568-3400

LOCAL BRIDGE FUNDING - REGIONAL

Principle	
Choose an item. Fiscal Stability	
Strategy	**Target**
Funding & Legislative	**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, it would take approximately 16-20 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. 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 to local bridges. Also, some of the funding used for local bridges may sunset with the expiration of the IIJA.

All government stakeholders, including cities, counties, regional agencies, and the 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 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. 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/ IMPACT

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 $220M/year increase from today. This amount should be increased over time to match the needs as costs increase.

The current infrastructure bill provided an additional ~$250M to the State Highway Bridge Program. This has provided tremendous benefit to local agencies' ability to deliver critical bridge replacement and rehabilitation projects. Continuation of this funding, as well as codifying the funding as reserved for local bridges in to legislation would be help ensure these critical bridge projects continue in the future.

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 improve circulation and integrate multimodal improvements. The project will add sidewalks, bike lanes, bus accommodation, transportation enhancements, and replace a narrow, 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 $12 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
- Improved facilities to comply with the American Disabilities Act

COST TO GOVERNMENT

$12 million.

CONTACT

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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 over the past 10 years 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 - $7.3 million; new water treatment plant and related systems - $7.14 million; Sewage treatment - $7.875 million; Recreational and pavement improvements - $49.66 million.

PROJECT	TOTAL COST	AMOUNT FUNDED	FUNDING SOURCE
BIOLOGICAL OPINION / SURCHARGE INITIATED PROJECTS			
Fire Flow and Water Distribution Improvements	$1,890,000	$683,000	BOR/SB County
Construction Road Repair & Access Improvements (connected to fire flow for fire truck access)	$5,250,000	-	BOR
New Water Treatment Plant and Related Systems	$7,300,000	$500,000	BOR/SB County
Sewage Treatment Plant and Related Systems	$7,875,000	-	BOR
TOTAL	**$22,315,000**		
OTHER CAPITAL FACILITIES AND RECREATIONAL PROJECTS			
Boat Ramp Extension	$4,100,000	-	DB&W
Pavement Repair and Rehabilitation (not connected to Road Repair for fire truck access)	$8,159,000	-	BOR
New Overnight Accommodations (Cabins/Yurts)	$3,276,000	-	BOR
Recreation Improvements (RV Facilities)	$17,325,000	$521,300	BOR/SB County
Recreation Improvements (Pool Facilities)	$16,800,000	-	BOR
TOTAL	**$49,660,000**		
GRAND TOTAL FOR ALL PROJECTS	**$71,975,000**		

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 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

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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	**Target**
Funding, Legislative, &Advocacy	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 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 early care and education 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 the First 5 SBC Annual Impact Report and the ARPA Child Care Sector Survey Results and Recommendation Report states:

- In fiscal year 2022-2023 approximately 71% 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 streams for quality early care and education that includes:

- The development of new subsidized childcare slots/spaces provided by the CA Department of Education and Department of Social Services, specifically for infants and toddlers.
- Early Care and Education facilitiy development dollars in order to increase capacity and expansion.
- The continuation and expansion of the California Earned Income Tax Credit & the Young Child Tax Credit so ITIN filers could qualify
- The expansion of job protections for workers in workplaces of 5+ employees that includes Paid Family Leave to care for a new baby or ill loved one.
- Incentive of Employer-sponsored tax credits to increase childcare accessibility such as HR 4571.

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 that they become productive members of the community, thus counter-acting the negative impacts of such conditions such as poverty, trauma, and other factors.

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 in needed in the area of early identification and intervention, quality early learning, childcare facility funding, subsidized care, and early care and education workforce development.

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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.

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 environmental effects (e.g., visual impacts) of these facilities.

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. 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.

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STRENGTHENING 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 tribal sovereignty and 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. While the County is consistent with the California State Association of Counties' (CSAC) position on supporting positive working relationships between counties and tribes, 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.

REQUESTED ACTION

While the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund related to local government funding has expired, the County continues to advocate for a means to ensure compacts have a process to identify gaming impacts on the local areas and a process for mitigation impacts of tribal gaming, including expansion of, on the local area. s

The County recognizes the importance of tribal value and is committed to improving mutual communications, the enhancement of economic vitality opportunities for counties and tribes, and other collaborative opportunities for government-to-government relations between counties and tribal governments, consistent with CSAC's updates to their Tribal and Intergovernmental Relations Platform. 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 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 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 broad socio-economic impacts.

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.

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.
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.

Any material changes in the use of trust land particularly from gaming to non-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 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 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 for initiatives including economic vitality efforts, including broadband infrastructure and technology.

