



LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

December 11, 2014

11:00 A.M.

651 Pine Street, Room 101, Martinez

Supervisor Mary N. Piepho, Chair
Supervisor Karen Mitchoff, Vice Chair

Agenda Items:	Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Committee
--------------------------	--

1. Introductions
2. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to three minutes).
3. APPROVE the Record of Action for the November 6, 2014 meeting of the Legislation Committee.
4. ACCEPT the report on federal issues and analysis and provide direction to staff and federal advocate, as needed.
5. REVIEW the Proposed 2015 Federal Legislative Platform, provide direction to staff on any recommended changes, and RECOMMEND action to the Board of Supervisors.
6. ACCEPT the 2014 End-of-Session Report, prepared by Cathy Christian of Nielsen Merksamer, and the 2015 legislative preview, and provide direction to staff and the County's state advocate, as needed.
7. REVIEW the Proposed 2015 State Legislative Platform, provide direction to staff on any recommended changes, and RECOMMEND action to the Board of Supervisors.
8. Adjourn

The Legislation Committee will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend Legislation Committee meetings. Contact the staff person listed below at least 72 hours before the meeting.

Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the County to a majority of members of the Legislation Committee less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 651 Pine Street, 10th floor, during normal business hours.

Public comment may be submitted via electronic mail on agenda items at least one full work day

prior to the published meeting time.

For Additional Information Contact:

Lara DeLaney, Committee Staff
Phone (925) 335-1097, Fax (925) 646-1353
lara.delaney@cao.cccounty.us



Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

Subcommittee Report

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

3.

Meeting Date: 12/11/2014
Subject: Record of Action
Submitted For: LEGISLATION COMMITTEE,
Department: County Administrator
Referral No.: 2014-41
Referral Name: Record of Action
Presenter: L. DeLaney **Contact:** L. DeLaney, 925-335-1097

Referral History:

Record of Action for November 6, 2014.

Referral Update:

Record of Action for the November 6, 2014 meeting is attached.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

APPROVE the Record of Action for the Legislation Committee meeting of November 6, 2014.

Attachments

November 6, 2014 Record of Action



LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

RECORD OF ACTION

November 6, 2014

10:30 A.M.

651 Pine Street, Room 101, Martinez

Supervisor Mary N. Piepho, Chair
Supervisor Karen Mitchoff, Vice Chair

Agenda Items:

Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Committee

Present: Mary N. Piepho, Chair
Karen Mitchoff, Vice Chair

Staff Present: Lara DeLaney, Senior Deputy County Administrator
Vana Tran, CAO Senior Management Analyst
Ryan Hernandez, Contra Costa County Water Agency
John Cunningham, Department of Conservation and Development

1. Introductions
2. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to three minutes).

No public comment.

3. APPROVE the Record of Action for the Legislation Committee meeting of August 7, 2014.

The Record of Action for the August 7, 2014 meeting was approved as submitted.

AYE: Chair Mary N. Piepho, Vice Chair Karen Mitchoff
Passed

4. ACCEPT the report on 2014 state legislation of interest to Contra Costa County.

The Committee voted unanimously to accept the report on state legislation.

AYE: Chair Mary N. Piepho, Vice Chair Karen Mitchoff
Passed

5. REVIEW the Proposed 2015 State Legislative Platform, provide direction to staff on any recommended changes, and RECOMMEND action to the Board of Supervisors.

The Committee reviewed the proposed 2015 State Legislative Platform and provided direction to staff for the final draft to be reviewed in the December Committee meeting.

AYE: Chair Mary N. Piepho, Vice Chair Karen Mitchoff
Passed

6. REVIEW the Proposed 2015 Federal Legislative Platform, provide direction to staff on any recommended changes, and RECOMMEND action to the Board of Supervisors.

The Committee reviewed the proposed 2015 Federal Legislative Platform and provided direction to staff for the final draft to be reviewed in the December Committee meeting.

AYE: Chair Mary N. Piepho, Vice Chair Karen Mitchoff
Passed

7. ACCEPT the report from CSAC on statewide ballot measures and their impacts on counties.

The Committee voted unanimously to accept the report.

AYE: Chair Mary N. Piepho, Vice Chair Karen Mitchoff
Passed

8. The next meeting is currently scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014 at 10:30 a.m.
9. Adjourn

The Legislation Committee will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend Legislation Committee meetings. Contact the staff person listed below at least 72 hours before the meeting.

Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the County to a majority of members of the Legislation Committee less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 651 Pine Street, 10th floor, during normal business hours.

Public comment may be submitted via electronic mail on agenda items at least one full work day prior to the published meeting time.

For Additional Information Contact:

Lara DeLaney, Committee Staff
Phone (925) 335-1097, Fax (925) 646-1353
lara.delaney@cao.cccounty.us



Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

Subcommittee Report

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

4.

Meeting Date: 12/11/2014
Subject: Federal Legislative and Election Update
Submitted For: LEGISLATION COMMITTEE,
Department: County Administrator
Referral No.: 2014-25
Referral Name:
Presenter: L. DeLaney **Contact:**

Referral History:

Staff regularly provides the Legislation Committee with updates on federal legislative, policy, and political matters.

Referral Update:

From the CSAC Bulletin, Dec. 5, 2014:

"With very few legislative days remaining on the 2014 calendar, lawmakers returned to Washington, D.C. this week following a brief Thanksgiving holiday hiatus. Among the biggest issues left on the congressional agenda are a **fiscal year 2015 spending bill**, **defense policy legislation**, and a **tax extenders package**.

With funding for government programs currently operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) - which is set to expire on December 11 - House and Senate appropriators continued to meet throughout the week with hopes of resolving any outstanding issues. As of this writing, House Republican leaders are planning to combine 11 detailed spending bills into one final budget package, which would carry most government spending through next September. Funding for the Department of Homeland Security, however, would only be extended through February or March, a move intended as a rebuke to President Obama's recent Executive Order on immigration (see below for additional discussion on immigration).

It should be noted that if lawmakers are unable to reach a long-term spending agreement in the coming days, congressional leaders will be forced to resort to another short-term CR in order to avoid a government shutdown.

In addition to making tough decisions regarding spending levels for individual programs, appropriators are discussing the possibility of attaching various policy riders to the fiscal year 2015 budget. House Republicans, for example, are seeking to block several of the Obama administration's proposed regulations, including a joint proposal from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that seeks to expand the

definition of "Waters of the U.S." under the Clean Water Act. In addition, Republicans are looking to prevent EPA from finalizing a rule that would regulate greenhouse gas emissions from new and existing power plants.

Congressional Republicans also are pushing to include language in the final budget that would completely bar funding for the president's recent immigration executive order. Under the administration's policy, which was formally announced on November 20, millions of undocumented immigrants living in the United States would be temporarily shielded from deportation. On a related matter, and in separate action, the House approved on December 4 legislation (HR 5759) that would prohibit the White House from providing any deportation waivers to undocumented immigrants. The bill is not expected to be considered by the Democratic controlled Senate.

In other developments, the House on December 3 overwhelmingly approved legislation (HR 5771) that would extend more than 50 expired tax breaks for one additional year. Hopes of substituting a more ambitious two-year plan were squandered just prior to the House vote. The measure now moves to the Senate, which is expected to clear the legislation sometime next week.

With regard to the aforementioned defense policy legislation, the House on December 4 overwhelmingly approved HR 3937, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The \$577.1 billion measure, which the upper chamber will likely consider next week, would set the Pentagon's policy and funding levels for the remainder of the fiscal year. It should be noted that the bill is likely to face opposition from senators who are opposed to the inclusion of a number of unrelated public land provisions.

Of interest to a number of California counties, the Defense bill would allow the Pentagon to conduct an analysis of excess military infrastructure. While some see the study as a potential precursor to a future Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round, HR 3937 includes language that would expressly prohibit the Pentagon from initiating the politically painful process of closing domestic military bases.

Drought Legislation

Representative David Valadao (R-CA) introduced this week legislation designed to provide temporary drought relief to the parched Central Valley. The bill, which is a scaled-back version of an earlier measure (HR 3964) that passed the House on a near party-line vote, is cosponsored by several California House Republicans, as well as Representative Jim Costa (D-CA).

HR 5781 includes a number of provisions aimed at boosting water deliveries to drought-stricken areas of the state, including language that would provide federal resource agencies with additional operational flexibility. The bill also includes language stipulating that authorities under the legislation would expire on September 30, 2016 or the date the emergency drought declaration is lifted, whichever is later.

The measure, which cleared the House Rules Committee earlier this week, is expected to be on the House floor the week of December 8. While the legislation is likely to pass the lower chamber with strong support from California's Republican delegation, it faces stiff opposition from Northern California Democrats and Senator Boxer. For her part, Senator Feinstein - who earlier this year marshaled an alternative drought measure (S 228) through the Senate - has yet to

comment on the recast House bill.

Marketplace Fairness Act

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) this week reiterated that the lower chamber would not consider online sales tax legislation - the Marketplace Fairness Act (S 743) - before the end of the year. The measure, which the Senate approved in May 2013, would give states the ability to collect sales taxes from out-of-state Internet retailers.

Incidentally, House Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) is reportedly close to finalizing his own online sales tax proposal, but it is unclear when the legislation will be unveiled. Goodlatte has previously expressed concerns about the challenges faced by businesses in collecting and remitting sales taxes to a number of different jurisdictions. He also has expressed the need for safeguards to ensure that states cannot discriminate against out-of-state retailers.

Finally, in a related development, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) stated this week that lawmakers will likely reach an agreement before the end of the session on an extension of the Internet access tax moratorium, which expires next week. As of this writing, it appears that a temporary continuation of the access tax moratorium - lasting anywhere from a few months to a year - may be included in the aforementioned spending package."

Also attached is the 2014 Election Analysis of the County's federal advocates, Alcalde & Fay. (See *Attachment A*.)

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

ACCEPT the report and PROVIDE direction to staff, as needed.

Fiscal Impact (if any):

Unknown fiscal impact to the County.

Attachments

Attachment A: Alcalde & Fay Analysis

ALCALDE & FAY

GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONSULTANTS

EXPECTED COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN & RANKING MEMBERS

As you know, the mid-term election yielded significant Republican gains in both the House and Senate, which will change the Senate leadership and committees for the 114th Congress. In addition, several Chairman and Ranking Members will be retiring at the end of the year, or face Committee leadership term limits, further changing the composition of key committees. Although the Steering Committees for both parties will work to finalize Committee assignments by the time the new Congress convenes in January 2015, we have provided below a preliminary outlook of the expected Congressional leadership as well as the Chairs and Ranking Members for Committees of particular importance.

Congressional Leadership

- Expected Senate Majority Leader - Mitch McConnell (R-KY)
- Expected Senate Minority Leader - Harry Reid (D-NV)
- Expected Speaker of the House - John Boehner (R-OH)
- Expected House Majority Leader - Kevin McCarthy (R-CA)
- Expected House Majority Whip - Steve Scalise (R-LA)
- Expected House Minority Leader - Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)

Expected Senate Leadership of Committees of Importance

Appropriations

- Chairman: Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS) is expected to Chair the Committee; however, having previously led the committee from 2005 to 2007, he will be limited to four years as Chair.
- Ranking Member: Current Chair Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) is expected to serve as Ranking Member, unless Patrick Leahy (D-VT), who has more seniority, decides to leave his Leadership role on the Judiciary Committee in favor of Appropriations.

Budget

- Chairman: Current Ranking Member Jeff Sessions (R-AL) is expected to become Chair.
- Ranking Member: While Current Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) could serve as Ranking Member, she may opt to assume this role on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, where she is a frontrunner. If that were to happen, Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) is the next most senior, although he would almost

certainly choose to retain his leadership role on the Finance Committee. Next in line would be Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL), but similarly to Wyden, could choose to be ranking member of the Commerce Committee. The next most senior Democrat is Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), who herself could pass on this position in order to remain the top Democrat on Agriculture. Following Senator Stabenow, Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) is the fifth most senior Democrat.

Commerce

- Chairman: Current Ranking Member John Thune (R-SD) would likely become chair of the Commerce Committee.
- Ranking Member: With the retirement of current Chair Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), and Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), next most senior, expected to serve as Ranking Member of the Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) could become Ranking Member, potentially setting up a choice for Senator Nelson between a leadership role on the Commerce or Budget Committees. If Senator Nelson chooses the Budget Committee, Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) would be the next most senior Democrat.

Environment and Public Works

- Chairman: Senator James Inhofe (R-OK), having been replaced on the Armed Services Committee by Senator John McCain (R-AZ), is expected to Chair the EPW Committee; however, he would be limited to two years, having previously chaired the from 2003 to 2007. Senator Inhofe has been among the most vocal Members, both of his party and the full Senate, in support of earmarks.
- Ranking Member: Current Chair Barbara Boxer (D-CA) is expected to serve as Ranking Member.

Finance

- Chairman: Current Ranking Member Orrin Hatch (R-UT) is expected to be the Chair.
- Ranking Member: Current Chair Ron Wyden (D-OR) is expected to be the Ranking Member.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP)

- Chairman: Current Ranking Member Lamar Alexander (R-TN) is expected to serve as Chair.
- Ranking Member: Among the candidates to replace Tom Harkin (D-IA), who is retiring, as the HELP Committee's top democrat are Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT). As previously

noted, however, each of these members will have other Committee leadership positions to consider. The conventional wisdom has Senator Murray assuming this role.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

- Chairman: Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI) will likely succeed Tom Coburn (R-OK), who is retiring, as the Committee's top Republican.
- Ranking Member: Current Chair Tom Carper (D-DE) will likely serve as Ranking Member.

Veterans' Affairs:

- Chairman: Should current Ranking Member Richard Burr (R-NC) decide to chair the Intelligence Committee, as many expect, Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA) would Chair the committee.
- Ranking Member: While Current Chair Bernie Sanders (I-VT) could serve as Ranking Member, his departure to serve as Ranking Member of another Committee would mean that Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) would be next in line in terms of seniority, followed by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA).

Expected House Leadership of Committees of Importance

Appropriations

- Chairman: Chair Harold Rogers (R-KY) is expected to continue in this role.
- Ranking Member: Nita Lowey (D-NY) is expected to continue in this role.

Budget

- Chairman: Current Vice Chairman Tom Price (R-GA) is likely to become Chair of the full Committee, as current Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) is expected to chair the Ways and Means Committee.
- Ranking Member: Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) is expected to retain this role.

Education and the Workforce

- Chairman: Current Chair John Kline (R-MN) is expected to seek a waiver to serve a fourth term as the Committee's Chairman; if denied, Congresswoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC) would likely become Chair.
- Ranking Member: Congressman Bobby Scott (D-VA) has announced that he will seek to become the Committee's Ranking Member, as current Chairman George Miller (D-CA) is retiring.

Energy and Commerce

- Chairman: Current Chair Fred Upton (R-MI) is expected to continue in this role.
- Ranking Member: Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (D-CA) is expected to fill this position, as current Ranking Member Henry Waxman (D-CA) is retiring.

Homeland Security

- Chairman: Current Chair Michael McCaul (R-TX) is expected to continue in this role.
- Ranking Member: Bennie Thompson (D-MS) is expected to continue in this role.

Transportation and Infrastructure

- Chairman: Current Chair Bill Shuster (R-PA) is expected to continue in this role.
- Ranking Member: With the defeat of long-time Congressman Nick Rahall (D-WV), Congresswoman Peter DeFazio (D-OR), as the Committee's most senior Democrat, is in line for this position. Congressman Garamendi (D-Walnut Grove) has indicated that he will challenge DeFazio for this position

Veterans' Affairs

- Chairman: Current Chair Jeff Miller (R-FL) is rumored as a potential Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee following the retirement of current Chairman Mike Rogers (R-MI). Potential replacements for Miller include the following: the Committee's current Vice Chair Gus Bilirakis (R-FL); Doug Lamborn (R-CO); Phil Roe (R-TN); and Bill Flores (R-TX).
- Ranking Member: With the departure of Michael Michaud (D-ME), Congresswoman Corrine Brown (D-FL), the Committee's next most senior Democrat, will likely assume this role.

Ways and Means

- Chairman: With the retirement of current Chair Dave Camp (R-MI), Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) is expected to move to Chair this committee; however, Congressman Kevin Brady (R-TX), who holds more seniority on the Committee than Congressman Ryan, has announced he will seek the Chairmanship.
- Ranking Member: Sander Levin (D-MI) is expected to continue in this role.

LAME-DUCK CONGRESSIONAL FORECAST

The House and Senate will return to Washington next week for the final weeks of the 113th Congress. With a majority in both chambers when the new Congress convenes in January, the Republican Party's leadership will likely avoid any major policy disputes

during the lame duck session. Instead, they are keen to push more divisive policy discussions into the New Year, when circumstances will be more favorable to the Party.

These circumstances notwithstanding, there are a few issues of particular importance that are likely to be addressed during the lame duck session, and we have outlined these below.

Fiscal Year 2015 Appropriations

Prior to adjourning for the November elections, Congress approved a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the federal government at Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 levels until December 11, 2014. As such, a top priority for Congress during the lame duck session will be to fund the federal government beyond the CR's expiration, either through another short-term CR or with a full-year omnibus (and perhaps CR) appropriations bill that would incorporate all 12 spending bills. During recent conversations with staff from the House Appropriations Committee, we were informed that House Appropriations Chairman Harold Rogers (R-KY) has been pushing Congressional leadership, including Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) with whom he has been campaigning in Kentucky, to move forward with an Omnibus bill during the lame duck session. Furthermore, the Chairman recently indicated that Committee staff has been working during the past several weeks to negotiate various conflicts between the House and Senate versions of the 12 appropriations bills.

At this time, it seems more than likely that the Republican leadership will agree that their best path forward on this issue will be to clear the slate of appropriations bills for FY 2015 during the lame duck, thus allowing the incoming Republican-controlled Congress to start the FY 2016 process fresh. Chairman Rogers noted that this strategy would allow for Republicans to avoid repeating "old fights (*and*) we could look forward to making positive changes."

There had been some concern that, if Republicans were to win control of the Senate in the elections, the party would simply push any debate on the FY 2015 Appropriations bills until after the new Congress convened in January, 2015. However, after Senator Ted Cruz's failed attempt to garner support for this strategy during CR negotiations in September, the Republican leadership in both chambers will likely opt for advancing an Omnibus appropriations bill.

Marketplace Fairness Act

Before adjourning for the November elections, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) indicated that passing the Marketplace Fairness Act (MFA) is one of his top legislative priorities for the post-election lame duck session. This legislation would address a loophole in the current tax code by effectively allowing state and local governments to collect sales tax on online and remote sales, which they are already owed under current law. The bipartisan legislation provides a pathway for states and localities across the country to collect an estimated \$23 billion annually in uncollected tax revenue by collecting taxes already owed. In all likelihood the MFA will be paired with an extension of the Internet Tax Freedom Act, which prevents local governments from collecting a tax on Internet access. Bipartisan legislation (*Marketplace and Internet Tax Fairness Act, or MITFA, S. 2609*) combining these bills was previously introduced on July 15, 2014, by Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Richard Durbin (D-IL), Mike Enzi (R-WY) and Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), and this would be the likely legislative vehicle for enacting the MFA during the lame duck.

Immigration Reform

The President has indicated that an executive order dealing with immigration is likely to be announced in the post-election period, and recent reports indicate the order could provide a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants who are currently living in the United States, increase federal assistance for border security, and address the increase in unaccompanied minors crossing the border. The precise timing of the order remains unclear.

Agreement between the House and Senate on the best path forward with regard to immigration reform legislation has, thus far, been elusive. The Senate passed its comprehensive bipartisan immigration reform bill in the summer of 2013 (*Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, S.744*); however, the House has yet to address the bill because of strong opposition from House Republicans.

Regardless of when the President issues his executive order, it is likely to be met with harsh criticism from Congressional Republicans already pursuing legal action against the President for what they deem to be his persistent use of “executive overreach.”

Tax Extenders

Congress will also likely address the more than 50 expired tax incentives, along with several scheduled to expire at the end of year, commonly referred to as “tax extenders,” which would need to be renewed in order for them to be utilized in 2015 filings. Both the House and the Senate have introduced legislation to extend or in some cases make permanent certain expiring tax incentives and provisions. The most likely option for the lame duck session will be the Expiring Provisions Improvement, Reform, and Efficiency Act of 2014, or EXPIRE Act (S. 2260), a catch-all bill that provides a two-year extension for more than 50 of the provisions, while eliminating or consolidating several others. However, the Administration has publicly opposed the bill due to its lack of a clear pay-for, and Senate Republicans may choose to renegotiate the terms of this legislation, which recent reports have indicated could include a permanent extension of several business and research tax credits.



Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

Subcommittee Report

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

5.

Meeting Date: 12/11/2014
Subject: Proposed 2015 Federal Legislative Platform
Submitted For: LEGISLATION COMMITTEE,
Department: County Administrator
Referral No.: 2014-43
Referral Name: Proposed 2015 Federal Legislative Platform
Presenter: L. DeLaney **Contact:** L. DeLaney, 925-335-1097

Referral History:

Each fall, the County Administrator's Office initiates the development of the coming year's State and Federal Legislative platforms by inviting members of the Board of Supervisors, Department Heads and key staff, and our federal advocate, Alcalde & Fay, to provide recommended changes or additions to the current, adopted Platforms.

In October, departments were invited to provide suggested changes to the Federal Platform by submitting input in writing.

The Legislation Committee reviewed a draft document at its November meeting and provided direction to staff. The Proposed 2015 Federal Platform includes additional refinements and is presented for consideration by the Legislation Committee. A final Platform is expected for action by the Board of Supervisors in January 2015.

Referral Update:

Amendments from the first draft 2015 Federal Platform include for the Committee's consideration and direction the following in the Proposed 2015 Federal Platform for adoption by the Board of Supervisors:

- The County would also support federal funding for the rehabilitation and replacement of rail bridges.
- ***Northern Waterfront Initiative*** – support funding for a short-line railroad feasibility study for the Northern Waterfront Corridor and a Land-Use Cost-Benefit/Fiscalization study for the Northern Waterfront.
- **SUPPORT** full funding of the Federal Medicaid program. Medicaid provides access to health care for people whose income and resources are insufficient to pay for health care. It is jointly funded by Federal and State governments. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act significantly expanded both eligibility for and federal funding of Medicaid. Support full funding of Medicaid by the Federal government.

- **Rail Safety** – Contra Costa County is home to a substantial oil refinery industry with four refineries located in the County. The County supports Senator Heitkamp’s *Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Act, S. 2547*, which would establish a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) panel focused on railroad incident first responders. By bringing together under FEMA’s National Advisory Council all relevant agencies, emergency responders, technical experts, and the private sector for a review of training, resources, best practices, and unmet needs related to emergency responders to railroad hazmat incidents, the RESPONSE Act will begin the process of addressing shortcomings in existing emergency response practices and procedures. It will also address the effectiveness of funding levels related to training local emergency responders for rail hazardous materials incidents.

The County also supports FEMA funding for the training of first responders, regulations that increase tank car safety standards for cars transporting crude oil and other hazardous materials, and regulations that require railroads to share data with state emergency managers and local responders.

- **SparkPoint, Service Integration** – The County will support federal funding for the establishment and operation of SparkPoint and Service Integration models. SparkPoint Centers are one-stop, financial-education centers that help individuals and families who are struggling to make ends meet. SparkPoint helps clients address immediate financial crises, get them back on their feet, and build financial security. Each center brings together a full range of services at one convenient location, including job training, career development and financial coaching, as well as access to higher education and savings accounts. The Contra Costa County Service Integration Program co-locates county and non-profit agency service providers and community residents in neighborhood-based family service centers to provide accessible, coordinated public services tailored to meet the specific needs and goals of low-income families, while also engaging families in resident-driven efforts to revitalize their communities.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

REVIEW the Proposed 2015 Federal Legislative Platform, provide direction to staff on any recommended changes, and RECOMMEND action to the Board of Supervisors.

Attachments

2015 Proposed Federal Platform



Proposed 2015 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Contra Costa County



2015 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Each year, the Board of Supervisors adopts a Federal Legislative Platform that establishes priorities and policy positions with regard to potential federal legislation and regulation. The 2015 Federal Legislative Platform identifies 10 funding needs for FFY 2016; and 4 requests for the reauthorization of the federal transportation act.

FEDERAL RELATED FUNDING NEEDS

The following list is a preliminary ranking in priority order. Adjustments to the priority order may be appropriate once the President releases his budget. The current priority ranking gives preference to those projects that we know will not be included in the President's budget, with lower priority to Army Corps of Engineers projects which may be in the budget. Also, Army Corps project requests will be adjusted to be consistent with Corps capability.

1. Delta LTMS-Pinole Shoal Management, CA – \$4,500,000 for the Army Corps of Engineers to continue a Long Term Management Strategy (LTMS) for levee rehabilitation, dredging and sediment reuse in the Delta, similar to the effort completed in the Bay area. Levee work, reuse of dredged sediments, dredging and other activities have been difficult to accomplish due to permitting problems and a divergence of priorities related to water quality. Significant levee rehabilitation is critical to the long term stability of these levees and to water quality and supply for the 23 million Californians who depend upon this water. Stakeholders from the Department of Water Resources, Ports, Army Corps, levee reclamation districts, local governments and other interested parties are participating in the LTMS. A Sediment or Dredged Material Management Office will be established, and in the longer term, preparation of a Sediment Management Plan will consider beneficial reuse of dredged materials as one potential source of sediment for levees. (Note: \$500,000 appropriated for FFY 2005; \$225,000 for FFY 2006; \$500,000 for FFY 2007; \$462,000 for FFY 2008; \$235,000 for FFY 2009; \$100,000 for FFY 2010; \$0 **FFY 2011-2013; \$930,000 FFY 2014.**)

2. Safe and Bright Futures for Children Exposed to Domestic Violence – \$400,000 to implement the federally funded plan to diminish the damaging effects of domestic violence on children and adolescents and to stop the cycle of intentional injury and abuse. A three year assessment and planning process resulted in a program plan that is working to align and create a system responsive to the needs of children exposed to domestic violence through identification, early intervention; raising awareness; training professionals; utilizing and disseminating data; establishing consultation teams to support providers in intervening and using best practices; and developing targeted services. Exposure to domestic violence reshapes the human brain and is the primary cause of trauma in children's lives. It influences personality, shapes personal skills and behaviors, impacts academic performance, and substantially contributes to the high cost of law enforcement, civil/criminal justice and social services. Exposure to domestic violence is associated with greater rates of substance abuse, mental illness, and adverse health outcomes in adulthood, and substantially contributes to the high cost of law enforcement, civil/criminal justice and social services. (Note: \$428,000 appropriated for FFY 2009; \$550,000 for FFY 2010.)

3. Mt. Diablo Mercury Mine Clean-up – **\$483,000** for the Army Corps of Engineers to complete the Technical Planning Process for the **cleanup project at the source and downstream area of the** Mt. Diablo Mercury Mine. The project will clean up the mine in a cost effective, environmentally-sound manner with minimal liability exposure for the County and involving all stakeholders through an open community-based process. The Corps initiated a Technical Planning Process in June 2008 to develop a preliminary remediation plan, identify applicable permit and environmental data requirements and complete a data collection and documentation program for the clean-up of the **area impacted by the** Mt. Diablo Mercury Mine. Several phases of the planning process have been completed, and this appropriation will allow the Corps to continue the planning process, which will include looking at watershed issues downstream of the mercury mine. The mine site is located on private property on the northeast slope of Mt. Diablo at the upper end of the Marsh Creek watershed. (Note: \$517,000 appropriated in FFY 2008.)

4. Bay-Delta Area Studies, Surveys and Technical Analysis – **\$2,500,000** for the Delta Counties Coalition to carry out technical analysis and planning associated with participation in the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) or implementation of any projects resulting from the Plan. The technical analysis and planning will focus on issues related to the planning of water delivery projects and conservation plans that are included in the BDCP.

5. CALFED Bay Delta Reauthorization Act Levee Stability Improvement Program (LSIP) – **\$8,000,000** for the Army Corps of Engineers for levee rehabilitation planning and project implementation. The CALFED Reauthorization Act, passed in January 2004, authorized \$90 million, which may be appropriated for levee rehabilitation work. The Corps has prepared a “180-Day Report” which identifies projects and determines how these funds would be spent. Since that time, the breakdown of CALFED, coupled with the Army Corps’ attempts to define an appropriate and streamlined process, has delayed funding and resultant levee work. (Note: \$500,000 appropriated for FFY 2006; \$400,000 for FFY 2007; \$4.92M for FFY 2008; \$4.844M for FFY 2010.)

6. Suisun Bay Channel/New York Slough Maintenance Dredging – **\$8,700,000** for the Army Corps of Engineers for maintenance dredging of this channel to the authorized depth of minus 35 feet. Continued maintenance is essential for safe transport of crude oil and other bulk materials through the San Francisco Bay, along the Carquinez Straits and into the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta. Dredging for this channel section is particularly costly due to requirements on placement of dredged materials in upland environments. An oil tanker ran aground in early 2001 due to severe shoaling in a section of this channel, which creates a greater potential for oil spills (Note: \$4.559 M appropriated for FFY 2005; \$4.619M for FFY 2006; \$2.82M for FFY 2007; \$2.856M for FFY 2008; \$2.768M for FFY 2009; \$3.819M for FFY 2010; \$2.715M for FFY 2012; \$2.495M for FFY 2013; \$2.026M for FFY 2014.)

7. San Pablo/Mare Island Strait/Pinole Shoal Channel Maintenance Dredging – **\$8,400,000** for the Army Corps of Engineers for maintenance dredging of the channel to the authorized depth of minus 35 feet. The Pinole Shoal channel is a major arterial for vessel transport through the San Francisco Bay region, serving oil refineries and bulk cargo which is transported as far east as Sacramento and Stockton. (Note: \$1M appropriated for FFY 2005; \$2.988M for FFY 2006; \$896,000 for FFY 2007; \$1.696M for FFY 2008; \$1.058M for FFY 2009; \$2.518M for FFY 2010; \$3.402M for FFY 2012; \$499,000 for FFY 2013; \$780,000 for FFY 2014.)

8. San Francisco to Stockton (J. F. Baldwin and Stockton Channels) Ship Channel Deepening – **\$2,700,000** for the Army Corps of Engineers to continue the Deepening Project. Deepening and minor realignment of this channel will allow for operational efficiencies for many different industries, an increase in waterborne goods movement, reduced congestion on roadways, and air quality benefits. This work focused on establishing economic benefit to the nation and initial salinity modeling in the channel sections. The following steps include detailed channel design, environmental documentation, cost analysis, additional modeling, and dredged material disposal options. This project continues to have enormous implications for oil refineries, ports, and other industries that depend on safe ship transport through the channel. (Note: \$500,000 appropriated for FFY 2005; \$200,000 for FFY 2006; \$200,000 for FFY 2007; \$403,000 for FFY 2008; \$1.34M for FFY 2009; \$0 for FFY 2010; \$0 for FFY 2011; \$800,000 for FFY 2012; \$1,546,900 for FFY 2013; \$800,000 for FFY 2014.)

9. State Route 4 / Old River Bridge Study – **\$1,000,000** to work with San Joaquin County and the State of California on a study of improving or replacing the Old River Bridge along State Route 4 on the Contra Costa / San Joaquin County line. The study would determine a preferred alternative for expanding or replacing the existing bridge, which is part of State Route 4. The existing bridge is narrow, barely allowing two vehicles to pass each other, and is aligned on a difficult angle relative to the highway on either side, requiring motorists to make sharp turns onto and off of the bridge. The project would improve safety and traffic flow over the bridge. (Note: no appropriations for this project as yet.)

10. Knightsen/Byron Area Transportation Study - **\$300,000** to re-evaluate the Circulation Element of the County General Plan (GP) to improve its consistency with the Urban Limit Line (ULL) and related policies that ensure preservation of non-urban, agricultural, open space and other areas identified outside the ULL. Policies will be evaluated to provide a more efficient and affordable circulation system for the study area, serve all transportation user-groups, support the local agricultural economy and accommodate the commuter traffic destined for employment centers outside the study area. Zoning and development regulations would be updated to implement the study recommendations.

REAUTHORIZATION OF FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ACT

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), expired in 2009. SAFETEA-LU was renewed on ten occasions until the new program, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) - a two year bill – was signed into law on July 6, 2012. MAP-21 is a 27-month bill that expired September 30, 2014 and was reauthorized until May 2015. The following are priority projects for which funding will need to be secured in the next multi-year transportation bill.

1. Vasco Road Safety Improvement Project -- **\$18 million** for improvements to a 2.5-mile accident-prone section of Vasco Road. Project components include widening the roadway to accommodate a concrete median barrier and shoulders on either side of the barrier, construction of the barrier, and extension of an existing passing lane. The project will eliminate cross-median accidents which have caused numerous fatalities in recent years, and will provide increased opportunities for vehicles to safely pass (unsafe passing is a major cause of accidents and fatalities on this segment of the increasingly busy two-lane undivided road). The project will include provisions for wildlife undercrossings to preserve migration patterns. The proposed

improvements will complement a \$10 million completed project that was funded with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds.

1.b Vasco Road Safety Improvement Project Continuation -- **\$30 million** for improvements to the remaining 9 miles of accident-prone sections of Vasco Road. Alameda County has been working on constructing improvements in their jurisdiction and it would be desirable for the two counties to work together to complete the gap left in the concrete median barrier near the County line. In addition to completing this gap, Contra Costa desires to extend the concrete median barrier further north of the recently completed median barrier project to the Camino Diablo Road intersection.

2. North Richmond Truck Route -- **\$25 million** to construct a new road or other alternate access improvements that will provide truck access between businesses and the Richmond Parkway, moving the truck traffic away from a residential neighborhood and elementary school. This project will increase safety, improve public health around the school and residential area by reducing diesel particulate emissions from those areas, increase livability of the neighborhood, improve local access to the Wildcat Creek Regional Trail, stimulate economic development in the industrial area of the community and provide a better route for trucks traveling to and from the Richmond Parkway. Several potential alignments have been identified, one of which was developed through a community planning process funded through an Environmental Justice planning grant from Caltrans.

3. Eastern Contra Costa Trail Network -- **\$11 million** for a joint planning, environmental review, right-of-way acquisition and constructions of a coordinated network of trails for walking, bicycling and equestrian uses in eastern Contra Costa County including facilities and projects improving access to existing or planned transit stations. Eligible trails include, but are not limited to: (1) the Mokelumne Trail overcrossing of the State Route 4 Bypass (\$6 million); (2) Contra Costa segments of the Great California Delta Trail (\$3 million); (3) a transit supportive network of East Contra Costa trails in unincorporated County areas and the cities of Antioch, Brentwood, Oakley and Pittsburg (\$1 million); and Marsh Creek Corridor Multi-Use Path (\$1 million).

4. eBART Extension Next Phase Study/Environmental and Engineering -- **\$10 million** for environmental review and engineering work on the project identified in the Bay Area Rapid Transit District's (BART) eBART Next Segment Study in eastern Contra Costa County. With regard to additional stations and eBART rail corridor alignment tasks may include, but not necessarily be limited to, completion of environmental review, and partial completion of engineering. Additional work may include, but not necessarily be limited to, evaluation and refinement of alignment and stations, development of capital and operating costs, land use analysis, completion of environmental review including appropriate mitigations, development of preliminary engineering, and public outreach. (Potential Program: FTA – New Starts, FHWA/FTA Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality)

➤ **Rural Road Funding Program** – The County supports the creation of a new funding program that will provide funds for converting or upgrading rural roads into more modern and safer roads that can better handle increasing commuter traffic in growing areas, such as East County. These roads do not often compete well in current grant programs because they do not carry as many

vehicles as roads in more congested urban or suburban areas. As a result, improvements such as widenings (turn lanes, clear zone/recovery areas, etc.), realignments, drainage improvements and intersection modifications often go unfunded, leaving such roads with operational and safety problems as well as insufficient capacity.