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

In the past, the County of Santa Barbara previously received a distribution from the Special Distribution Fund (SDF) of approximately $1.4 million annually. However, the State has not made SDF 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.

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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 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 technology and staffing that manage, report on and evaluate health care delivery, programs and incentives to maximize the capacity of our systems and facilitate coordination of care. 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 promote partnerships and coordination in the provision of services that provide for reimbursement for the necessary wrap around and support services of the treatment team, such as pharmacists, 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.

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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. 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.
- Promote public health and safety, and prevention of harmful environmental conditions and ensures access to health care. Support programs and funding that prevent the spread of communicable disease, promote infection control and laboratory practices and prevent injuries and violence,
- 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.
- Support Community Health Centers through policies that entice health care professionals to seek employment at such centers in addition to programs that provide loan forgiveness, via waivers and other opportunities to increase workforce.
- Support and advocate for increased funding to Community health centers and expansion grants to allow more access to healthcare services.
- Support Community Health Workers and reimbursement for care coordination and social care through out the community
- Advocate for better coverage and reimbursement for Oral Health and Dental services.

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..

COST TO GOVERNMENT

There is no immediate or additional cost incurred directly.

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HOMELESSNESS

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

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 to address homelessness. The County seeks funding support to implement effective strategies to address and prevent homelessness. 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.

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: Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, Project-Based Rental Assistance, Public Housing Operating Funds, and Public Housing Capital Grants. Additionally, continue to support 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 homeless Point In Time (PIT) survey, 70% 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. Legislation supporting streamlined 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 County also requests continuing support for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, 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 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. 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.

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OCEAN WATER TESTING

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	**Target**
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 tests 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 from the State Water Resources Control Board to fully reimburse the local costs associated with the implementation of new rapid PCR ocean water testing in Santa Barbara County. Increased testing costs will be incurred due to the "parallel" testing and enhanced analysis (i.e. running duplicate methods to ensure accurate and consistent results) 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 2022-23, the laboratory testing cost was approximately $49,500 utilizing the existing EPA-approved testing methodology. The new rapid PCR testing method is projected to increase testing costs to approximately $90,000 due to State approval requirements and the ongoing additional laboratory needs to utilize rapid PCR testing methods.

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SAFETY NET PRESERVATION

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	Target
Advocacy	Federal/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

According to 2022 Census figures, in Santa Barbara County, 67,463 people (15.2% of residents) are living below the federal poverty level (compared to 12.9% in 2020). There are approximately 14,774 (21.9%) of the County's children living in poverty (compared to 14.4% in 2020). 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.

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. Despite recent investments, due to increased demand and inflation, many core public services remain underfunded following years of deep cuts during the Great Recession. The shrinking public safety net has put extreme pressure on underfunded faith-based and community-based organizations to "catch" these needy families. As economic pressures worsen, safety net programs are vulnerable to funding reductions. 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 as recent data depicts.

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 and mitigate the eroding effects of inflation by funding the cost of doing business.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/ IMPACT

Hunger and malnutrition exacerbate chronic and acute diseases and speed the onset of degenerative diseases among the elderly, which affects their life span and 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.

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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 2022 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, 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 for services that promote the safety, health, and well-being of older adults and adults with disabilities, including support for family/friend and professional caregivers.

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 the overall spectrum of needs faced by individuals as they age. Older adults have complex and changing needs related to income, mobility, increased disability, transportation, caregiving, and healthcare access. Without assistance, seniors often lack the ability to remain safely in their own homes and are challenged to find affordable in-home care or assisted living facilities that allow them to remain in their communities. When seniors are not healthy and/or lack transportation options, it deprives the community of their contributions in the workforce and in civic and social activities. In addition, seniors with complex

medical needs may lack appropriate health coverage, leading them to utilize emergency rooms and public clinics at a higher rate.

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.

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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 has been renewed through a series of short term extensions signed by Presidents, and in early 2023 Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (P.L. 117-103) extending TANF through September 30, 2023 . The success of TANF depends on counties' flexibility to target local needs and support participants' 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.