- **Transportation Funding for Disabled, Low-income, and Elderly Persons** – Transit services for elderly, disabled, and low-income persons are provided by the County, by some cities, by all of the bus transit operators, and by many community organizations and non-profits that provide social services. Increased funding is needed to provide and maintain more service vehicles, operate them longer throughout the day, upgrade the vehicle fleet and dispatching systems, improve coordination between public providers and community groups that also provide such services to their clients, and expand outreach programs to inform potential riders of the available services, among other needs. The County supports continuation and increased funding levels for federal funding programs dedicated to transit services for these population groups. All of the demographic trends point to a growing need for such services in the future. For example, the 65-and-older population in the Bay Area is projected to more than double by the year 2030.
- **Surface Transportation Program/Highway Bridge Funding** – The County supports the continuation of funding levels consistent with the Highway Bridge funding program in previous transportation funding bills that will provide funds for rehabilitating and replacing our aging bridges. The County has several aging bridges with deficient sufficiency ratings. Without federal transportation funding, these expensive projects would be deferred because they often exceed the County's funding capacity. Many of the bridges are on critical commute corridors, goods movement corridors, inter-regional routes, and farm to market routes. Failure of these important transportation assets can cause major disruptions to the transportation network. The County would also support federal funding for the rehabilitation and replacement of rail bridges.

APPROPRIATIONS AND GRANTS – SUPPORT POSITIONS

The following support positions are listed in alphabetic order and do not reflect priority order. Please note that new and revised positions are highlighted.

Buchanan Field Airport – The County approved a Master Plan for the Buchanan Field Airport in October 2008, which includes a Federal Aviation Regulation Part 150 Noise Study and a Business Plan for project implementation. The comprehensive planning effort has ideally positioned Buchanan Field Airport for future aviation (general aviation, corporate aviation and commercial airline service) and aviation-related opportunities. To facilitate the economic development potential, the Business Plan prioritizes necessary infrastructure improvements for Buchanan Field Airport (including potential replacement of the 60 year old control tower). Further, as the Airport is surrounded by urban residential uses, enhancing the noise program infrastructure is deemed essential for balancing the aviation needs with those of the surrounding communities. The Federal government, primarily through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), provides funding for planning, analysis, and infrastructure improvements. The County will support funding in all these areas for protection and enhancement of our aviation facility and network.

Byron Airport – The Byron Airport is poised for future general and corporate aviation and aviation-related development, but that future growth and full build out of the airport as shown in the Master Plan is dependent upon utility and infrastructure improvements both on and around the Airport. The Byron Airport Business Plan prioritizes infrastructure and possible additional land acquisition to assist the Byron Airport in fulfilling its aviation and economic development potential. The Federal government, primarily through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), provides funding for planning, analysis, infrastructure improvements and aviation land acquisition. The County will support funding in all these areas for protection and enhancement of our aviation facility and network.

East Bay Regional Communication System (EBRCS) – A project to build the East Bay Regional Communication System (EBRCS), a P25 Radio System infrastructure for Contra Costa and Alameda County. This system will provide interoperable voice communication in both the 800 MHz and 700 MHz frequencies to all public safety and public services agencies within Contra Costa County and Alameda County.

EBRCS will allow for interoperable voice communication within the region that can be integrated with other P25 radio systems outside the geographical area of the EBRCS, for example, with San Francisco. This project will provide Level 5 communications which is the highest level of interoperable communications. This project will allow for everyday interoperable communications, not just various levels of interoperability during big events or disasters in which radio caches are deployed or gateway devices used.

Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program – Advocate/support funding up to or above the authorized amount of \$2 billion for the EECBG Program established and authorized under the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007. The County's ability to continue offering programs/services improving energy efficiency and conservation while also creating jobs is contingent upon additional federal funding being appropriated to the EECBG Program in 2012 and beyond. Contra Costa and other local governments have identified and designed many successful programs and financial incentives targeting both the private and public sector which are now being implemented using EECBG funding authorized through the ARRA of 2009. Funding for the EECBG program is necessary to ensure the nation's local governments can continue their leadership in creating clean energy jobs, reducing energy consumption and curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

Kirker Pass Road Truck Climbing Lanes – \$4.5 million for constructing northbound and \$20 million for constructing southbound truck climbing lanes on Kirker Pass Road, a heavily used arterial linking residential areas in eastern Contra Costa with job centers and the freeway system in central Contra Costa. The truck climbing lanes are needed to improve traffic flow and will also have safety benefits. The \$4.5 million will close a funding gap and augment secured funding: \$6 million in Measure J (local sales tax measure) funds and \$2.6 million in State Transportation Improvement Program funds. The \$20 million is the total cost of the southbound truck climbing lane segment.

Northern Waterfront Initiative – support funding for a short-line railroad feasibility study for the Northern Waterfront Corridor and a Land-Use Cost-Benefit/Fiscalization study for the Northern Waterfront.

Regional Habitat Planning and Conservation – \$85 million to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s “Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund” to keep pace with land costs and the increasing number of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) throughout the country. The County will support funding for the Fund to be restored to \$85 million, the 2010 funding level. This will provide much needed support to regional HCPs in California and nationally, including the East Contra Costa County HCP. Given the prolific growth in the number of regional HCPs, the Fund needs to be increased even more substantially in subsequent years. The East Contra Costa County HCP has received \$35.5 million from the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund in the past eight years and continuing this grant support is of vital importance to the successful implementation of that Plan. The County will pursue increasing appropriations to the Fund in partnership with numerous counties in northern and southern California and will support requests of the California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition to increase the Fund up to \$85 million. The County will also request that the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) include this Fund increase as a priority on CSAC’s federal platform.

San Francisco Bay Improvement Act – \$1 billion restoration bill authored by Congresswoman Jackie Speier in 2010 but not passed. The bill, if passed, will help finance restoration of more than 100,000 acres of the Bay's tidal wetlands. Funds from the bill would implement a restoration plan that was adopted in 1993. In addition to benefits for fish and wildlife, wetlands restoration will create new jobs and provide regional economic infusions, as well as protect against the effects of sea level rise on the Bay's shores.

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area – a bill authored by Senator Dianne Feinstein in 2010 but not passed. The bill, if passed, will authorize and fund a National Heritage Area (NHA) for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The NHA designation would be a first step in providing federal resources to agencies in the Delta for economic development and environmental protection. *Contra Costa County supports the legislation and participated in a feasibility study for the NHA through our seat on the Delta Protection Commission, which completed the study in 2012.*

Vasco Road-Byron Highway Connector – \$30 million for design, engineering and construction of an east-west connector road between two major arterials that link Contra Costa County with Alameda and San Joaquin Counties. The Vasco Road-Byron Highway Connector will improve traffic circulation and linkages in the southeastern portion of the County and will provide a new route for truck traffic that will remove a significant portion of truck trips which currently pass through the rural community of Byron. Vasco Road is designated as State Route 84, and Byron Highway is under study as the potential alignment for future State Route 239.

2015 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM POLICY POSITIONS

*The following support positions are listed in alphabetic order and do not reflect priority order. Please note that new and revised policy positions are **highlighted**.*

Affordable Housing and Homeless Programs –For Housing and Urban Development (HUD)’s Homeless Assistance Grants, the County will support funding that does not include set-asides or other requirements that limit local communities’ ability to respond to the particular needs in their areas. For the Housing Assistance for People with AIDS (HOPWA) program, the County will support legislation to update the formula used to allocate HOPWA grants to reflect local housing costs as well as the number of AIDS cases.

The County supports full funding for HUD homeless assistance programs and funding for full implementation of the Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009.

The County supports funding the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Resources made available through the Trust Fund should be accessible to local housing and community development agencies, including public housing authorities. As the **recent** home mortgage crisis demonstrates, homeownership is not for everyone. While we value and support the role that homeownership plays in meeting affordable housing needs, any new production program should prioritize efforts to address our nation’s acute shortage of affordable rental housing.

Agricultural Pest and Disease Control – Agriculture and native environments in Contra Costa County continue to be threatened by a variety of invasive/exotic pests, diseases and non-native weeds. The Federal government provides funding for research, regulation, pest exclusion activities, survey and detection, pest management, weed control, public education and outreach. The County will support funding in all these areas for protection of our agricultural industry and open space. Consistent with the policy position, the County will also support legislation which would authorize and direct the USDA to provide state and local funding for High Risk Prevention programs (also called Pest Detection Funding).

Beneficial Use of Dredged Materials – As the beneficial reuse of dredged materials has a clear public benefit, particularly in the Delta, the County will continue to support beneficial reuse in general and also continue to advocate for funding for a federal study to determine the feasibility of beneficial reuse, considering the benefits and impacts to water quality and water supply in the Delta, navigation, flood control damage, ecosystem restoration, and recreation. The study would include the feasibility of using Sherman Island as a rehandling site for the dredged material, for levee maintenance and/or ecosystem restoration. Language to authorize the study was included in the Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) which was passed into law on November 8, 2007.

Child Care – Research continues to show that quality, affordable childcare is a necessity to ensuring a family’s stability and economic success. Currently in Contra Costa County, there are over 10,000 low-income children eligible for affordable childcare services, yet only 29% of that need is met. Research also shows that in addition to a child’s long-term success with school and

employment, investing in high-quality early care and education results in a higher than average return on investments in the areas of crime reduction and positive health, education and economic outcomes.

With regards to childcare, the County will support the President's "Preschool for All" Initiative meant to close America's school readiness gap and ensure all children have access to quality care by expanding high quality learning opportunities for children 0-5. This proposal includes:

- An increase of over 100,000 new childcare slots and \$12 billion over the next 10 years;
- A focus on children and their families who are at or below 200% of poverty;
- Financing through a new cost-sharing partnership with states, already a proven successful model with Head Start in Contra Costa County.

The County will also advocate for the following federal actions:

- Increase funding to support employment of low-income families through greater access to child care subsidies, and increase the access of children from eligible families to high-quality care that supports positive child development outcomes.
- Provide flexibility at the state and local levels so that quality care can be balanced with access and parental choice.

Child Support –The County will advocate for the following federal actions:

- Eliminate the \$25 fee for non-IV-A families.
- Restore the incentive match payments that were prohibited in the Deficit Reduction Act.
- Allow the automatic use of cash medical support to reimburse Medicaid expenditures.
- Allow IV-D agencies to access Health Insurance records for the purposes of Medical Support.

Child Welfare and Well-being –The County will advocate for the following federal actions:

- Provide states with financial incentives, as opposed to monetary penalties, under the Child and Family Services Reviews and minimize the significant administrative burden associated with the review process.
- End Title IV-E disallowances from federal audits that take away funds from an already resource-strapped child welfare system. Allow states to reinvest these funds in preventing child abuse and neglect.

- Increase prevention dollars to help maintain children safely in their own homes. Federal funding currently gives disproportional support to out-of-home care rather than to preventing children from coming into care.
- Any increase in Federal Medical Assistance Percentage should include an associated increase in the Title IV-E matching rate to help support children in foster care.

Community Development Block Grant and HOME Programs – The County’s ability to continue funding to a variety of nonprofit agencies that provide critical safety net services to lower income residents, including financing the development of affordable housing is threatened by further cuts as part of the Budget Control Act (Act) passed by Congress in July 2011. The Act established mandatory spending caps on most federal programs through 2021, and arranged additional across-the-board annual spending cuts to federal defense and non-defense discretionary (NDD) programs over this same period.

Included in non-defense discretionary programs are critical local government oriented programs including the CDBG and HOME programs. These programs are successful and productive, leveraging significant funding from non-federal sources to help spur economic development. The County agrees that reducing the federal deficit is an important component of achieving long-term national economic stability, but targeting solely NDD programs like the CDBG and HOME programs will not achieve significant reductions and will hinder the County’s ability to provide critical services to its most vulnerable populations. The County will continue to oppose any further reductions in the CDBG and HOME programs as part of the Budget Control Act or any other means.

Cost Shifts to Local and State Government – Contra Costa County performs many of its services and programs pursuant to federal direction and funding. Other services and programs are performed at the behest of the state, which receives funding through the federal government. In the past, the Administration’s budget has contained significant cuts to entitlement programs and/or caps on entitlements. Such actions could shift cost of services from the federal government to the state and/or local governments (and to the extent that costs would shift to the state, it is highly likely that these would be passed on to the County). The County will oppose any actions that would result in cost shifts on federal entitlement programs or which would result on greater dependency on county funded programs. In addition, the County will support federal and state financial assistance to aid county and local government efforts to meet unfunded federal mandates, such as those contained in the National Response Plan (NRP), the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP), and the National Incident Management System.

Criminal Debt Collection – Nonpayment of court-ordered victim restitution, fines and fees is a problem of epidemic proportions for all jurisdictions. Literally billions of dollars go uncollected each year across the country, resulting not only in financial suffering of victims, but also the loss of public revenue. Many states already allow for the offset of State Tax Refunds, and these programs are successful in achieving revenue recovery. Federal Tax Refunds are already being successfully offset to pay for delinquent child support. The County will support amendments to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an offset against income tax refunds to pay for court-ordered debts that are past-due.

Delta Water Platform

To protect the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta from various detrimental forces that are affecting its health and resources, it is the policy of Contra Costa County to support implementation of projects and actions that will help improve the Delta ecosystem and the economic conditions of the Delta. Contra Costa County has developed a Delta Water Platform to identify and promote activities and policy positions that support the creation of a healthy Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Contra Costa County will use this Platform to guide its own actions and advocacy in other public venues regarding the future of the Delta.

The Delta Water Platform is comprised of twenty subject areas. Each of these subject categories contains relevant policies and background explanatory language. The policies and background information can be found in the Delta Water Platform, which is included in this document by reference.

Designation of Indian Tribal Lands and Indian Gaming – The Board of Supervisors has endorsed the California State Association of Counties’ (CSAC) policy documents regarding development on tribal land and prerequisites to Indian gaming. These policy statements address local government concerns for such issues as the federal government’s ability to take lands into trust and thus remove them from local land use jurisdiction, absent the consent of the state and the affected county; the need for tribes to be responsible for all off-reservation impacts of their actions; and assurance that local government will be able to continue to meet its governmental responsibilities for the health, safety, environment, infrastructure and general welfare of all members of its communities. The County will continue to advocate for federal legislation and regulation that supports the CSAC policy documents.

The County will also advocate for limitations on reservation shopping; tightening the definition of Class II gaming machines; assuring protection of the environment and public health and safety; and full mitigation of the off-reservation impacts of the trust land and its operations, including the increased cost of services and lost revenues to the County.

The County will also advocate for greater transparency, accountability and appeal opportunities for local government in the decision-making processes that permit the establishment of Indian gaming facilities. This includes sequencing the processes so that the Indian Lands Determination comes first, prior to initiation of a trust land request and associated environmental review.

The County will also consider support for federal action and/or legislation that allows Class III gaming at the existing gaming facility only if it can be shown that any change would result in a facility that would be unique in nature and the facility can demonstrate significant community benefits above and beyond the costs associated with mitigating community impacts.

Economic Development Programs – Congress should fund all the complementary programs within HUD’s community and economic development toolkit, ensuring that HUD does not lose sight of the development component of its mission. To that end, the County will support

continued funding for the Section 108 loan guarantee program, the Brownfields Economic Development Initiative and the Rural Housing and Economic Development program. Each of these programs plays a unique role in building stronger, more economically viable communities, while enabling communities to leverage external financing in a way the CDBG program alone cannot do.

Federal “Statewideness” Requirements – For many federally funded programs, there is a “statewideness” requirement; i.e., all counties must operate the specific program under the same rules and regulations. This can hamper the County’s ability to meet local needs, to be cost effective and to leverage the funding of one program to reduce costs in another program. Contra Costa County cannot negotiate for federal waivers or do things differently because it is not a state, yet its population is greater than seven states. Recognizing this is a very long-term effort, the County will advocate for relaxation of the “statewideness” rule to allow individual counties or a consortium of counties to receive direct waivers from the federal government and/or adopt the rules and regulations currently in use in another state for specific programs.

Habitat Conservation Planning – The County will advocate for elevating the profile of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) such as the East Contra Costa County HCP within Congress and Administration so that these critical federal/state/local partnerships can receive necessary attention and support. HCPs are flagship programs for the federal government and supporting effective implementation of approved HCPs should be a top priority for the U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and HCPs should be a key tool in any federal climate change or economic stimulus legislation.

Health – The County will advocate for the following actions by the federal government: provide enhanced Medicaid FMAP (“FMAP” is the “Federal Medical Assistance Percentage”) for Medicaid. It is the federal matching rate for state Medicaid expenditures. Increasing the federal matching rate for states would free up state general fund money for other purposes and would help counties as well.); suspend the Medicare “clawback” rule; suspend the “60-day rule” that requires states to repay the federal government overpayments identified by the state prior to collection, and even in instances where the state can never collect; ease the ability to cover those eligible for Medicaid by making documentation requirements less stringent; and prevent the implementation of the following seven federal regulations:

- Outpatient hospital
- Case Management
- School Based Administration & Transportation
- Public Provider Cost Limit
- Graduate Medical Education
- Rehabilitation Services Option
- Provider Tax

SUPPORT full funding of the Federal Medicaid program. Medicaid provides access to health care for people whose income and resources are insufficient to pay for health care. It is jointly funded by Federal and State governments. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

significantly expanded both eligibility for and federal funding of Medicaid. Support full funding of Medicaid by the Federal government.

Levee Restoration and Repair – The County will support legislation such as H.R. 6484, the SAFE Levee Act (Garamendi) in 2012, which will authorize the U.S. Department of the Interior to invest in Delta levee repairs, for all levees that are publicly owned or publicly maintained. The bill also requires a cost-benefit analysis for the tunnel project being planned as part of the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan.

Pension – The County will support legislation that would modify the Internal Revenue Code and corresponding regulations to permit public employees to make an irrevocable election between their current pension formula and a less rich pension formula.

In 2006, Contra Costa County and the Deputy Sheriff's Association jointly obtained state legislation that would allow members of the Association to make a one-time irrevocable election between their current pension formula and a less rich pension formula, called Tier C. Orange County and its labor organizations obtained similar legislation in 2009. However, neither County has been able to implement this state legislation because such elections currently have negative tax consequences for employees and for retirement plans under federal tax law as interpreted by the Internal Revenue Service.

Like many local government entities nationwide, the County's fiscal position would benefit greatly from reduced pension costs. Allowing local government entities to implement collective bargaining agreements and state legislation that permits employees to elect less rich pension formulas would be a significant step in reducing pension costs.

Public Housing Programs – The County will support legislation that results in the transformation of existing programs to improve their effectiveness and efficiency, in tandem with the design of new and innovative responses, both to build upon recent progress and address outstanding issues.

The County will support legislation to protect the nation's investment in Public Housing:

- Enact affordable housing industry proposal to allow public housing agencies (PHAs) to voluntarily convert public housing units to Section 8 project-based rental assistance in order to preserve this vital component of the national infrastructure
- Oppose the Administration's proposal to impose a \$1 billion offset against the operating reserves of responsible, entrepreneurial PHAs
- Support the revitalization of severely distressed public housing units
- Address safety and security concerns connected to drug-related crime

The County will support legislation to preserve vital community and economic development programs:

- Fully fund the Community Development Block Grant Program in order to create and save jobs, revitalize local economies, and support critical services for vulnerable populations
- Maintain funding for HUD's cost-effective economic development tools

The County will support legislation to strengthen and simplify the Section 8 Rental Assistance programs:

- Provide adequate funding for Housing Assistance Payment contract renewals and ongoing administrative fees
- Enact the Section Eight Voucher Reform Act (SEVRA)
- Implement overdue regulatory and administrative revisions that ensure the efficient use of program funds

The County will support legislation to expand Affordable Housing Opportunities and combat homelessness:

- Fully fund the Home Investment Partnerships Program and HUD's homeless assistance programs
- Capitalize the Housing Trust Fund through a revenue-neutral approach
- Preserve and strengthen the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program

The County will support legislation to foster innovation, increase efficiency, and streamline the regulatory environment:

- Promote reasonable and flexible federal oversight
- Incentivize green building and increased Energy Efficiency
- Support HUD's ongoing transformation efforts
- Ensure that HUD releases and distributes federal funding in a timely manner
- Eliminate statutory and regulatory barriers that prevent PHAs and redevelopment authorities from accessing federal programs they are qualified to administer.

Rail Safety – Contra Costa County is home to a substantial oil refinery industry with four refineries located in the County. The County supports Senator Heitkamp's *Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Act, S. 2547*, which would establish a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) panel focused on railroad incident first responders. By bringing together under FEMA's National Advisory Council all relevant agencies, emergency responders, technical experts, and the private sector for

a review of training, resources, best practices, and unmet needs related to emergency responders to railroad hazmat incidents, the RESPONSE Act will begin the process of addressing shortcomings in existing emergency response practices and procedures. It will also address the effectiveness of funding levels related to training local emergency responders for rail hazardous materials incidents.

The County also supports FEMA funding for the training of first responders, regulations that increase tank car safety standards for cars transporting crude oil and other hazardous materials, and regulations that require railroads to share data with state emergency managers and local responders.

Retiree and Retiree Health Care Costs – The County operates many programs on behalf of the federal government. While federal funding is available for on-going program operations, including employee salaries, the allocation is usually capped, regardless of actual costs. For retiree and retiree health care, the County's ability to contain costs is extremely limited. The County will advocate for full federal financial participation in funding the County's retiree and retiree health obligations.

State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) – On May 23, 2012, the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced a change in the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) that will prohibit SCAAP funds from being used to reimburse localities for foreign-born criminal aliens housed in jails that have been classified as "unknown inmates" by the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency. This is a significant change to the SCAAP reimbursement formula and will heavily impact counties across the nation.

The County will support the rescinding of this decision and a reinstatement of the previous reimbursement practice, which would more equitably reimburse jurisdictions for the costs of housing undocumented individuals, including those inmates whose status may be unknown to the Department of Homeland Security.

Second Chance Act – The County will support funding for the Second Chance Act, which helps counties address the growing population of individuals returning from prisons and jails. Despite massive increases in corrections spending in states and jails nationwide, recidivism rates remain high: half of all individuals released from state prison are re-incarcerated within three years. Here in California, unfortunately, the recidivism rate is even higher. Yet there is reason for hope: research shows that when individuals returning from prison or jail have access to key treatments, education, and housing services, recidivism rates go down and the families and communities they return to are stronger and safer.

The Second Chance Act ensures that the tax dollars on corrections are better spent, and provides a much-needed response to the "revolving door" of people entering and leaving prison and jail.

SparkPoint, Service Integration – The County will support federal funding for the establishment and operation of SparkPoint and Service Integration models. SparkPoint Centers are one-stop, financial-education centers that help individuals and families who are struggling to make ends meet. SparkPoint helps clients address immediate financial crises, get them back on their feet,

and build financial security. Each center brings together a full range of services at one convenient location, including job training, career development and financial coaching, as well as access to higher education and savings accounts. The Contra Costa County Service Integration Program co-locates county and non-profit agency service providers and community residents in neighborhood-based family service centers to provide accessible, coordinated public services tailored to meet the specific needs and goals of low-income families, while also engaging families in resident-driven efforts to revitalize their communities.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – The County will advocate for the following federal actions:

- Increase SNAP benefits as a major and immediately available element of economic stimulus.
- Suspend the restrictions applying to ABAWDs. ("ABAWDs" stands for "Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents" and pertains to adults receiving food stamps who are considered employable.) They are subject to strict time limits on how long they can receive food stamps. It is difficult administratively to track this, and when unemployment is high, it can result in more adults going hungry.
- Remove the current federal barriers that prevent some nutrition programs from employing EBT technology.

Streamlining Permitting for Critical Infrastructure, Economic Stimulus, and Alternative Energy Projects –“Green” Job Creation – Request that Congress and the Administration recognize the value of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) as a reliable way of streamlining critical infrastructure, economic stimulus, and alternative energy project permitting in a manner that is consistent with federal environmental regulations. HCPs not only facilitate such projects through permit streamlining, but the planning, implementation, management, and monitoring needs associated with regional HCPs plans also create many quality “green” jobs.

Telecommunications Act of 1996 Revisions – The Telecommunications Act of 1996 governs local government’s role in telecommunications, primarily broadband cable that uses the County’s right-of-way as well as consumer protections. As Congress works to update the Act, the County will continue to advocate for strengthening consumer protections and local government oversight of critical communications technologies; local access to affordable and reliable high speed broadband infrastructures to support the local economy; the right of local municipalities and communities to offer high-speed broadband access; coordination and integration of private communication resources for governmental emergency communication systems; preservation of local government’s franchise fees; preservation of the local community benefits, including but not limited to public, education and governmental (PEG) access channels; authority for provision of municipal telecommunication services; preservation of local police powers essential for health, safety and welfare of the citizenry; preservation of local government ownership and control of the local public rights-of-way; and support for ensuring that communication policy promotes affordable services for all Americans.

The Community Broadband Act of 2007, S.1853, encourages the deployment of high speed networks by preserving the authority of local governments to offer community broadband infrastructure and services. The County will oppose all bills that do not address the County's concerns unless appropriately amended. In addition, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has proposed rule-making (FCC Second Report and Order Docket 05-311 "Franchising Rules for Incumbents") that, in the opinion of local government, goes beyond the scope of their authority in this area. The County will oppose all such rule making efforts.

Telecommunications Issues – Support the Community Access Preservation (CAP) Act introduced in 2009 by Wisconsin Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin. The CAP Act addresses the challenges faced by public, educational and government (PEG) TV channels and community access television stations. The CAP Act addresses four immediate issues facing PEG channels. The CAP Act would: Allow PEG fees to be used for any PEG-related purpose; require PEG channels to be carried in the same manner as local broadcast channels; require the FCC to study the effect state video franchise laws have had on PEG; require operators in states that adopted statewide franchising to provide support equal to the greater of the support required under the state law or the support historically provided for PEG; and make cable television-related laws and regulations applicable to all landline video providers.

In addition, the County should support the widespread deployment and adoption of broadband, especially as it serves to connect the educational community and libraries.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families – The County will advocate for the following federal actions:

- Relieve states of work participation rate and work verification plan penalties for fiscal years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 in recognition of the serious downturn in the national economy and the succession of more "process-based" regulations issued in the last few years.
- Permanently withdraw the August 8, 2008, proposal that would have repealed the regulation that enables states to claim caseload reduction credit for excess MOE expenditures.
- Rescind the May 22, 2008, HHS guidance that effectively eliminated the ability of states to offer pre-assistance programs to new TANF applicants for up to four months.
- Rescind the final Deficit Reduction Act regulation restricting allowable state maintenance-of-effort expenditures under TANF purposes 3 and 4.
- End federal efforts to impose a national TANF error rate.

Veterans Benefits – The County will support legislation to increase availability, accessibility, and utilization of Veterans Benefits.

Within Contra Costa County, Veterans' health care is provided by the VA Martinez Clinic, a division of the VA Northern California Healthcare System. Currently, access to enrollment in the VA healthcare system is limited to Veterans with a Service Connected disability of greater than 10%, special eligibility criteria (Purple Heart, former POW, Iraq & Afghanistan Vets within 5 years of discharge, etc.), and to Veterans with an annual gross income less than a geographically based threshold. Currently, VA emergency services are not available after hours or during weekends. The nearest VA emergency room is nearly 34 miles away from the VA Martinez Clinic.

The County will support legislation that would expand enrollment eligibility (such as removing the income limit criteria) to all Veterans with an honorable discharge. Furthermore, the County will support legislation that would establish 24 hour VA emergency services at the VA Martinez clinic.

In addition, the County will support legislation that will improve the timeliness and quality of both VA benefits claim decisions and VA healthcare services. Specifically, legislation that works toward improving on the expedited processing of claims and administering of benefits to populations with unique needs, such as homeless Veterans, Women Veterans, and Veterans experiencing service related Posttraumatic Stress Disorder.

Veterans Halls – The County will support legislation to provide America's veterans organizations with resources to make necessary repairs to or replacement of their meeting halls and facilities.

Across America, the meeting halls and posts of Veterans Service Organizations such as the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars serve as unofficial community centers. Unfortunately, many of these facilities are not compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility standards, are not earthquake retrofitted, or have deteriorated in recent years due to declining membership and reduced rental revenues as a result of the economic downturn.

The County will support legislation that would create a competitive grant program for veterans' organizations, classified by the IRS as 501c19 non-profit organizations and comprised primarily of past or present members of the United States Armed Forces and their family members, to use for repairs and improvements to their existing facilities.

Volume Pricing – The National Association of Counties supports greater access for local governments to General Services Administration (GSA) contract schedules. These schedules provide volume pricing for state and local governments and make public sector procurement more cost effective. However, current law does not provide full access to state and local governments for GSA schedules. The County will support legislation that gives local governments access to these schedules and provides the option of purchasing law enforcement, security, and other related items at favorable GSA reduced pricing.

Water Quality, Quantity and Delta Outflow – Congress may consider legislation that could adversely affect water quality, quantity and flows in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to the detriment of the County residents, economy and resources. The Board of Supervisors will rely

on its adopted Delta Water Platform and adopted resolution on Water, Ecosystem Health and other Issues Related to the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento –San Joaquin River Delta (No. 2012-46) to determine the appropriate response to federal legislative issues brought to the Board's attention.

PROPOSED



Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

Subcommittee Report

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

6.

Meeting Date: 12/11/2014
Subject: 2014 Legislative Session Report and Preview of 2015 Legislative Session
Submitted For: LEGISLATION COMMITTEE,
Department: County Administrator
Referral No.: 2014-26
Referral Name: 2014 Legislative Session Wrap-up and Preview of 2015
Presenter: L. DeLaney, Cathy Christian **Contact:** L. DeLaney, 925-335-1097

Referral History:

The County's state advocate, Cathy Christian, provides a legislative end of session report each year that summarizes the key legislative advocacy issues and bills that the County engaged with during the legislative Session. A preview of 2015 legislative session is also included for the Legislation Committee's information. The Committee may direct staff as needed.

Referral Update:

2014 Legislative Session Wrap-up from Cathy Christian, Nielsen Merksamer:

The 2014 Budget signed by the Governor and approved by the Legislature was arrived at in a much more streamlined and less dramatic process than years past, particularly because Proposition 30 revenue paved the road for eased financial decision-making across the board. When Governor Brown released his budget proposal in January, the spending plan was generally deemed prudent and cautious, but a few proposals stirred controversy and were not resolved until the budget was adopted in June.

One example was the Governor's proposal to spend 33% of cap-and-trade money on the California High Speed Rail project, which both the LAO and some stakeholder groups felt was excessive. Ultimately, the Legislature and the Governor reached a compromise, settling on spending 29% of cap-and-trade money on the High Speed Rail project in the budget year and 25% in future years. The remaining funds are dedicated to programs related to sustainable communities (including housing projects), clean transportation, energy efficiency, natural resources, and waste diversion, with a particular emphasis on programs in disadvantaged communities.

The budget trailer bill SB 862 outlines the key details of interest to counties: 35% of future cap and trade proceeds are allocated to transit, housing and other sustainable communities programs and projects, including (1) 10% for a transit and intercity rail capital program overseen by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and Caltrans; (2) 5% for transit operations-administered by Caltrans and the Air Resources Board; and (3) 20% for housing and sustainable communities (including planning, active transportation, transit and other supportive

infrastructure, with not less than half for housing) managed by the Strategic Growth Council and Air Resources Board.

Another area of contention, which might have implications for other public employers, was the Governor's proposed teacher pension fund solvency plan. Governor Brown's proposal called for increased contributions from local school districts, but school districts argued that the increased financial obligation would wipe out any benefit to education programs resulting from increased state funding. Ultimately, the budget provided for raising the contribution level from 8.25% to 8.8% which was lower than Governor Brown's proposal of 9.5%.

The Governor continues to advocate for the water conveyance system proposed in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan – the so-called “twin tunnels” – in order to divert water from the Sacramento River commencing at an intake location in the North Delta, near the City of Sacramento. State agencies continue to work with the water contractors to refine the environmental studies associated with that proposal. The five Delta Counties, including Contra Costa County, are monitoring that process closely. The Delta Counties also worked extensively on the water bond placed on the ballot by the Legislature, which was approved by the voters on November 4 (Proposition 1)."

For more information on the bills the County actively advocated for or against, see *Attachment A*.

2015 Legislative Session: A Preview

On December 1, the California Senate and Assembly convened their organizing sessions for the 2015 Legislative year. The desks remain open for both houses, allowing new bills to be introduced, but the full Senate and Assembly will not reconvene until January 5.

This week a batch of new bills for the 2015 legislative session were introduced after the swearing-in of State Legislators for the biennial session. The following is a small sample of the natural resources/environmental, medical marijuana, and health and human services bills that were recently introduced and will continue to be monitored by staff as the session gets under way next year. Many more bills will be introduced up until the Legislature's bill introduction deadline of Friday, February 27.

Water

AB 1 (Brown) -- Pending

AB 1, by Assembly Member Cheryl Brown, is similar to legislation that was introduced last year and failed. This bill would prohibit cities and counties from imposing a fine under any local maintenance ordinance or other relevant ordinance for a failure to water a lawn or having a brown lawn during a period for which the Governor has issued a proclamation of a state of emergency based on drought conditions.

SB 13 (Pavley) – Pending

SB 13, by Senator Fran Pavley, appears to be a legislative vehicle for clean-up amendments to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act which was signed into law in September.

SB 20 (Pavley) – Pending

SB 20, by Senator Fran Pavley, would address the availability of reports regarding the digging or drilling of specified types of wells to the public.

Medical Marijuana

AB 26 (Jones-Sawyer) – Pending

AB 26, by Assembly Member Reginald Jones-Sawyer, would enact the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Control Act within a new division of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. It would establish a framework to regulate and control the mandatory registration of all entities involved in the commercial cultivation, processing, manufacturing, testing, transportation, distribution, provision, donation, and sale of medical marijuana in the state.

AB 34 (Bonta) – Pending

AB 34, by Assembly Member Rob Bonta, is a spot bill that expresses legislative intent to establish a comprehensive and uniform state regulatory structure to govern the cultivation, processing, testing, and distribution of medical cannabis.

Solid Waste

AB 45 (Mullin) – Pending

AB 45, by Assembly Member Kevin Mullin, is a spot bill that states the Legislature's intent to enact legislation that would establish curbside household hazardous waste collection programs, door-to-door household hazardous waste collection programs. Mr. Mullin carried a bill on the same subject last year, AB 2371, which would have required cities and counties to review the effectiveness of its household hazardous waste (HHW) plans and to identify ways to improve the convenient recycling and disposal of HHW. CSAC has concerns with the curbside approach as this circumvents existing local household hazardous waste programs.

Climate Change

Several bills were introduced this week dealing with California's Cap and Trade program and Climate Change laws. While all bills are still in spot form, they fall under a few specific categories. The Republicans in both houses have introduced measures – AB 23 (Patterson), SB 1 (Gaines) and SB 5 (Vidak) – that would exempt transportation fuels from the state's Cap and Trade Program. The Democrats have also introduced measures related to Cap and Trade requesting additional information and requiring interim targets. AB 21, by Assembly Member Perea deals more specifically with the State's Scoping Plan and would require GHG reduction targets beyond AB 32, requiring statewide emissions reductions for 2030 to be include in the state's GHG planning document. Finally, AB 33, by Assembly Member Quick, would require the California Air Resources Board to submit a report to the Legislature with updated information on the implementation of AB 32.

Health and Human Services

- [Assembly Bill 11](#), by Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez, to add in-home support services worker to the definition of employee under the Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act of 2014 beginning July 1, 2016, thereby entitling IHSS workers to accrue one hour of sick leave for every 30 hours worked.
- [Senate Bill 4](#), by Senator Ricardo Lara, to declare it the Legislature's intent that all Californians, regardless of immigration status, have access to affordable health coverage and care.
- [Senate Bill 11](#), by Senator Jim Beall, to express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to increase the minimum mental health training standard for California Peace

Officers.