A long-term TANF reauthorization with substantive program improvements and adequate funding is critical for all counties. Nationwide in 2021 combined federal TANF and State Maintenance of Effort expenditures and transfers total 30.3 billion. 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. More local controls would eliminate sanctions and improve local outcomes resulting in long term savings. 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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ADDRESSING OPIOID AND ASSOCIATED STIMULANT USE AND ABUSE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Our nation and county have been in the grips of an opioid epidemic for over the past ten (10) years. We are currently in the fourth (4th) wave of the opioid epidemic, which has gone from prescription drug (painkiller) abuse and addiction, to heroin addiction, to Fentanyl addiction, to the current scourge of polysubstance Fentanyl and stimulant addiction. According to the County of Santa Barbara's Sheriff Coroner's office, the increase in accidental opioid deaths has risen in Santa Barbara County from forty (40) in 2014 to sixty-seven (67) in 2020. For the first six (6) months of 2021, there have been thirty-five accidental opioid involved deaths. More alarmingly, there have been 107 fentanyl related death in SBC between 2018 and 2022. The rate of Fentanyl specific accidental ODs has risen from one (1) in 2014 to more than 47 in 2022. With an age group mostly affected as between 19-34 year olds (46%), followed equally (24%) by 35-55 and 45+ year olds.

The current opioid epidemic is now being called an opioid-stimulant epidemic. Fentanyl and heroin are being mixed with methamphetamine and cocaine, often times to unsuspecting users who only want to consume stimulants, causing polysubstance addiction and OD. To address OUD and ODs we must now take into consideration stimulant use. Methamphetamine specific OD have climbed dramatically since 2014, and often these ODs include Fentanyl and other opioids. In 2014, four (4) individuals died from stimulant OD in Santa Barbara County, nearly all methamphetamine. By the end of 2020, the number had risen to fourteen (14). Over the past few years, close to seventy percent (70%) of accidental opioid ODs involve stimulants. The opioid/stimulant nexus is strong.

We can be successful addressing, intervening and treating opioid and associated stimulant use disorders through legislative, policy, environmental changes, education, early intervention and treatment services. Collaboration is needed across several County departments to do so including the criminal justice system, public health, social services and Behavioral Wellness. We can directly impact behaviors that drive opioid and associated stimulant use that negatively impact affect all regions and communities in Santa Barbara County. Using evidenced based practices, we can assess and address health inequities and provide services to our most vulnerable and high-risk populations.

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.

REQUESTED ACTION

- The County supports funding and legislation to expand community services for education, prevention, and treatment for opioid and associated stimulant use and abuse. Promote enhanced community support systems for individuals and their families resulting from negative impacts of the abuse of opioids and associated stimulants in order to reduce overdoses.

- The County supports efforts to provide additional funding for treatment and all other costs associated with substance abuse and use.
- The County supports increased and flexible funding to address the complex needs of vulnerable populations. Such funding sources should provide families in crisis with support, culturally humble services, evidenced based prevention, early intervention, and treatment services needed to keep communities healthy and safe.
- The County supports the integration of criminal justice, primary care (physical and public health), social services, mental health and substance use services to provide whole person, comprehensive care to individuals and their families suffering from opioid and associated stimulant use disorders. Support should minimally include no decreases in current funding levels in these programs and measures that maintain or strengthen local agency roles.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/ IMPACT

There will be a decrease in opioid and associated stimulant use, abuse and disorders, and decreased overdoses in Santa Barbara County.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

There is no immediate or additional cost incurred directly.

CONTACT

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STREAMLINING ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC ASSITANCE PROGRAMS

Principle	
Health & Human Services	
Strategy	**Target**
Advocacy	Federal

With inflation and the increased cost of living, Californians are becoming more reliant on public assistance programs. CalFresh is extremely difficult to administer due to its complicated federal rules and guidelines. Food assistance must be immediate – applicants cannot wait weeks or months for applications to be processed. Due to this urgent demand, county staff are under constant pressure to deliver CalFresh benefits within very short timeframes while also 1) completing their casework with a minimum of errors; 2) conducting interviews; 3) processing paperwork; 4) completing ongoing case maintenance for CalFresh including processing semi-annual reports and renewals; 5) ensuring fraudulent applications are detected; 6) processing an increasing demand of EBT theft replacement benefits; and 7) quickly processing large volumes of cases each day.

Enrollment in CalFresh is also growing rapidly, including students. Santa Barbara is part of the Southern Areas Consortium of Human Services (SACHS) along with seven other counties. Between March 2020 and March 2023, CalFresh beneficiaries increased by 763,000, or 32 percent in the eight counties (Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, San Diego, and Ventura). Each of these counties has seen sharp enrollment increases, and anticipate growth will continue this year and into the future. This growth has occurred throughout the State of California. Streamlining and simplifying the eligibility process for Public Assistance Programs, especially CalFresh will improve efficiency, reduce workloads, and make it easier for Californians to apply for and stay enrolled in these vital programs.