- [Senate Bill 23](#), by Senator Holly Mitchell, to allow the birth of a new child to a family that has received aid under the CalWORKs program continuously for the prior 10 months, to be considered for purposes of determining a family's maximum aid payment.
- [Senate Bill 36](#), by Senator Ed Hernandez, to require the Department of Health Care Services to submit an application to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for a waiver to implement a successor 1115 Medicaid Waiver demonstration project.

Staff will monitor these and any other bills of interest to Contra Costa County in 2015. The Legislation Committee may provide direction to staff, as needed.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

ACCEPT the report and provide direction to staff and our state advocate, Cathy Christian, as needed.

Fiscal Impact (if any):

No fiscal impact to the County.

Attachments

Attachment A: 2014 End of Session Report



TO: David Twa, County Administrator
Lara Delaney, Senior Deputy County Administrator
Contra Costa County

FROM: Cathy Christian

DATE: December 3, 2014

RE: 2014 End of Session Legislative Report

The 2014 Budget signed by the Governor and approved by the Legislature was arrived at in a much more streamlined and less dramatic process than years past, particularly because Proposition 30 revenue paved the road for eased financial decision-making across the board. When Governor Brown released his budget proposal in January, the spending plan was generally deemed prudent and cautious, but a few proposals stirred controversy and were not resolved until the budget was adopted in June.

One example was the Governor's proposal to spend 33% of cap-and-trade money on the California High Speed Rail project, which both the LAO and some stakeholder groups felt was excessive. Ultimately, the Legislature and the Governor reached a compromise, settling on spending 29% of cap-and-trade money on the High Speed Rail project in the budget year and 25% in future years. The remaining funds are dedicated to programs related to sustainable communities (including housing projects), clean transportation, energy efficiency, natural resources, and waste diversion, with a particular emphasis on programs in disadvantaged communities. The budget trailer bill SB 862 outlines the key details of interest to counties: 35% of future cap and trade proceeds are allocated to transit, housing and other sustainable communities programs and projects, including (1) 10% for a transit and intercity rail capital program overseen by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and Caltrans; (2) 5% for transit operations administered by Caltrans and the Air Resources Board; and (3) 20% for housing and sustainable communities (including planning, active transportation, transit and other supportive infrastructure, with not less than half for housing) managed by the Strategic Growth Council and Air Resources Board.

Another area of contention, which might have implications for other public employers, was the Governor's proposed teacher pension fund solvency plan. Governor Brown's proposal called for increased contributions from local school districts, but school districts argued that the increased financial obligation would wipe out any benefit to education programs resulting from increased state funding. Ultimately, the budget provided for raising the contribution level from 8.25% to 8.8% which was lower than Governor Brown's proposal of 9.5%.

The Governor continues to advocate for the water conveyance system proposed in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan – the so-called “twin tunnels” – in order to divert water from the Sacramento River commencing at an intake location in the North Delta, near the City of Sacramento. State agencies continue to work with the water contractors to refine the environmental studies associated with that proposal. The five Delta Counties, including Contra Costa County, are monitoring that process closely. The Delta Counties also worked extensively on the water bond placed on the ballot by the Legislature, which was approved by the voters on November 4 (Proposition 1).

Bills – SPONSOR

1. SB 673

Author: DeSaulnier

Title: Employees' Retirement: Contra Costa County

Summary: Makes the Contra Costa County retirement system the employer for purposes of the County Employees Retirement System. Authorizes the board of retirement to appoint an administrator and personnel as required to accomplish the work of the board. Authorizes the administrator to make appointments on its behalf. Provides these employees are employees of the retirement system and not the county. Exempts such employees from civil service provisions and merit system rules.

Status: 08/22/2014 Signed by GOVERNOR.

08/22/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 244

Bills – SUPPORT

1. AB 49

Author: Buchanan

Title: License Plates: Breast Cancer Awareness

Summary: Requires the State Department of Health Care Services to apply to sponsor a breast cancer awareness license plate program. Requires the State Department of Motor Vehicles to issue license plates under certain conditions. Authorizes the acceptance and use of donated artwork from artists in the State for the plate. Requires the revenue from the plates to be deposited in the Breast Cancer Control Fund.

Status: 09/16/2014 Signed by GOVERNOR.

09/16/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 351

2. AB 380

Author: Dickinson

Title: Spill Response For Railroads

Summary: Requires a rail carrier to report specified information regarding the transportation of hazardous materials to the Office of Emergency Services. Requires each rail carrier to maintain a response management communications

center. Requires each rail carrier to provide the office with a summary of the rail carrier's hazardous materials emergency response plan. Requires the office to provide a copy of each summary report to each unified program agency. Prohibits divulging the plan to those unauthorized.

Status: 09/25/2014 Signed by GOVERNOR.

09/25/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 533

3. AB 935

Author: Frazier

Title: Driver's Licenses: Veteran Designation

Summary: Allows an in-person applicant for a driver's license or identification card to request that the license or card be printed with the word "veteran."

Requires the applicant to present verification of veteran status on a specified form. Requires the county veterans service offices to verify an applicant's veteran status for these purposes. Authorizes an additional fee to a person who requests such designation.

Status: 09/27/2014 Signed by GOVERNOR

09/27/14 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 644

4. AB 939

Author: Melendez

Title: Pupil and School Personnel Health: Defibrillators

Summary: Authorizes a public school to solicit and receive non-state funds to acquire and maintain an automatic external defibrillator; provides if a school decides to acquire and maintain, or continue to use an existing defibrillator, the school would be authorized and encouraged to comply with specified requirements. Provides the district and employees are not liable for civil damages for uses or non-uses of the equipment.

Status: 08/30/2013 In SENATE Committee on APPROPRIATIONS: Held in committee.

5. AB 1324

Author: Skinner

Title: Use Taxes: City of El Cerrito

Summary: Authorizes the City of El Cerrito, if certain requirements are met, to impose a transactions and use tax for general purposes at no more than a specified rate, that, in combination with other specified taxes, each would exceed the combined rate limit provided under the Transactions and Use Tax Law.

Provides this tax rate would not be included in the calculation of the local sales and use tax limitation in existing law.

Status: 09/29/14 Signed by GOVERNOR

09/29/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 795

6. AB 1455

Author: Campos

Title: Pupils: Bullying: Counseling Services

Summary: Authorizes the superintendent of a school district, the principal of a school, or the principal's designee to refer a victim of, witness to, or other pupil affected by, an act of bullying committed on or after a specified date to the school counselor, school psychologist, social worker, child welfare attendance personnel, school nurse, or other school support service personnel for case management, counseling, and participation in an appropriate restorative justice program.

Status: 08/21/2014 Signed by GOVERNOR.

08/21/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 229

7. AB 1637

Author: Frazier

Title: Driver's Licenses: Veteran Designation

Summary: Allows an applicant for a driver's license or identification card to allow a person to request the driver's license or identification card be printed with the word VETERAN. Requires the applicant to present to the Department of Motor Vehicles proof of veteran status with a specified form. Requires the word VETERAN be printed on the face of the license or card. Authorizes the Department to charge an additional fee to a person who requests such designation.

Status: 05/23/2014 In ASSEMBLY Committee on APPROPRIATIONS:
Held in committee.

8. AB 1799

Author: Gordon

Title: Land Use: Mitigation Lands

Summary: Specifies, where a governmental entity or specified district is the transferee of property, that an endowment or other financial mechanism is not required if the entity or district provides evidence to the local or State agency that it possesses an investment-grade credit rating by a nationally recognized rating organization or other equivalent evidence of financial responsibility and enters into a contractual agreement enforcing mitigation requirements. Requires related reporting.

Status: 05/23/2014 In ASSEMBLY Committee on APPROPRIATIONS:
Held in committee.

9. AB 2060

Author: Perez V

Title: Supervised Population Workforce Training Grant Program

Summary: Establishes the Supervised Population Workforce Training Grant Program. Sets forth grant program eligibility criteria for counties. Provides that eligible uses for grant funds include vocational training, stipends for trainees, and apprenticeship opportunities for individuals on probation, mandatory supervision, and post-release community supervision. Requires a specified report on the program.

Status: 09/17/2014 Signed by GOVERNOR.

09/17/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 383

10. AB 2217

Author: Melendez

Title: Pupil and Personnel Health: AEDs

Summary: Authorizes a public school to solicit and receive nonstate funds to acquire and maintain an automated external defibrillator (AED). Provides that the employees of the school district are not liable for civil damages resulting from certain uses, attempted uses or non-uses of an AED. Exempts a public school or district, that is in compliance with AED requirements, from civil damage liability.

Status: 09/29/2014 Signed by GOVERNOR.

09/29/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 812

11. AB 2228

Author: Cooley

Title: Crisis Nurseries

Summary: Requires crisis nurseries to be licensed to operate overnight programs. Specifies the maximum capacity. Requires that a licensee designate at least one lead caregiver, to be present at the crisis nursery at all times when children are present. Requires the licensee to develop, maintain and implement a written staff training plan. Requires a crisis nursery to have at least one caregiver at all times who is trained in pediatric first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Status: 09/28/2014 Signed by GOVERNOR.

09/28/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 735

12. AB 2231

Author: Gordon

Title: State Controller: Property Tax Postponement

Summary: Relates to claims for postponement under the Senior Citizens and Disabled Citizens Property Tax Postponement Law to include filing a claim, excluding mobile homes and houseboats, surviving spouse procedures, a related fund, an increase in the related implementation fee, the lien for postponed property taxes and recording thereof, the equity requirement for program participation, the updating of repayment of the postponed taxes, tax-default sales, nonresidential commercial property, and eligibility.

Status: 09/28/2014 Signed by GOVERNOR.

09/28/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 703

13. AB 2284

Author: Williams

Title: Recycling: Household Batteries Pilot Projects

Summary: Requires the development and funding of local battery recycling pilot projects which would be required to provide data regarding the implementation and outcomes of the projects. Requires a review and compilation of information collected from the projects to be made available to local agencies, and the development of guidelines to assist local governments. Appropriates funds deposited in the Integrated Waste Management Account to develop and fund such projects.

Status: 06/11/2014 To SENATE Committee on ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY. Not heard.

14. AB 2325

Author: Perez J

Title: Medi-Cal: CommuniCal

Summary: Requires the State Department of Health Care Services to establish the Medi-Cal Patient-Centered Communication program to be administered by a 3rd-party administrator, to provide and reimburse for medical interpretation services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are limited English proficient. Establishes the CommuniCal Program Fund. Requires the Department of Health Care Services to be the certifying body for CommuniCal certified medical interpreters. Allows joining labor organizations.

Status: 09/29/2014 Vetoed by GOVERNOR.

15. AB 2381

Author: Bonilla

Title: Private Parking Facilities

Summary: Authorizes a city or county to include in an ordinance or resolution authorization for the operator of privately owned and maintained off-street parking facility to regulate unauthorized parking in that facility. Requires a facility owner or operator to include in a notice of parking violation instructions that describe the manner in which to contest the violation notice. Prohibits the owner or operator from filing with, or transmitting to, a related department a notice of parking violation.

Status: 05/15/2014 To SENATE Committee on TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING. Not heard.

16. AB 2393

Author: Levine

Title: Vehicle Registration Fees

Summary: Relates to disbursement of vehicle registration fees. Authorizes a county to impose the fee, to increase that fee and impose an additional fee. Increases the additional fee on commercial vehicles. Requires the county to submit resolutions to impose or increase fees to the Department of Motor Vehicles prior to the operative date of the fee.

Status: 08/25/2014 Signed by GOVERNOR.

08/25/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 292

17. AB 2402

Author: Buchanan (D)

Title: Noxious Weed Management

Summary: Relates to Noxious Weed Management Account in the Department of Food and Agriculture Fund and allocation of those funds. Revises the percentages of those allocations. Revises the purposes for which the percentage of funds allocated for research may be used to include mapping, risk assessment and prioritization of weeds. Provides for a grant program. Increases water supply and flow among the goals that are including in the program.

Status: 08/22/2014 Signed by GOVERNOR.

08/22/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 271

18. AB 2403

Author: Rendon

Title: Local Government: Assessments, fees, and charges

Summary: States that provisions of the State Constitution generally require that assessments, fees, and charges be submitted to property owners for approval or rejection after the provisions of written notice and the holding of a public hearing. Modifies the definition of water to mean water from any source.

Status: 06/28/2014 Signed by GOVERNOR.

06/28/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 78

19. AB 2703

Author: Quirk-Silva

Title: County Veterans Service Officers

Summary: Relates to the disbursement of funds by the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of supporting county veterans' service officers pursuant to the annual Budget Act. Authorizes the Department to develop an allocation formula based upon performance to encourage innovation and reward outstanding service by county veterans' service officers. Requires moneys appropriated for such purposes in the annual Budget Act to be allocated in accordance with that formula.

Status: 08/14/2014 In SENATE Committee on APPROPRIATIONS: Held in committee.

20. ACA 9

Author: Gorell

Title: Voter-Nominated Primary Elections

Summary: Proposes an amendment to the Constitution to provide that, for a person whose name was written in upon the ballot for the voter-nominated primary election for a congressional or state elective office, and is one of the top two vote-getters, to appear as a candidate for that office in the ensuing general election, the write-in candidate must have received votes at the primary election equal in number to at least 1 percent of all votes cast for the office at the last preceding election.

Status: 05/31/2013 In ASSEMBLY, failed passage. Reconsideration refused.

21. AJR 39

Author: Hernandez R

Title: Cable and Video Service

Summary: Calls on the United State Congress to amend a specified federal law to allow states and their municipalities to determine the best use of public, educational, and government channel support.

Status: 07/07/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State.

07/07/2014 Resolution Chapter No. 88

22. SB 1

Author: Steinberg (D)

Title: Sustainable Communities Investment Authority

Summary: Authorizes certain public entities of a Sustainable Communities Investment Area to form a Sustainable Communities Investment Authority to carry out the Community Redevelopment Law. Provides for tax increment funding receipt under certain economic development and planning criteria. Establishes prequalification requirements for receipt of funding. Requires monitoring and enforcement of prevailing wage requirements within the area. Excludes certain types of farmland.

Status: 09/12/2013 In SENATE. To Inactive File.

23. SB 33

Author: Wolk (D)

Title: Local Taxation: County of Sonoma: Transactions Tax

Summary: Authorize the County of Sonoma or any city within the county to impose a transactions and use tax for general purposes, and the county, any city within the county, or the Sonoma County Transportation Authority to impose a transactions and use tax for specific purposes, which may include the support of transportation and road maintenance programs and library services, that would, in combination with other specified taxes, exceed the combined rate limit if certain requirements are met.

Status: 08/22/2014 In ASSEMBLY. Referred to Rules Committee and held.

24. SB 53

Author: De Leon

Title: Ammunition: Purchase Permits

Summary: Requires the Attorney General to maintain copies of ammunition purchase permits, ammunition transactions and ammunition vendor licenses. Requires identity verification. Exempts gun shows from ammunition sales location requirements. Relates to the Prohibited Armed Persons File. Provides enhancements to the background check system. Authorizes peace officers to disseminate names of purchasers who are subjects of protective orders to domestic violence victims. Provides for a victim of domestic violence card.

Status: 08/30/2014 In ASSEMBLY. Read third time. Failed passage.

25. SB 108

Author: Yee

Title: Firearms

Summary: Requires the Department of Justice to conduct a study to determine effective firearm safe storage measures to reduce unintentional injury and death caused by firearms. Requires the study to analyze local firearm safe storage ordinances in the state and firearm safe storage statutes in other states.

Status: 08/22/2013 In ASSEMBLY Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY: Held in committee. To INTERIM Study.

26. SB 270

Author: Padilla

Title: Solid Waste: Single-Use Carryout Bags

Summary: Prohibits specified stores from providing a single-use carryout bag to a customer. Requires such stores to meet other requirements regarding providing recycled paper bags and compostable bags. Requires a bag fee and creates a related fund. Requires bags sold or provided to a store by a reusable grocery bag producer to meet specified requirements. Requires certification and testing and public online information. Allows retail voluntary compliance. Authorizes local civil penalties and startup loans.

Status: 09/30/2014 Signed by GOVERNOR.
09/30/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 850

27. SB 283

Author: Hancock

Title: CalFresh Eligibility

Summary: Authorizes CalFresh benefits to be paid to an individual who is convicted in state or federal court of any offense classified as a felony that has as an element the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance. Provides that if the person is on supervised release, he or she would be ineligible for benefits during any period of revocation of that supervised release where the revocation results in incarceration. Authorizes the use of all-county letters or similar instructions.

Status: 08/30/2013 In ASSEMBLY Committee on APPROPRIATIONS: Held in committee.

28. SB 391

Author: DeSaulnier

Summary: Enacts the California Homes and Jobs Act of 2013. Imposes a fee to be paid at the time of the recording of every real estate instrument, paper, or notice required or permitted by law to be recorded. Requires that revenues sent quarterly to the Department of Housing and Community Development for

deposit in a related fund. Provides that fund moneys expended for supporting affordable housing, administering housing programs and the cost of periodic audits. Requires prevailing wage monitoring and enforcement.

Status: 08/30/2013 In ASSEMBLY Committee on APPROPRIATIONS:
Held in committee.

29. SB 735

Author: Wolk

Title: Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act

Summary: Amends existing law that establishes the Delta Stewardship Council to create a Delta management plan. Authorizes prescribed local entities to enter into a memorandum of understanding or other written agreement with the council and the Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding multispecies conservation plans that describes how the parties would ensure that multispecies conservation plans that have been adopted or are under development are consistent with the Delta Plan.

Status: 08/13/2013 In ASSEMBLY Committee on WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE: Not heard.

30. SB 785

Author: Wolk

Title: Design-Build

Summary: Repeals certain authorizations and enacts provisions that would authorize the Department of General Services, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and certain local agencies to use the design-build procurement process for specified public works. Authorizes the use of such process by the Marin Healthcare District when contracting for building and improvements construction to a hospital or health facility at the Marin General Hospital. Includes the San Diego Unified Port District.

Status: 09/30/2014 Signed by GOVERNOR.
09/30/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 931

31. SB 803

Author: DeSaulnier

Title: Counties: Consolidation of Offices

Summary: Authorizes Contra Costa County to, by ordinance, appoint the public administrator to the board of supervisors, appoint the same person to the office of the public administrator and public guardian, and separate the consolidated offices of district attorney and public administrator.