REQUESTED ACTION

Streamline procedures to simplify and expedite human services programs, generally, but especially for CalFresh. Specifically, it is requested that the state to seek federal waivers in six key areas:

- Align income verification requirements across the state's three major assistance programs: CalFresh, CalWORKs and Medi-Cal. This would make it significantly easier for county staff to accurately determine program eligibility and make is easier for customers to maintain their cases.
- Reduce the complexities and barriers to determine student eligibility for CalFresh. This will provide cost effective administrative relief and open the program to a population that would benefit from greater access.
- Create new simplified application and recertification forms for CalFresh.
- Make the COVID-19 CalFresh application and recertification interview waiver permanent policy.
- Eliminate the semi-annual reporting requirement in CalFresh.
- Provide permanent Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) time limit waiver for CalFresh.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/ IMPACT

Alignment in program eligibility requirements will support integration efforts like Home Visitation, CalAIM, and Linkages, ultimately providing more efficient wraparound services to vulnerable populations. Less errors and reduced caseload will also improve outcomes for customers and help with county staff retention.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Streamlining the eligibility process for public assistance programs will significantly reduce barriers for customers while alleviating the administrative burden on county staff, enabling local governments to administer these programs more effectively even with persistent staff shortages.

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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, the statewide workforce system is being primed for dramatic changes 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"--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 walnuts [1].

Locally, agriculture continues to be the County's major producing industry. The 2022 gross production was valued at $1.93 billion, a 5.1% increase in gross value when compared with the 2021 figures. It is the seventeenth year in a row that agriculture has surpassed the one-billion-dollar benchmark[2]. The County is the second largest producer in the state for strawberries, cauliflower, blackberries and brussel sprouts. 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 2020-2021
[2] 2022 Santa Barbara County Agricultural Production Report

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 for low-income families. Construction costs have escalated and, in recent years, has surpassed $700,000 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 completive 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 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.

CONTACT

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ENERGY AND CLIMATE

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

In March 2009, the County of Santa Barbara instituted immediate, cost-effective, and coordinated steps to reduce the County's collective greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The County has since accelerated existing or established new sustainability initiatives, including making clean energy and building efficiency improvements to public facilities, and helping residents and businesses do the same. In May 2015, the County adopted an Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP) to reduce GHG emissions to 15% below baseline levels (2007) by 2020, consistent with Assembly Bill (AB) 32. The ECAP includes 50 emission reduction measures encompassed in the following eleven categories:

Community Choice Energy	Industrial Energy Efficiency
Sustainable Communities Strategy	Waste Reduction
Land Use Design	Agriculture
Transportation	Water Efficiency
Built Environment	Governmental Operations
Renewable Energy	

2018 GHG emissions in the unincorporated County are 11% above 2007 levels, trending down slightly from 2016 (3%). Despite the implementation of emission reduction measures. Therefore, further implementation of emission reduction measures be required to effectively reduce GHG emissions.

Senate Bill (SB) 32 and Executive Order B-30-15 extend the goals of AB 32 to reduce emissions 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. In December 2018, the County Board of Supervisors directed staff to develop a 2030 Climate Action Plan (CAP) to: (1) achieve a GHG emission reduction goal of 50% below 2007 levels by 2030, and (2) incorporate climate adaptation measures. In 2022, the Board also adopted the goal of carbon neutrality by 2045 or sooner, as feasible. The County has begun this multi-year effort to update the CAP in coordination with cities and other local stakeholders. It is anticipated that these efforts will result in: (1) an overarching regional climate action plan, and (2) local jurisdiction-specific climate action plans for the unincorporated county and each participating city consistent with the regional climate action plan.

While some of the emission reduction measures proposed in the 2030 CAP are already in existence, most require funding for further development. The ability to fully develop the CAP measures and develop robust programs is critical for countywide reduction of emissions in order to meet climate and sustainability goals.

In addition to measures outlined in the CAP, the County is monitoring opportunities related to carbon sequestration, emissions resulting from wildfires, and climate change planning and adaptation strategies. To coordinate climate and sustainability implementation efforts across departments, the County established a County Sustainability Committee in 2015 and in 2018 began formation of a Santa Barbara County Climate Collaborative with local cities and public agencies. The County is also participating in the: (1) Central Coast Climate Collaborative (4C), which focuses on regional climate mitigation and adaptation strategies; (2) International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)-Local Governments for Sustainability, which provides GHG emissions monitoring tools and other sustainability support; (3) the Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition, a program of the Local Government Commission that provides best practices and policy support for clean energy and sustainability activities, (4) the California Coastal Resilience Network, which allows local jurisdictions to share lessons learned about coastal climate change adaptation and 5) Central Coast Community Energy, a community choice energy provider.