Status: 07/09/2014 Signed by GOVERNOR.
07/09/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 113

32. SB 848

Author: Wolk

Title: Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality, and Water Supply

Summary: Repeals the provisions of existing law that created the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2012. Enacts the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality, and Flood Protection Act of 2014 which would authorize the issuance of bonds pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance a safe drinking water, water quality and water supply program. Provides for the submission of the bond act to the voters.

Status: 08/18/2014 In SENATE. From third reading. To Inactive File.

33. SB 1000

Author: Monning

Title: Public Health: Sugar-Sweetened Beverages: Warnings

Summary: Establishes the Sugar-Sweetened Beverages Safety Warning Act, which would prohibit a person from distributing, selling, or offering for sale a sugar-sweetened beverage in a sealed beverage container, or a multipack of sugar-sweetened beverages, in this state unless the beverage container or multipack bears a specified safety warning. Requires the posting of warnings on vending machines and in places where such beverages are sold in unsealed containers. Provides civil penalties for violations.

Status: 06/17/2014 In ASSEMBLY Committee on HEALTH: Failed passage.

34. SB 1014

Author: Jackson

Title: Pharmaceutical Waste: Home Generated: Collection

Summary: Requires the State Board of Pharmacy, upon enactment of federal regulations, to adopt regulations to implement State drug takeback programs for the collection and destruction of home-generated pharmaceutical waste. Provides that the regulations adopted pursuant to these provisions only apply to licensees of the Board.

Status: 08/13/2014 In ASSEMBLY Committee on APPROPRIATIONS: Not heard.

35. CA SB 1029

Author: Hancock

Title: CalFresh Eligibility

Summary: Authorizes CalFresh benefits to be paid to an individual who is convicted of any offense classified as a felony that has as an element the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance. Provides that person on parole or probation or a fleeing felon to be ineligible for such benefits during any period of revocation or parole or probation or while a fleeing felon.

Status: 05/29/2014 In SENATE. From third reading. To Inactive File.

36. CA SB 1081

Author: Hernandez E

Title: Federally Qualified Health Centers

Summary: Relates to the Medi-Cal program, the State Department of Health Care Services and federally qualified health center services. Requires the department to authorize an alternative payment methodology pilot project that would be implemented in any county and FQHC willing to participate with capitated monthly payments for each Medi-Cal managed care enrollee. Requires an evaluation of the APM pilot project to be conducted by an independent entity.
Status: 05/23/2014 In SENATE Committee on APPROPRIATIONS: Held in committee.

37. SB 1300

Author: Hancock

Title: Refineries: Turnarounds

Summary: Requires every petroleum refinery employee to submit to the Division of Occupational Safety and Health, a full schedule for the following calendar year of planned turnarounds, meaning a planned, periodic shutdown of a refinery process unit or plant to perform maintenance, overhaul, and repair operations and to inspect, test, and replace process materials and equipment. Requires trade secret protection. Requires a refinery employer to provide access onsite and to provide turnaround documentation.

Status: 09/20/2014 Signed by GOVERNOR.
09/20/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 519

38. SB 1319

Author: Pavley

Title: Groundwater

Summary: Requires the categorizing of each groundwater basin as high-, medium-, low- or very low priority. Authorizes the designation of certain high- and medium-priority basins as a probationary basin, if certain criteria are met. Authorizes the development of an interim plan for a probationary basin if a local agency has not remedied a deficiency. Removes the authority to implement parts of the plan or program that is determined to be adequate. Relates to sustainability goals for each basin.

Status: 09/16/2014 Signed by GOVERNOR.
09/16/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 348

39. SB 1341

Author: Mitchell

Title: Medi-Cal: Statewide Automated Welfare System

Summary: Requires the Statewide Automated Welfare System to be the system of record for Medi-Cal and to contain all Medi-Cal eligibility rules and case management functionality. Authorizes the Healthcare Eligibility, Enrollment, and Retention System (CalHEERS) to house the business rules necessary for an eligibility determination. Requires CalHEERS to make the business rules available to the System consortia to determine Medi-Cal eligibility. Requires notices for the Medi-Cal and premium tax credit programs.

Status: 09/29/2014 Signed by GOVERNOR.

09/29/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 846

40. SB 1455

Author: DeSaulnier

Title: Libraries: Facilities: Comprehensive Assessment

Summary: Requires the State Librarian, using existing resources, to prepare a comprehensive assessment on the statewide need for the new construction, renovation, and rehabilitation of public libraries and submit it to specified entities.

Status: 09/18/2014 Vetoed by GOVERNOR.

41. SJR 10

Author: Lieu

Title: Workforce Investment Act: Reauthorization

Summary: Urges the Congress of the United States to reauthorize the federal Workforce Investment Act and to include specified policies and strategies in support of the Act.

Status: 09/12/2013 Chaptered by Secretary of State.

09/12/2013 Resolution Chapter No. 121

Bills – OPPOSE

1. AB 616

Author: Bocanegra

Title: Local Public Employee Organizations: Dispute: Panels

Summary: Relates to local public employee organizations. Requires an organization request for submit a dispute to a factfinding panel to be in writing. Provides if either party disputes that a genuine impasse has been reached, the issue of whether the impasse exists may be submitted to the Public Employees Relations Board for resolution before the dispute is submitted to a factfinding panel. Authorizes each party to select a person to serve as its member of the factfinding panels.

Status: 08/30/2013 In SENATE Committee on APPROPRIATIONS: Held in committee.

2. AB 1621

Author: Lowenthal B

Title: Emergency Medical Services: Data and Information System

Summary: Requires the Emergency Medical Services Authority to utilize its State Emergency Medical Services Information System and adopt a single statewide standard for the collection of information regarding prehospital care to determine and monitor the quality and effectiveness of the statewide emergency medical services system, compliant with national standards, and to avoid unnecessary duplication of collection at a local level, and to develop regulations for electric patient care records for local agencies.

Status: 08/14/2014 In SENATE Committee on APPROPRIATIONS: Held in committee.

3. CA AB 2126

Author: Bonta (D)

Title: Meyers Miliars Brown Act Mediation

Summary: Amends the Meyers-Miliars-Brown Act. Permits either party to contract negotiations to request mediation and agree upon a mediator.

Authorizes the Public Employee Relations Board to appoint a mediator upon request. Relates to a waiver of such request if the public agency has a impasse procedure. Authorizes certain collective bargaining negotiation differences to apply to these provisions.

Status: 09/30/2014 Vetoed by GOVERNOR.

4. AB 2686

Author: Perea

Title: Clean, Safe, and Reliable Water Supply Act of 2014

Summary: Repeals the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2012. Enacts the Clean, Safe, and Reliable Water Supply Act of 2014, which, if adopted by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an unspecified amount, to finance a clean, safe, and reliable water supply program. Provides for the submission of the bond act to the voters at a statewide general election.

Status: 08/06/2014 In ASSEMBLY Committee on APPROPRIATIONS: Not heard.

5. SB 1250

Author: Hueso

Title: Safe, Clean and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act

Summary: Repeals the Safe, Clean and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2012 that would authorize the issuance of bonds to finance a safe drinking water and water supply reliability program. Enacts the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2014, which, if adopted by voters would authorize the issuance of State General Obligation Bonds in a specified amount to finance a safe drinking water and water supply program.

Status: 05/13/2014 In SENATE Committee on NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER: Not heard.

Bills – WATCH

1. AB 37

Author: Perea

Title: Unemployment Insurance: Reporting: Status of Funds

Summary: Requires the Employment Development Department, when the Unemployment Fund indicates a negative balance, to include a status report on the Fund the estimated cost impact on employers from the changes in a specified

federal tax credit and the estimated amount the state is expected to pay in interest on any outstanding loan to the federal government.

Status: 08/25/2014 In SENATE. From third reading. To Inactive File.

2. AB 209

Author: Pan

Title: Medi-Cal: Managed Care: Quality/Access/Utilization

Summary: Requires the Department of Health Care Services to develop and implement a plan to monitor, evaluate, and improve the quality, accessibility, and utilization of health care and dental services provided through Medi-Cal managed care. Requires the department to hold quarterly public meetings to report on, among other things, performance measures and quality and access standards, and to invite public comments. Requires the department to appoint an advisory committee, with specified responsibilities.

Status: 08/27/2014 In SENATE. Read second time. To third reading, not considered.

3. AB 229

Author: Perez J

Title: Infrastructure and Revitalization Financing Districts

Summary: Authorizes the creation by a city, county, city and county, and joint powers authority, of an infrastructure and revitalization financing district and the issuance of debt with voter approval. Authorizes the creation of a district and the issuance of debt. Authorizes a district to finance projects in redevelopment project areas and former redevelopment project areas and former military bases.

Status: 09/29/2014 Signed by GOVERNOR.

09/29/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 775

4. AB 243

Author: Dickinson

Title: Local Government: Infrastructure Financing Districts

Summary: Authorizes the creation of an infrastructure and revitalization financing district and the issuance of debt with voter approval. Authorizes a district to finance projects in redevelopment project areas and former redevelopment project areas and former military bases if special conditions are met. Authorizes a district to fund various projects, including watershed land used for the collection and treatment of water for urban uses, flood management, open space, habitat restoration and development purposes.

Status: 08/07/2014 In ASSEMBLY. Ordered returned to SENATE. Not considered.

5. AB 690

Author: Campos

Title: State Government: International Relations

Summary: Repeals and recasts the provisions of existing law that requires the California-Mexico Border Relations Council to coordinate activities of State

agencies that are related to cross-border programs, initiatives, projects, and partnerships that exist within State government.

Status: 09/28/2014 Signed by GOVERNOR.

09/28/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 716

6. AB 1179

Author: Bocanegra

Title: Recycling: Waste Tires: Public Works Project

Summary: Authorizes the Department of Resources Recycling, when awarding grants pursuant to the tire recycling program, to award grants for public works projects to create parklets, greenways, or both, that use tire-derived products. Requires the Department, if it awards those grants, to give priority for funding to those projects in disadvantaged communities.

Status: 09/26/2014 Signed by GOVERNOR.

09/26/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 589

7. AB 1331

Author: Rendon

Title: Clean, Safe, and Reliable Drinking Water Act of 2014

Summary: Repeals the provisions that would create the Safe, Clean and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2012. Enacts the Clean, Safe and Reliable Drinking Water Act of 2014, which, if adopted by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in a specified amount pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance a clean and safe drinking water program.

Status: 06/18/2014 Withdrawn from SENATE Committee on

GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE. Held in Rules Committee.

8. AB 1445

Author: Logue

Title: Water Infrastructure Act of 2014

Summary: Repeals the provisions that would create the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2012. Enacts the State Water Infrastructure Act of 2014. Authorizes the issuance of bonds in a specified amount to finance a public benefit associated with water storage and water quality improvement projects.

Status: 02/14/2014 To ASSEMBLY Committee on WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE. Not heard.

9. AB 1449

Author: Perez V

Title: Realignment Omnibus Act of 2014

Summary: Relates to the Realignment Omnibus Act of 2014. Requires any person released from prison who has a prior conviction for certain crimes to be subject to parole supervision by the Department of Corrections and

Rehabilitation and the jurisdiction of the court in the county in which the parolee is released, resides, or in which an alleged violation of supervision has occurred.

Status: 04/30/2014 From ASSEMBLY Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY
without further action pursuant to JR 62(a).

10. AB 2043

Author: Bigelow

Title: Safe Clean and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act

Summary: Repeals provisions of the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2012. Enacts the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Water Supply Act of 2014, which, if adopted by votes, would authorize the issuance of bonds in a specified amount to finance a safe drinking water and water supply reliability program.

Status: 08/06/2014 In ASSEMBLY Committee on APPROPRIATIONS:
Not heard.

11. AB 2403

Author: Rendon

Title: Local Government: Assessments, fees, and charges

Summary: States that provisions of the State Constitution generally require that assessments, fees, and charges be submitted to property owners for approval or rejection after the provisions of written notice and the holding of a public hearing. Modifies the definition of water to mean water from any source.

Status: 06/28/2014 Signed by GOVERNOR.
06/28/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 78

12. AB 2463

Author: Dickinson

Title: Water: Plans

Summary: Requires the Department of Water Resources to partner with the Regional Water Authority, water suppliers in El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, and Placer counties, and other interested agencies to develop a plan for investing in water supplies and other facilities in order to contribute to the reliability of water supplies for the Sacramento region's communities and environmental resources while also generating statewide benefits.

Status: 05/23/2014 In ASSEMBLY Committee on APPROPRIATIONS:
Held in committee.

13. AB 2554

Author: Rendon

Title: Clean, Safe, and Reliable Drinking Water Act of 2014

Summary: Repeals the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Act of 2012 that would authorize the issuance of bonds to finance a safe drinking water and water supply reliability program via a bond act if passed by the voters at a statewide general election. Enacts the Clean, Safe, and Reliable Drinking Water Act of 2014 to authorize bonds in a specified amount to finance a clean, safe, and

reliable drinking water program if passed by the voters at a statewide general election.

Status: 04/29/2014 From ASSEMBLY Committee on WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE to APPROPRIATIONS. Not heard.

14. AB 2701

Author: Gonzalez

Title: Groundwater Basins: Investigation and Report

Summary: Makes a technical, nonsubstantive change to existing law that requires the Department of Water Resources, in conjunction with other public agencies, to conduct an investigation of the state's groundwater basins and to report its findings to the Governor and the Legislature.

Status: 02/21/2014 INTRODUCED. Not heard.

15. ACA 3

Author: Campos

Title: Local Government Finance: Public Safety Services

Summary: Authorizes the imposition, extension, or increase of a special tax for funding fire, emergency response, police, or sheriff services, upon the approval of 55% of the voters voting. Creates an additional exception to the 1% limit for a rate imposed by a city, county, or special district to service bonded indebtedness incurred to fund certain fire, emergency response, police, or sheriff buildings or facilities, and equipment that is approved by 55% of the voters of the city, county, or special district.

Status: 04/04/2013 To ASSEMBLY Committees on LOCAL GOVERNMENT and APPROPRIATIONS. Not heard.

16. ACA 8

Author: Blumenfield

Title: Local Government Financing: Voter Approval

Summary: Proposes an amendment to the Constitution to create an additional exception to the 1% limit for an ad valorem tax rate imposed by a city, county, city and county, or special district, to service bonded indebtedness incurred to fund specified public improvements and facilities, or buildings used primarily to provide sheriff, police, or fire protection services, that is approved by 55% of the voters of the city, county, city and county, or special district.

Status: 06/27/2013 To SENATE Committees on GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE and ELECTIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS. Not heard.

17. SB 133

Author: DeSaulnier

Title: Redevelopment

Summary: Amends the Community Redevelopment Law. Requires a redevelopment agency to include additional information relating to any major audit violations, any corrections of those violations, and planning and general administrative expenses of the Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund.

Authorizes quality control reviews by the Controller and the publishing of those reviews. Requires audits of such agencies to ensure compliance with the law. Relates to funding for housing construction and/or rehabilitation.

Status: 09/29/2014 Vetoed by GOVERNOR.

18. SB 570

Author: DeSaulnier

Title: Advanced Alcohol and Drug Licensing Act

Summary: Amends existing law that provides for the registration, certification, and licensure of various health arts professionals. Establishes licensure and registration provisions relating to advanced alcohol and drug counselors and advanced alcohol and drug counselor interns to be administered by the newly created licensing board. Makes a violation a misdemeanor. Authorizes the assessment of related fees and for the deposit of such funds into a related fund.

Status: 08/14/2014 In ASSEMBLY Committee on APPROPRIATIONS:
Held in committee.

19. SB 617

Author: Evans

Title: California Environmental Quality Act

Summary: Amends various provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. Requires that notices regarding environmental impact reports filed by lead agencies need to be filed with the Office of Planning and Research and the county clerk and posted by that clerk for public review. Provides additional duties regarding notices by the Office and the clerk. Requires a statement in the report regarding the placement of the project near natural hazards or adverse environment conditions. Repeals specified exemptions.

Status: 02/06/2014 In SENATE. Died on file pursuant to Joint Rule 56.

20. SB 628

Author: Beall

Title: Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts

Summary: Authorizes a local government body to establish an enhanced infrastructure financing district to finance capital facilities and other project to include brownfield restoration, projects on a former military base, and low and moderate income housing. Requires specific events to occur before the district can implement a financing plan. Authorizes projects through tax increment financing. Authorizes projects that are located or overlap in a redevelopment area or a former redevelopment project area.

Status: 09/29/2014 Signed by Governor
09/29/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 785

21. SB 633

Author: Pavley

Title: State Parks

Summary: Requires the Department of Parks and Recreation to make a report to the Legislature addressing the Department's energy costs, projects that could

reduce those costs, and potential energy-related infrastructure projects. Requires the Department to establish a pilot program for mobile food and beverage services and to report on the suitability, increase in visitation, and visitor satisfaction. Relates to the sales of park passes through vendors. Allows a taxpayer to make a parks related donation.

Status: 09/26/2014 Vetoed by GOVERNOR.

22. SB 837

Author: Steinberg

Title: Early Childhood Education: Professional Development

Summary: Allocates a certain amount of moneys appropriated in the Budget Act of 2014, for purposes of professional development stipends for teachers in transitional kindergarten and teachers in the State preschool program. Requires the State Department of Education to consult with various entities, including the California Community Colleges, for purposes of administering related provisions of existing law.

Status: 08/14/2014 In ASSEMBLY Committee on APPROPRIATIONS:
Held in committee.

23. SB 927

Author: Cannella

Title: Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act

Summary: Renames the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2012 as the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2014 and makes conforming changes. Authorizes the issuance of bonds in a specified amount by reducing the amount available for projects related to drought relief and water supply reliability.

Status: 04/22/2014 In SENATE Committee on NATURAL RESOURCES
AND WATER: Failed passage.

24. SB 979

Author: Beall

Summary: Amends existing law that authorizes a local employee organization to request that the differences in negotiations regarding wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment be submitted to a fact finding panel.