Furthermore, Santa Barbara County participates prominently in the management and regulation of not only traditional petroleum-based energy resources, but renewable energy resources, as well. The County's promotion of and participation in projects that cover the spectrum of renewable energy generation and storage demonstrates its commitment to sustaining the region's economic vitality, maintaining grid reliability and resiliency, and reducing GHG emissions that contribute to climate change associated with more traditional energy development. In 2019, the County released a "Strategic Energy Plan," which was a joint effort with the cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, and Carpinteria to regionally address energy needs and

opportunities. The County also has initiated zoning ordinance amendments to facilitate utility-scale solar development.

The County has interest in supporting efforts to transition from the use of natural gas, gasoline, and other fossil fuels to electricity to enable deeper GHG reductions economy-wide. For example, the County participates with other regional local governments, air pollution control districts, and transportation planning bodies to prepare for and support the installation of electric vehicle chargers and encourage the electrification of the transportation sector. The County is also monitoring state and local opportunities to encourage all-electric homes, businesses, and public facilities to enable the use of 100% renewable energy resources.

REQUESTED ACTION

- Support funding for local and regional energy and climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives, including, alternative transportation, energy efficiency, water efficiency, distributed clean energy, electrification of the transportation sector and other energy end-uses (e.g., space and water heating), and climate change adaptation planning.
- Support more funding for local and regional energy and climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives from Cap and Trade auction revenues, and other State programs.
- Support funding for climate adaptation planning and projects in the form of technical and feasibility studies and pilot projects.
- Support grant funding for low-income homeowners to harden their homes to wildfire.
- Support legislation and California Public Utility Commission and California Energy Commission regulatory actions and legislative activities that are favorable to local energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy storage, electrification initiatives, and Community Choice Energy programs.
- Support access to clean energy related financing (e.g., California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority) as well as federal and State actions associated with increasing consumer protections related to clean energy financing.
- Sponsor legislation that allows governmental customers to offset more than one electric meter with power generated from just one solar electric array allowing for multiple meters to be offset by electricity generated by a central solar facility.
- Support legislation that improves air quality in coordination with the Air Pollution Control District; advocate for and seek legislation and funding to support County participation in emerging and proven renewable energy development programs, projects, and infrastructure.
- Identify, evaluate, and advocate for changes to state and federal regulatory requirements that create unnecessary and/or unintended barriers to implementation of renewable energy programs and projects.
- Advocate for the continuation of the federal investment tax credit for solar systems on residential and commercial properties beyond 2023.
- Advocate for statewide standardization of greenhouse gas inventories.
- Support and advocate for funding for local efforts to streamline and cultivate carbon offsets from land stewardship.
- Support funding to make civic engagement opportunities in local planning more equitable and accessible.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/ IMPACT

Co-benefits of climate action implementation and achieving the CAP goal of lowering GHG emissions 50% below baseline levels by 2030 and implementing adaption strategies include:

- Reduced energy usage
- Monetary savings
- Support of the local economy
- Improved mobility
- Informed public
- Improved public health
- Improved public safety and resiliency
- Reduction in water use

- Conservation of natural resources

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Specific emission reduction measures and projects not already in existence will vary in cost. The costs for development and implementation of most are anticipated to be good candidates for external funding from private sector investment and/or grant funding from state and federal sources while others may require County investment.

CONTACT

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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. 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 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 photogenic backdrop. There is a strong public-private partnership of fund raising with the help of the Courthouse Legacy Foundation, Courthouse Docent Council, and the Bisno Schall Clock Gallery Foundation. These organizations have raised over $3,020,000 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, , painted ceiling restoration, draperies and textile restoration, wrought-iron, ceramic tiles, 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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OIL & GAS INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Oil & gas development has occurred in Santa Barbara County since as early as the 1890's. A significant amount of onshore and offshore oil & gas production continues within the County today. Numerous private operators utilize infrastructure such as pipelines, tanks and specialized equipment to serve this ongoing production. Existing infrastructure continues to age and degrade, some of which requires replacement. Existing, aging oil & gas infrastructure is less likely to include modern technological features that help ensure safe operations and reduce potential for spill/upset. A significant amount of historic, abandoned infrastructure associated with discontinued operations is also located within the County. Local jurisdictions have limited ability to require upgrading of aged infrastructure, and to enforce existing safety-related and environmental protection-related laws and ordinances.

Oil & gas operators continue to operate under a difficult financial context with oil persisting at historically lower prices leading to the potential for corporate financial collapse. Several local operators have recently filed for bankruptcy including Venoco (2016), Breitburn Energy (2017), ERG Operating Company (2016) and Greka (2019). In the case of Venoco, government entities inherited various oil and gas assets and were forced to finance their disposition including the State of California which will eventually pay out several hundred million dollars in order to abandon Platform Holly and its related onshore processing facility. The potential for Santa Barbara County to be affected by a similar future action is concerning. While several financial mechanisms are required by various state and federal agencies to address infrastructure appropriately in the case of bankruptcy, a comprehensive regulatory approach to ensure field safety and remediation is currently lacking.

REQUESTED ACTION

Support legislation that incentivizes and/or requires private oil & gas operating companies to repair/replace aging infrastructure including pipelines and tanks. Also include requirements for the use of best available safety-related technologies, with the intent of reducing the frequency and volume of upset events that result in environmental damage. (Funding for improvements would be provided by the affected company.)

Support legislation that provides local jurisdictions with increased regulatory authority and enforcement capability to oversee inspection and maintenance activities of existing/future oil & gas infrastructure.

Support legislation allowing for stronger enforcement actions, including increased penalties, to be imposed by the land use authority for oil & gas operators that are clearly in violation of permits and related entitlements.

Support funding for cleanup/removal of historic, abandoned oil and gas wells and equipment where there is no existing responsible party with an urgent priority targeting wells that pollute the marine environment, as well as for equipment that creates public safety/nuisance concerns.

Support legislation to strengthen the rules set forth by, and enforcement capabilities of, the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) and State Lands Commission (SLC) to require timely and proper abandonment of oil & gas facilities which have an existing responsible party.

Support legislation that would require oil and gas operating companies to provide comprehensive financial assurance for the purpose of disaster response in the instance the company is not able to pay for cleanup

of a spill or other related incident. Financial assurance should be required of new owners at the time of transfer of any oil and gas lease.

Support legislation that would require oil and gas operating companies to provide comprehensive financial assurance for the purpose of lease remediation at lease end of life including cleanup/removal of historic, abandoned oil and gas wells and equipment as well as site contamination.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/ IMPACT

Reduce likelihood of oil spills and public safety hazards with the intent of protecting public health and the ecologically sensitive habitats of Santa Barbara (including terrestrial and marine environments). Increase oil and gas operators' compliance with environmental and health-protective permit requirements. Reduce the likelihood of local government financial responsibility for oil & gas related liabilities.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

There are no known direct costs to the County. Economic impacts would be absorbed by private oil and gas operators.

CONTACT

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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 and improve existing facilities (i.e. funding for park and trail maintenance and upgrades); (2) construct new parks in areas with existing park deficiencies; (3) acquire additional land for open space preservation; and (4) ensure safe access to beaches, parks and open space. Examples of these projects are listed below as well as in other areas of the 2024 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 non-profit 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 non-profit 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 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 $8.89 Million to update the management plan ($56,000), implement public access including land acquisition and vehicle improvements to the pedestrian trail ($7.94 Million) and install signage and cattle control ($386,000). 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.

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. . The total project cost is approximately $18.55M.

Vandenberg Village Park: This project will install a new 1.5-acre park in Vandenberg Village, located near Vandenberg Space Force Base, to provide for a centrally located safe, enjoyable and educational public recreation space within walking distance of residents. This park is unique in that the County has teamed with a newly formed local non-profit to support community informational gathering and outreach events for the future park. Vandenberg Village is a park-deficient unincorporated area of Santa Barbara County, and the County needs $3.63 million to construct the park.

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 $3.43 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 Mitigation Fund (CRMF) 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;
- 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. Local jurisdictions within Santa Barbara and Ventura counties have relied on the Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (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 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 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. Guideline 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 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 $185M 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 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 Recycling Market Development Zone 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.

CONTACT

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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, and electrical system upgrades to support energy efficiency improvements to the HVAC and water distribution systems, utility regulation equipment, and window upgrades.

REQUESTED ACTION

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

PUBLIC

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 $1,275,000, 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 $910,000.
- **Hazardous Materials**: This section includes removal of lead-based paints and asbestos materials. Federal Share request is $365,000.

Carpinteria Building

The County has estimated cost for restoration to be $1,580,000, 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 $910,000.
- **Hazardous Materials**: This section includes removal of lead-based paints and asbestos materials. Federal Share request is $365,000.
- **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 $305,000.

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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

Advocate for State grant funds to be allocated to the County to provide financial assistance, in the form of grants, or low or no interest loans, to assist homeowners that make expensive repairs or upgrades to their OWTS or to connect to a nearby sewer system, where available.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/ IMPACT

Providing incentives to replace or repair antiquated or failing OWTS, or to connect to a nearby sewer system, will reduce the potential for public exposure to sewage and minimize the contamination of surface water and groundwater, providing increased protection of public health and the environment.