Provides that the differences under existing law include those differences that arise from any dispute over any matter within the scope of representation as to which an obligation to meet and confer exists and are not limited to negotiations after impasse.

Status: 03/19/2014 Re-referred to SENATE Committee on PUBLIC
EMPLOYMENT AND RETIREMENT. Not heard.

25. SB 1049

Author: Pavley

Title: Integrated Regional Water Management Plans

Summary: Amends the Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Act. Includes projects or programs that reduce energy used to acquire, transport, treat, or distribute water, or that develop and and maintain computer models and analytic tools to model regional water management strategies as a regional project or program. Requires a regional water management group to include all water suppliers that are within a watershed area, the area over a groundwater basin or sub-basin, or the area within a county's boundaries.

Status: 05/23/2014 In SENATE Committee on APPROPRIATIONS: Held in committee.

26. SB 1086

Author: De Leon

Title: The Safe Neighborhood Parks, Rivers, & Coastal Bond Act

Summary: Enacts the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Rivers, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2014, which, if adopted by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an unspecified amount pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance a safe neighborhood parks, rivers, and coastal protection program.

Status: 08/21/2014 In SENATE. From third reading. To Inactive File.

27. SB 1292

Author: Hueso

Title: Safe Drinking water State Revolving Fund

Summary: Relates to the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Increases the maximum amount of a construction grant award for a water system serving severely disadvantaged communities.

Status: 09/29/2014 Vetoed by GOVERNOR.

28. SB 1370

Author: Galgiani

Title: Reliable Water Supply Bond Act of 2014

Location: Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

Summary: Repeals the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2012. Enacts the Reliable Water Supply Bond Act of 2014 to finance surface water storage projects.

Status: 04/08/2014 In SENATE Committee on NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER: Heard, remains in Committee.

29. SB 1393

Author: Torres

Title: Community Development: Redevelopment Successor Agencies

Summary: Makes technical, nonsubstantive changes to the Community Redevelopment Law that authorizes the establishment of redevelopment agencies

in communities to address the effects of blight and provides for the designation successor agencies to act as successor entities.

Status: 03/13/2014 To SENATE Committee on RULES.

30. SB 1447

Author: Fuller (R)

Title: Bay Delta Conservation Plan: Judicial Review

Summary: States the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation establishing judicial review procedures for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.

Status: 03/13/2014 To SENATE Committee on RULES.

31. SB 1462

Author: Wolk

Title: Local Government: Omnibus Bill

Summary: Relates to fictitious business name statements. Authorizes the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors to designate, by resolution, another county officer to perform certain duties. Relates to leasing of certain property, the Law Library Fund, bonds, property tax revenue, securitization of limited obligation notes, noise elements of planning and zoning laws, assessments under the Property and Business Improvement District Law, public hearings, and owners' associations under contract with a local entity.

Status: 08/15/2014 Signed by GOVERNOR.

08/15/2014 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter No. 201

32. SCA 3

Author: Leno

Title: Public Information

Summary: Proposes an amendment to the Constitution to require each local agency to comply with the State Public Records Act and the Brown Act and with any statutory enactment amended either act, enacting a successor act, or amending any successor act which contains findings demonstrating that the statutory enactment furthers the purposes of the people's right of access to information concerning the conduct of the people's business. Regards the subvention of funds.

Status: 09/20/2013 Chaptered by Secretary of State.

09/20/2013 Resolution Chapter No. 123

33. SCA 4

Author: Liu

Title: Local Government Transportation Project: Voter Approval

Summary: Proposes an amendment to the Constitution to provide the imposition, extension, or increase of a special tax by a local government for the purpose of providing funding for local transportation projects requires the approval of a related proposition that includes certain requirements. Prohibits the local government from expending any revenues derived from a special transportation tax approved by the voters at any time prior to the completion of a identified capital project funded by specified revenues.

Status: 08/29/2013 Re-referred to SENATE Committee on APPROPRIATIONS.

34. SCA 6

Author: DeSaulnier

Title: Initiative Measures: Funding Source

Summary: Proposes an amendment to the Constitution to prohibit an initiative measure that would result in a net increase in state or local government costs, from being submitted to the electors or having any effect unless and until the Legislative Analyst and the Director of Finance jointly determine that the initiative measure provides for additional revenues in an amount that meets or exceeds the net increase in costs.

Status: 05/24/2013 In SENATE. Read second time. To third reading. Not considered.

35. SCA 7

Author: Wolk

Title: Public Libraries

Summary: Proposes an amendment to the Constitution relative to public libraries. Relates to ad valorem tax rates. Creates exception to a specified limit for a rate imposed by a city, county, city and county, or special district to service bonded indebtedness incurred to fund public library facilities. Authorizes the imposition, extension, or increase of a special tax imposed for the purpose of funding public libraries, upon approval of a specified percentage of the voters voting on the proposition.

Status: 06/27/2013 Re-referred to SENATE Committee on APPROPRIATIONS.

36. SCA 8

Author: Corbett

Title: Transportation Projects: Special Taxes: Voter Approval

Summary: Proposes an amendment to the Constitution to provide that the imposition, extension, or increase of a special tax by a local government for the purpose of providing funding for transportation projects requires the approval of 55% of its voters voting on the proposition, if the proposition includes certain requirements.

Status: 08/29/2013 Re-referred to SENATE Committee on APPROPRIATIONS.

37. SCA 9

Author: Corbett

Title: Local Government: Economic Development: Special Taxes

Summary: Proposes an amendment to the Constitution to provide that the imposition, extension, or increase of a special tax by a local government for the purpose of providing funding for community and economic development projects

requires the approval of a specified percentage of its voters voting on the proposition, if the proposition contains specified requirements.

Status: 06/27/2013 Re-referred to SENATE Committee on APPROPRIATIONS.

38. SCA 11

Author: Hancock

Title: Local Government: Special Taxes: Voter Approval

Summary: Proposes an amendment to the Constitution to condition the imposition, extension, or increase of a special tax by a local government upon the approval of 55% of the voters voting on the proposition, if the proposition proposing the tax contains specified requirements.

Status: 06/27/2013 Re-referred to SENATE Committee on APPROPRIATIONS.



Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

Subcommittee Report

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

7.

Meeting Date: 12/11/2014
Subject: Draft 2015 State Legislative Platform
Submitted For: LEGISLATION COMMITTEE,
Department: County Administrator
Referral No.: 2014-42
Referral Name: Draft 2015 State Legislative Platform
Presenter: L. DeLaney **Contact:** L. DeLaney, 925-335-1097

Referral History:

Each fall, the County Administrator's Office initiates the development of the coming year's State and Federal Legislative platforms by inviting members of the Board of Supervisors, Department Heads and key staff, and our federal and state advocates to provide recommended changes or additions to the current Platforms.

In October, departments were invited to provide suggested changes to the State Platform by submitting input in writing.

The Legislation Committee reviewed the first draft 2015 State Platform at its meeting in November and provided direction to staff. An amended Proposed 2015 State Platform is presented for the consideration and action by the Legislation Committee.

Referral Update:

Amendments from the first draft 2015 State Platform include for the Committee's consideration and direction the following in the Proposed 2015 State Platform for adoption by the Board of Supervisors:

1. **County Sponsored Legislation:** Pursue legislation to improve traffic safety around schools in an effort to increase the walk/bike rate to school. Specifically the bill would do three things –
 1. increase the prescriptive size of the school zone to 1320 feet (a quarter mile);
 2. authorize performance methods for further expanding the zone - essentially an agency could perform a traffic study to establish the need to further expand the zone to be reflective of actual pedestrian/bicycle access patterns around schools, and
 3. enhance penalties for speeding violations in those newly defined zones.
2. Minor text changes to the **County Advocacy Priorities**.
3. Minor text change to Agricultural Policy #3 regarding revisions to State school siting policies.

4. Health Policy Addition #83: SUPPORT and encourage state, federal and/or private funding for pharmaceutical research for the development of new cannabis products which would meet Federal Drug Administration (FDA) standards of known strengths and attributes (and without unnecessary side effects) which would be dispensable through pharmacies and medical facilities consistent with State and Federal law.

5. Policy text changes to Human Services Policy #84 to increase County flexibility in the use of CalWORKs funds and in program requirements in order to better support the transition of welfare dependent families from welfare-to-work to self-sufficiency.

6. Human Services Policy Addition #95: SUPPORT efforts to increase the number of subsidized child care slots to address the shortage of over 20,000 slots serving children 0-12 years of age in Contra Costa County; and SUPPORT efforts to enhance the quality of early learning programs and maintain local Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) for early learning providers. *Affordable child care is key to low-income workers remaining employed and there is a significant dearth of subsidized child care slots. Increasing quality of early learning is important to developing skills in the next generation.*

7. Human Services Policy Addition #96: SUPPORT the restoration of funding for Facility Restoration and Repair (FRR) grants by California Department of Education. *Increasing the funding amounts for facility restoration of early childhood education would allow for improved facilities at Head Start sites.*

8. Policy Addition #98: SUPPORT alignment of verification requirements for CAIWORKS, CalFRESH and Medi-Cal programs to simplify the customer experience and reduce the potential for error. Consider letting all programs access the Federal Hub used through CalHEERS. *Currently these programs have different requirements for client verification, though they are all benefit programs. Alignment of verifications would make program administration more efficient and improve the client experience.*

9. Policy Additions #100-103: 100. SUPPORT ending the student restrictions that disallow CalFresh for poor students. *Students should not be penalized for getting an education.*

101. SUPPORT Allowing all individuals in receipt of Unemployment Benefits (UIB) to be automatically eligible for CalFresh. *Applying for UI and CalFresh is duplicative because requirements of both programs are so similar. This would increase CalFresh uptake in an efficient way.*

102. SUPPORT A State Earned Income Tax Credit. Developing a state earned income tax credit would incentivize work and reduce poverty. *The Federal EITC program is the most effective government antipoverty program and 22 other states have a state EITC.*

103. SUPPORT establishing a State funded and administered General Assistance Program. *The General Assistance Program is 100% County funded. Moving it to the State would relieve pressure on the County budget and appropriately direct costs to the State.*

10. Transportation Policy Addition #152: SUPPORT legislative and administrative measures to enhance rail safety, increase state oversight of railroad bridges, provide funding for the training of first responders, and implement regulations that increase tank car safety standards for cars transporting crude oil and other hazardous materials, and regulations that require railroads to

share data with state emergency managers and local responders.

11. Text addition to Waste Management Policy #156: Adding "sharps, and batteries" for producer responsibility management.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

REVIEW the Proposed 2015 State Legislative Platform, provide direction to staff on any recommended changes, and RECOMMEND action to the Board of Supervisors.

Fiscal Impact (if any):

No fiscal impact to the County.

Attachments

2015 Proposed State Platform



Proposed 2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Contra Costa County



Table of Contents

COUNTY-SPONSORED LEGISLATION.....	2
LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY ADVOCACY PRIORITIES.....	2
STATE PLATFORM POLICY POSITIONS	6
Agricultural Issues	6
Animal Services Issues	7
Child Support Services Issues	8
Climate Change Issues	9
Delta Water Platform	9
Elections Issues	9
Emergency Preparedness, Emergency Response	10
Eminent Domain Issues	10
Flood Control and Clean Water Issues.....	10
General Revenues/Finance Issues	11
Health Care Issues.....	14
Human Services Issues.....	16
Indian Gaming Issues	19
Land Use/Community Development Issues.....	19
Law and Justice System Issues	22
Library Issues	26
Telecommunications Issues	26
Transportation Issues	26
Veterans Issues.....	28
Waste Management.....	29



2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Each year, the Board of Supervisors adopts a State Legislative Platform that establishes priorities and policy positions with regard to potential State legislation and regulation. The State Legislative Platform includes County-sponsored bill proposals, legislative or regulatory advocacy priorities for the year, and policies that provide direction and guidance for identification of and advocacy on bills which would affect the services, programs or finances of Contra Costa County.

COUNTY-SPONSORED LEGISLATION

Pursue legislation to improve traffic safety around schools in an effort to increase the walk/bike rate to school. Specifically the bill would do three things –

1. increase the prescriptive size of the school zone to 1320 feet (a quarter mile);
2. authorize performance methods for further expanding the zone - essentially an agency could perform a traffic study to establish the need to further expand the zone to be reflective of actual pedestrian/bicycle access patterns around schools, and
3. enhance penalties for speeding violations in those newly defined zones.

LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

Each year, issues emerge through the legislative process that are of importance to the County and require advocacy efforts. For 2015, it is anticipated that critical issues requiring legislative advocacy will include the following:

Priority 1: State Budget – The state’s continuing economic recovery, prior budget cuts, and the additional, temporary taxes provided by Proposition 30 have combined to bring the State Budget to a much improved financial condition. The Legislative Analyst’s Office is now reporting an outlook for 2015–16 characterized by moderate revenue growth, which supports an underlying spending increase of about 4 percent. Under their forecast, 2015–16 would end with \$4.2 billion in total reserves assuming no new budget commitments. This total includes an estimated \$2 billion deposit in the rainy-day fund in 2015–16 under the new rules passed by voters in Proposition 2.

A long-standing practice of state government has been to look to counties as a means of balancing its budget. While opportunities to do so are more limited with the passage of Proposition 1A, the state has been creative in its efforts to include counties as part of its budget balancing solution and may do so at some point in the future through additional program realignment and/or revenue reductions.

Of particular concern to counties is the inadequate reimbursement for our ever-increasing cost of operating several human services programs: the “Human Services Funding Deficit,” formerly referred to as the “Cost of Doing Business.” The annual shortfall between actual county expenses and state reimbursement has grown to over \$1 billion since 2001, creating a de facto cost shift to counties. The funding gap forces counties to reduce services to vulnerable populations and/or divert scarce county resources from other critical local services. It also increases the risk of state and federal penalties.

Priority 2: Health Care – Counties play a critical role in California’s health reform efforts. Counties serve as employers, payers, and providers of care to vulnerable populations. Consequently, counties stand ready to actively participate in discussions of how to best reform the health care system in California and implement the national health care reform legislation passed in 2010, The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The optional Medi-Cal Expansion, in effect on Jan. 1, 2014, was a significant part of the State Budget process in 2013. (The mandatory expansion includes changes to eligibility and enrollment for populations *currently eligible* for Medicaid and is estimated to cost the state General Fund \$350 million.) The ACA had required states to expand Medicaid programs to allow childless adults at or below 138 percent of poverty to be eligible for Medicaid (known as Medi-Cal in California). The Supreme Court struck down that mandate but allowed it to be an option for states, which California has exercised.

The Governor’s proposed Budget provided two options for that optional expansion: a “state option” and a “county option.” Governor Brown announced in his proposed budget that he intended to either realign the county responsibility to provide medical care to indigent adults to include providing care to Medicaid eligible adults or recoup as much of the 1991 health realignment funding from counties as possible. CSAC successfully redirected the realignment effort and instead negotiated a fiscal transaction that reflects the shift of indigent adults to the state’s Medi-Cal program.

However, significant unknowns remain including questions about the actual impact of the ACA coverage expansions on counties and the number of uninsured individuals to whom counties will still need to provide services. Counties will retain the Section 17000 responsibility, and there will be significant variations in the impacts of both the ACA and AB 85 for the different types of counties: county hospital (12 counties including Contra Costa County), payor/clinic and County Medical Services Program (CMSP) counties.

In the coming year, the County will continue to work on the implementation of required health care reform measures to maximize federal revenue. The County will support efforts to provide counties with the necessary tools to implement health care reform which may include performing eligibility and enrollment, preserving existing county resources from 1991 Realignment, providing for a smooth transition in 2014 for the various operational systems, and supporting legislation to ensure that low-income families are covered under the Affordable Care Act while opposing legislation which would reduce Medi-Cal eligibility. In addition, the County will continue to work to reduce uncompensated health care costs and on the adequacy of rates under the new health care system.

Priority 3: Water and Levees /The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta – The enactment of the Delta Reform Act (2009), a bill that established the co-equal goals for reliable water supply and ecosystem restoration for the Delta, created the Delta Stewardship Council as the state entity overseeing the Delta through the proposed Delta Plan, and supported the proposed Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)--an effort to construct a pair of massive tunnels under the Delta--will bring significant, large-scale change to the Delta as we know it. The scope and content of these changes, as well as enduring political battles between northern and southern California over water, will continue to guide legislative and administrative agendas in the coming year. Enabling legislation was also passed in 2009 for a state water bond, which was delayed from the 2010 ballot and again from the 2012 ballot but successfully passed on the 2014 state ballot, as Proposition 1.

Significant future impacts upon the County in the areas of water quality and supply, levee stability, ecosystem health, local land use authority and flood control are anticipated. Consideration should be given to the potential for the County to sponsor Delta-related legislation through our legislative delegation. The County may also work with the Delta Counties Coalition (DCC) to sponsor Delta-related legislation.

Particular areas of concern for 2015 include, but are not limited to: (1) the ongoing development of the BDCP project and whether the state water bond appropriates funds specific to the BDCP; (2) the impacts of the Delta Plan on local land use authority, efforts to expedite state bond funding for levee improvement projects, and the development of flow standards that will impact water quality and ecosystem health in the Delta. The County's adopted Delta Water Platform, as well as the Strategic and Action Plans, are incorporated in this Platform by reference.

Priority 4: Realignment Implementation – The battle for constitutional protections for 2011 Realignment concluded successfully on November 6, 2012 when Proposition 30 was passed by the voters. Proposition 30 provides constitutional guarantees to the funding that supports Realignment and safeguards against future program expansion without accompanying funding. With these provisions in place, Contra Costa County can continue to implement the array of programs transferred under 2011 Realignment, confident that funding is secure and programmatic responsibilities are defined. However, the County remains concerned that the funding is not sufficient and is also concerned about liability issues arising from the new responsibilities.

Any future proposals to realign programs to counties must have constitutionally guaranteed ongoing funding and protections. The County will oppose any proposals that will transfer additional program responsibility to counties without funding, constitutional protections, county participation and approval. The County will also oppose efforts that limit county flexibility in implementing programs and services realigned in 2011 or infringe upon our ability to innovate locally.