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. Additionally, with the high housing costs in the County and lack of available funding sources, housing for moderate-income and workforce households is also in short supply.

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 the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, the HOME program, and HOME ARP program. These programs provide additional public services, capital improvements, and new affordable housing, which work together to add critical housing for working families and prevent additional persons and families from becoming homeless. Programs, such as the U.S. Treasury's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) 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. Continue support of programs like the Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) Program which created a dedicated flexible funding stream to support homeownership, new housing construction, Tenant Based Rental Assistance, and supportive services to keep people stably housed.
- 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).

- Support the ability for local jurisdictions to update their regulations to comply with state law, which is time consuming and requires significant resources, by slowing the pace of legislative updates or instituting a minimum two-year pause in new housing legislation. This will provide an opportunity for local jurisdictions to implement required updates and determine if recent changes to state law have had the desired outcome with respect to new housing production.
- Amend the Government Code to allow State HCD to grant extensions to local jurisdictions 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).
- Government Code Section 65584(b) requires State HCD to work with councils of governments (COGs) to determine each region's existing and projected housing need at least two years prior to each region's housing element update adoption deadline. Recent amendments to State housing element law have resulted in higher RHNAs, new housing element requirements, and more scrutiny from State HCD, all of which increase the amount of time needed for cities and counties to draft and adopt housing elements. As a result, most jurisdictions did not adopt compliant housing elements within State-mandated deadlines for the 6th cycle housing element planning period. The State legislature should require State HCD and COGs to determine the regional housing needs for each region at least three years before the region's housing element adoption deadline.
- State housing element law requires that cities and counties identify and include a variety of programs in their housing elements to implement stated housing goals and policies. The programs must include specific actions that jurisdictions will take during the housing element planning period. To comply with State housing element law, Santa Barbara County's 2023-2031 Housing Element Update will include 24 programs with 95 specific actions. The County will spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to implement these programs and actions. The State legislature should establish grant and funding programs that help jurisdictions with approved housing elements implement their programs and actions.

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 equitable 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 incur significant costs to implement 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 prepare, adopt, and implement plans and processes that accelerate housing production. However, these programs only offer one-time financial and technical assistance. Continued grant opportunities are essential to implement housing legislation--especially given that recent trends suggest that the State will continue to require jurisdictions to revise existing and develop new procedures and regulations to meet State housing requirements

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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 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 require 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 Legislative Principles including Economic Vitality, Community Stability, and Health and Human Services. It will allow basins to retain their value as sources of 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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FLOOD CONTROL INFRASTRUCTURE

Principle	
Community Sustainability	
Strategy	**Target**
Funding & Legislative	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Weather is taking on the nature of extremes. Severe drought, wildfires, intense, and prolonged rainfall severely impacts communities; often times with devastating and tragic results.
These forces of nature cannot be controlled. The best that can be achieved is to mitigate to the greatest extents possible, given the resources of available funding, community support, regulatory allowance, and a host of other often times conflicting interests.

Flood Control infrastructure, when combined with other best available management practices, represents the front-line defense to these cycles of drought-fire-flood.

REQUESTED ACTION

Craft federal legislation that allows the flexibility to address levee issues efficiently and effectively. Levee vegetation policies, USACE Section 408 Permissions, and regulatory permitting all influence the ability to provide for levee safety (federal).

Funding to construct and/or modify existing debris basins (state and federal)

Funding to accomplish creek/channel conveyance capital improvement projects

Facilitate acquisition of long-term debris disposal sites (state and federal)

Reform regulatory requirements, including the Endangered Species Act, that pose to delay projects and maintenance, increase costs, threaten life and property, and restrict the effectiveness of infrastructure performance.

PUBLIC

- Maintenance along the Santa Maria River Levee is limited due to financial constraints. Limited funds are thus applied to the most cost effective protective measures in a timely manner. These actions cannot be bogged down by lengthy Section 408 USACE permissions and regulatory permitting.
- Debris basins offer a front-line defense to those in the community that live in high-risk hazard areas. Newly constructed or modified basins elevate the levels of protections against the threat of debris-laden flooding and debris flows.
- Channel conveyance improvements mitigate the limits of the flood hazard areas.
- Debris basins and channels accumulate sediments and other debris in the natural environment. Disposal sites dictate the costs of sediment removal. Local disposal sites are crucial to keep removal costs manageable.
- Disposal of riverine sediments to our beaches must be facilitated to protect from beach erosion and staving our beaches of sediments naturally intended for the ocean.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

Federal legislation:	$250k
Cost of Regulations	$2 million per year (estimated)
Debris basins:	$35 - $50 million
Channel conveyance systems	$400-$500 million

Debris disposal site:	$10 - $15 million
Total:	$550 Million

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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).

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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 require 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 Legislative Principles including Economic Vitality, Community Stability, and Health and Human Services. It will allow basins to retain their value as sources of 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

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

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Arts and Culture are a proven force in sustainable economic development and community vitality. Recent studies of arts at the national and state levels demonstrate arts and culture's significant role in civic and economic resilience. 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 constitutes 7.5 percent of the gross county product. Annually, the County's nonprofit arts sector provides almost 6,000 full-time-equivalent jobs for residents. Public art and local placemaking initiatives catalyze civic engagement, increase property values, and improve public safety. Engagement with the arts has also proven effective in supporting mental and physical health and wellbeing. 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.

Arts as an essential catalyst for economic growth, resilience, and workforce development

Art and the creative industries have proven to be invaluable as a tool in stimulating economic development, and neighborhood revitalization 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 can help to accelerate economic recovery and resilience across industries. The arts are uniquely able to grow independently from other sectors, which helps to diversify the economy and increase economic gains. It has been repeatedly demonstrated that arts employment per capita is directly correlated to economic growth in rural areas, including New Cuyama in Santa Barbara County.

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. Recent analyses of annual 990 tax forms filed by Santa Barbara County's arts nonprofit sector indicate that arts and culture nonprofits provided$131,421,000 in household income, spent $126,303,269 locally and generated almost $20 million dollars in tax revenue.

Creative Placemaking, Community Resilience and Cultural Equity

Arts and culture are critical elements of an equity framework; they reflect the assets of communities and enable cohesion. Equitable development brings a diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility lens to the community development field; using creative placemaking, these processes center the engagement of historically marginalized communities, including communities of color and low-income communities, in prioritizing, designing, and implementing their aspirations for the futures into the civic spaces and infrastructure 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, which has been repeatedly demonstrated by Santa Barbara County venues during times of disaster. Santa Barbara County and its municipalities are actively pursuing local arts placemaking efforts.

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

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. In California, one in ten jobs available to graduating students is part of the creative economy. Workforce needs 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 who 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 better prepare students for the evolving job market and new career paths, as well as encouraging them to stay in school. Every child should have access to opportunities for self-expression as part of their educational process. In addition to the mental health benefits of creative outlets, 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.

For every $1 spent on after-school programs, $9 is saved by reducing welfare and crime costs, improving academic performance, and increasing kids' earning potential. Arts as a tool for 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, increased livability and property values, and greater civic engagement. Public art can also catalyze tourism; in Santa Barbara County, Lompoc's murals and Santa Barbara's Funk Zone are actively documented and promoted as destinations. 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 the community. Arts and culture enable understanding of the past as well as the collective conception of a more equitable and just future. Arts and culture organizations and practitioners are uniquely poised to build social bridges in our communities.

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), as well as rural community development funding. 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 more equitable and relevant community development. Promote creativity and public access to the arts. Support funding to make creative and cultural engagement opportunities in local planning more equitable and accessible. Advocate for research to determine the economic impact of the creative sector. Pursue measures to provide continuing education and training 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 $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.

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RESILIENT INFRASTRUCUTRE - REGIONAL

Principle	
Community Sustainability	
Strategy	**Target**
Funding	Fed/State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

America underwent major expansion in transportation infrastructure in the post-WWII era and every decade since. While these expansions allowed for growth and increased quality of life, much of this infrastructure is now many decades old and in need of repair and susceptible to failure from recurring weather events from climate change. As result, roads, bridges, drainage facilities, and other public works often experience damage that could be mitigated with programmatic or project-based improvements to make facilities more resilient. In addition, resilient transportation facilities help ensure ingress and egress to areas affected during disasters.

REQUESTED ACTION

Advocate for and support funding programs for local agencies to retrofit and replace infrastructure to increase resiliency, such as drainage systems, bridges, and roadways.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/ IMPACT

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. The same facilities that are most susceptible to damage during storms and other disasters are also lifeline roads that provide the only access for emergency services and evacuations. Resilient roadways are critical to maintaining ingress and egress.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

This program is scalable. In Santa Barbara County, there are hundreds of small bridges and thousands of drainage structures. The majority of its infrastructure is over 50 years old and beyond its design life. There is a ~$150M backlog of need in the non-pavement transportation infrastructure. The majority of these facilities would benefit from resilient rehabilitation

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