The County resolves to remain accountable to our local constituents in delivering high-quality programs that efficiently and effectively respond to local needs. Further, we support counties' development of appropriate measures of local outcomes and dissemination of best practices.

With regard to Public Safety realignment, counties have received parolees whose latest crime fits the specified “non-violent, non-serious, non-sex offender” (N3) definition but who have a criminal background that includes violent, serious and/or sexual crimes. Under the current legislation, the person’s latest offense/crime determines if they meet the N3 criteria. Specifically, a change would be requested to prevent those whose total criminal background does not meet the N3 criteria. These individuals should stay under the responsibility of the state.

The County will also support efforts to provide additional funding/grants to those counties that have a commitment to lowering the crime rate and reducing recidivism through the provision of innovative, comprehensive, evidence-based programs for offender populations and their families. The County will also continue to support efforts to ensure that the receipt of Local Community Corrections Funds matches the amounts anticipated from the state, without undue delay. Finally, the County also supports more funding for mental health and behavioral health programs and facilities in order to meet the requirements of Realignment and the goal of reducing recidivism.

STATE PLATFORM POLICY POSITIONS

A brief background statement accompanies policy positions that are not self-evident. Explanatory notes are included either as the preface to an issue area or following a specific policy position. Please note that new and revised policy positions are highlighted. The rationale for the policy position is italicized.

Agricultural Issues

1. SUPPORT efforts to ensure sufficient State funding for pest and disease control and eradication efforts to protect both agriculture and the native environment, including glassy-winged sharpshooter, light brown apple moth, and Japanese dodder activities; high risk pest exclusion activities; pesticide regulatory and law enforcement activities; and noxious weed pest management. *Agriculture is an important industry in Contra Costa County. Protection of this industry from pests and diseases is important for its continued viability.*
2. SUPPORT continued appropriations for regulation and research on sudden oak death, a fungal disease affecting many species of trees and shrubs in native oak woodlands. *The County's natural environment is being threatened by this disease.*
3. SUPPORT funding for agricultural land conservation programs and agricultural enterprise programs, and support revisions to State school siting policies, to protect and enhance the viability of local agriculture. *The growth in East County and elsewhere has put significant pressure on agricultural lands, yet agriculture is important not only for its production of fresh fruits, vegetables and livestock, but also as a source of open space.*
4. SUPPORT legislation to establish legal authority where needed to facilitate the efforts by the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the Department of Boating and Waterways to survey and treat all infestations of the South American spongeplant and to rid the Delta of this and other invasive aquatic species through integrated pest management methods. *Invasive aquatic species are a threat to agriculture, the environment and recreation in the Delta. This position includes support for efforts by the Department of Boating and Waterways to secure multi-year permits for eradication of multiple invasive aquatic plant species in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, its tributaries, and its marshes.*
5. SUPPORT the CSAC policy statement regarding revisions to the California Conservation Act of 1965 (the Williamson Act) to support legislative changes that preserve the integrity of the Williamson Act, eliminate abuses resulting in unjustified and premature conversions of contracted land for development, and to fully restore Williamson Act subventions. The state subventions to counties also must be revised to recognize all local tax losses.

Animal Services Issues

6. SUPPORT efforts to protect local revenue sources designated for use by the Animal Services Department; i.e., animal licensing, fines and fees. *Fines, fees, and licensing are major sources of revenue for the Animal Services Department. The demand for animal services is increasing each year as does the demand on the General Fund. It is important to protect these revenue sources to continue to provide quality animal service and to meet local needs.*
7. SUPPORT efforts to protect or increase local control and flexibility over the scope and level of animal services. *Local control over the scope of animal services is necessary to efficiently address public safety and other community concerns. Local control affords jurisdictions the ability to tailor animal service programs to fit their communities. Animal related issues in dense urban areas vary from those in small, affluent communities.*
8. SUPPORT efforts to protect against unfunded mandates in animal services or mandates that are not accompanied by specific revenue sources which completely offset the costs of the new mandates, both when adopted and in future years. *Unfunded mandates drain our limited fiscal resources and, at the same time, chip away at local control over the scope and level of services.*
9. SUPPORT efforts to ensure full funding of State animal services mandates, including defense of the Department of Finance's lawsuit against the State Commission on Mandates regarding the State obligations for reimbursement of local costs for animal services incurred in compliance with SB 1785. *The County invested large sums of money to comply with SB 1785, with the assurance that our cost would be offset by reimbursements from the State. Failure by the State to honor the reimbursements negatively impacts the County General Fund and Animal Services' budget.*
10. SUPPORT efforts to protect and/or increase County flexibility to provide animal services consistent with local needs and priorities. *The demand for quality animal service programming continues to increase each year. The County is experiencing population growth and changing demographics. It is incumbent upon the Animal Services Department to be flexible enough to adjust to the changing needs and priorities.*
11. SUPPORT efforts to preserve the integrity of existing County policy relating to Animal Services (e.g., the Animal Control Ordinance and land use requirements). *Contra Costa is looked upon as one of the model Animal Services Departments in the state. Its policies, procedures, and ordinances are the yardstick against which other Animal Control organizations are measured. The local control exercised by the Board of Supervisors is key to that hallmark.*

Child Support Services Issues

12. SUPPORT the establishment of a statewide electronic registry for the creation and release/satisfaction of liens placed on property of a non-custodial parent as necessary to collect delinquent child support payments. *California law currently provides that recording an abstract or notice of support judgment with a County Recorder creates a lien on real property. This requires recording the judgment in each of the 58 counties in order not to miss a property transaction. An electronic registry would simplify not only the creation of liens but also the release/satisfaction of liens because there would be a single statewide point of contact, and the entire process would be handled electronically through automated means.*
13. SUPPORT amendment of current law that states that documents completed and recorded by a local child support agency may be recorded without acknowledgement (notarization) to clarify that the exception is for documents completed or recorded by a local child support agency. *This amendment clarifies that documents that are prepared by the local child support agency and then sent for recording either by the local child support agency or by the obligor (non-custodial parent) or by a title insurance company are covered by the exemption, a technical point not acknowledged by all county recorder offices.*
14. SUPPORT efforts to simplify the court process for modifying child support orders by the court by requiring court appearances only when one of the parties objects to the modification. *Currently, establishment of parentage and support by the court is permitted without court appearance if both parties are in agreement. A similar process for modification would reduce court time, the workload of all involved agencies and parties, and streamline the process.*
15. SUPPORT efforts to ensure that the reduction to the California Department of Child Support Services is not passed down as a reduction to the local program.
16. SUPPORT efforts that would require the Department of Child Support Services to provide any notice form, information, or document that is required or authorized to be given, distributed, or provided to an individual, a customer, or a member of the public to be given, distributed, or provided in a digitized form, and by any means the Department determines is feasible, including, but not limited to, e-mail or by means of a website.

Climate Change Issues

17. SUPPORT the *CSAC Climate Change Policy Statements and Principles* which address a broad range of issues affected by climate change, including water, air quality, agriculture, forestry, land use, solid waste, energy and health. *The document is largely based on existing CSAC policy and adapted to climate change. Additionally, the document contains a set of general principles which establish local government as a vital partner in the climate change issue and maintain that counties should be an active participant in the discussions in the development of greenhouse gas reduction strategies underway at the state and regional level.*
18. SUPPORT efforts to ensure that the implementation of AB 32 results in harmony between the greenhouse gas reduction target created by the Air Resources Board for each regional/local agency, the housing needs numbers provided by the state Department of Housing and Community Development pursuant to housing element law, and the Sustainable Communities Strategy developed through the Regional Transportation Plan processes.
19. SUPPORT legislative or administrative efforts that favor allocation of funding from the California Greenhouse Gas Cap and Trade Program to jurisdictions that are the largest emitters of greenhouse gas, have disadvantaged communities that are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution, and have demonstrated a local commitment to climate protection (e.g. established emissions reduction targets, prepared Climate Action Plans, etc.).

Delta Water Platform

To protect the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta from various detrimental forces that are affecting its health and resources, it is the policy of Contra Costa County to support implementation of projects and actions that will help improve the Delta ecosystem and the economic conditions of the Delta. Contra Costa County has developed a *Delta Water Platform* to identify and promote activities and policy positions that support the creation of a healthy Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Contra Costa County will use this Platform to guide its own actions and advocacy in other public venues regarding the future of the Delta.

The Delta Water Platform is comprised of twenty subject areas. Each of these subject categories contains relevant policies and background explanatory language. The policies and background information can be found in the Delta Water Platform, which is included in this document by reference.

Elections Issues

20. SUPPORT legislation to adjust precinct sizing from 1,000 voters per precinct to 1,250 voters per precinct. *With the option of being able to have up to 1,250 voters per precinct, the best polling locations in a neighborhood can be selected, and that same site is more*

likely to be used for several elections, thus avoiding the need to change poll sites for voters.

21. SUPPORT full state reimbursement for state mandates imposed upon local registrars by the Secretary of State, including special state elections. *The state has committed to reimburse Counties for the cost of certain state mandates. That reimbursement process, SB 90, can be lengthy and contentious. The SB 90 process is also subject to uncertainties including partial payments, delayed payments, and now, suspended or no payments. In lieu of the SB 90 process for Elections, there is merit in the examination of having the state pay its pro-rata share of costs when state candidates/measures are on the ballot.*
22. SUPPORT legislation that would add provisions to the state Elections Code that would allow special elections to fill a vacancy in a congressional or legislative district to be conducted by all mailed ballots at the county's discretion.

Emergency Preparedness, Emergency Response

23. SUPPORT legislation that would give local agencies more authority to train volunteers, provide funding for Community Emergency Response Training (CERT), and help clean-up oil spills without taking on additional legal liability.
24. SUPPORT legislation that would require the state's Oil Spill Prevention and Response Agency to improve communication and clean-up technology, increase safety standards for ships and establish special protections for ecologically sensitive areas.
25. SUPPORT legislation that would require responses to future oil spills in a shorter timeframe, with a more regional approach.
26. SUPPORT measures that enable counties and other local agencies to better exercise their responsibilities to plan for and respond to emergencies and disasters without taking on additional legal liability and oppose those that do not recognize or support the county and local agency role in the State's Standardized Emergency Management System.
27. SUPPORT legislation or other measures requiring the creation or utilization of emergency rock stockpiles suitable for levee repair throughout the Delta, enabling increasingly efficient and less costly prevention of levee breaks and enhancement of initial response capabilities.
28. SUPPORT legislation that expands school safety improvement programs such as education regarding and placement of automated external defibrillator(s) (AED(s)) in schools.

Eminent Domain Issues

29. SUPPORT legislation that maintains the distinction in the California Constitution between Section 19, Article I, which establishes the law for eminent domain, and Section

7, Article XI, which establishes the law for legislative and administrative action to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

30. SUPPORT legislation that would provide a comprehensive and exclusive basis in the California Constitution to compensate property owners when property is taken or damaged by state or local governments, without affecting legislative and administrative actions taken to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

Flood Control and Clean Water Issues

31. SUPPORT authorization for regional approaches to comply with aquatic pesticide permit issues under the purview of the State Water Resources Control Board. *Contra Costa County entered into an agreement with a neighboring county and several cities to share the costs of monitoring. While it makes sense for local government to pool resources to save money, State Board regulations make regional monitoring infeasible.*
32. SUPPORT efforts to provide local agencies with more flexibility and options to fund stormwater programs. *Stormwater permit requirements issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Boards are becoming more and more expensive, yet there is no funding. Stormwater services, encompassing both water quality and drainage/flood control, could be structured like a utility with the ability to set rates similar to the other two key water services: drinking water and wastewater.*
33. SUPPORT efforts to provide immunity to local public agencies for any liability for their clean-up of contaminations on private lands. *This will be more critical as the Regional Water Quality Control Boards institute Total Maximum Daily Loads, which establish a maximum allowable amount of a pollutant (like mercury) in the stormwater from a watershed.*
34. SUPPORT efforts to require the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to provide 200 year flood plain mapping for all areas in the legal Delta. SB 5 requires the County and cities in the Delta to insure certain development projects must have 200 year level of protection and to make certain related findings. *DWR has revisited developing zoning flood plain mapping, and if they do, only working in areas protected by project levees which does not include any areas within Contra Costa County.*
35. SUPPORT legislation to enable Zone 7 Water Agency to become a new public agency, separate and apart from the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, with territory in both Alameda and Contra Costa counties and the power to provide specific services, insofar as the legislation is guided by adopted Principles of Understanding.

General Revenues/Finance Issues

As a political subdivision of the State, many of Contra Costa County's services and programs are the result of state statute and regulation. The State also provides a substantial portion of the County's revenues. However, the State has often used its authority to shift costs to counties and to generally put counties in the difficult position of trying to meet local service needs with inadequate resources. While Proposition 1A provided some protections for counties, vigilance is necessary to protect the fiscal integrity of the County.

36. SUPPORT the State's effort to balance its budget through actions that do not adversely affect County revenues, services or ability to carry out its governmental responsibilities.
37. OPPOSE any state-imposed redistribution, reduction or use restriction on general purpose revenue, sales taxes or property taxes unless financially beneficial to the County. *(Note that a redistribution of sales and property tax may be beneficial to Contra Costa County in the event that sales tax growth lags behind property tax growth.)*
38. OPPOSE efforts to limit local authority over transient occupancy taxes (TOT).
39. OPPOSE any efforts to increase the County's share-of-cost, maintenance-of-effort requirements or other financing responsibility for State mandated programs absent new revenues sufficient to meet current and future program needs.
40. SUPPORT efforts to ensure that Contra Costa County receives its fair share of State allocations, including mental health funding under Proposition 63 and pass-through of federal funds for anti-terrorism and homeland security measures. *The State utilizes a variety of methods to allocate funds among counties, at times detrimental to Contra Costa County.*
41. SUPPORT efforts to receive reimbursement for local tax revenues lost pursuant to sales and property tax exemptions approved by the Legislature and the State Board of Equalization.
42. SUPPORT continued efforts to reform the state/local relationship in a way that makes both fiscal and programmatic sense for local government and conforms to the adopted 2010 CSAC Realignment Principles, with an emphasis on maximum flexibility for counties to manage the existing and realigned discretionary programs.
43. SUPPORT efforts to relieve California of the federal Child Support penalties without shifting the cost of the penalties to the counties.
44. SUPPORT a reduction in the 2/3rd vote requirement to 55% voter approval for locally-approved special taxes that fund health, education, economic, stormwater services, library, transportation and/or public safety programs and services.
45. SUPPORT efforts to authorize counties to impose forfeitures for violations of ordinances, as currently authorized for cities. *This would provide the County with the opportunity to*

require deposits to assure compliance with specific ordinance requirements as well as retain the deposit if the ordinance requirements are not met. Currently, the County is limited to imposing fines which are limited to only \$100 - \$200 for the first violation, which has proven to be an ineffective deterrent in some cases.

46. SUPPORT efforts to redefine the circumstances under which commercial and industrial property is reassessed to reduce the growing imbalance between the share of overall property tax paid by residential property owners versus commercial/industrial owners.
47. SUPPORT efforts to reduce County costs for Workers' Compensation, including the ability to control excessive medical utilization and litigation. *Workers' Compensation costs are significant, diverting funds that could be utilized for County services. Workers' Compensation should provide a safety net for injured employees, for a reasonable period of time, and not provide an incentive for employees to claim more time than medically necessary.*
48. SUPPORT state actions that maximize Federal and State revenues for county-run services and programs.
49. SUPPORT legislative compliance with both the intent and language of Proposition 1A.
50. SUPPORT the provisions of Proposition 22 that would protect County revenues, particularly as related to transportation revenues and excluding those provisions related to redevelopment funds.
51. SUPPORT full State funding of all statewide special elections, including recall elections.
52. OPPOSE efforts of the State to avoid state mandate claims through the practice of repealing the statutes, then re-enacting them. *In 2005, the State Legislature repealed sections of the Brown Act that were subject to mandate claims, then re-enacted the same language pursuant to a voter-approval initiative, and therefore, not subject to mandate claims.*
53. SUPPORT strong Public Utilities Commission (PUC) oversight of state-franchised providers of cable and telecommunications services, including rigorous review of financial reports and protection of consumer interests. *AB 2987 (Núñez), Chapter 700, statutes of 2006 transferred regulatory oversight authority from local government to the PUC.*
54. SUPPORT timely, full payments to counties by the State for programs operated on their behalf or by mandate. *The State currently owes counties over \$1 billion in State General Funds for social services program costs dating back to FY 2002-03.*
55. SUPPORT full State participation in funding the County's retiree and retiree health care unfunded liability. *Counties perform most of their services on behalf of the State and*

Federal governments. Funding of retiree costs should be the responsibility of the State, to the same extent that the State is responsible for operational costs.

56. SUPPORT legislation that provides constitutional protections and guaranteed funding to counties under Realignment.

Health Care Issues

The County remains concerned about the implementation of any health care reform measures that could transfer responsibility to counties, without commensurate financing structures or in a manner not compatible with the County's system. The County supports a concept of universal health coverage for all Californians. Toward that end, the County urges the state to enact a system of health coverage and care delivery that builds upon the strengths of the current systems in our state, including county-operated systems serving vulnerable populations.

Currently, California has a complex array of existing coverage and delivery systems that serve many, but not all, Californians. Moving this array of systems into a universal coverage framework is a complex undertaking that requires sound analysis, thoughtful and deliberative planning, and a multi-year implementation process. As California moves forward with health care reform, the County urges the state to prevent reform efforts from exacerbating problems with existing service and funding. The state must also consider the differences across California counties and the impacts of reform efforts on the network of safety-net providers, including county providers. The end result of health reform must provide a strengthened health care delivery system for all Californians, including those served by the safety net.

57. SUPPORT state action to increase health care access and affordability. *Access to care and affordability of care are critical components of any health reform plan. Expanding eligibility for existing programs will not provide access to care in significant areas of the state. Important improvements to our current programs, including Medi-Cal, must be made either prior to, or in concert with, a coverage expansion in order to ensure access. Coverage must be affordable for all Californians to access care.*
58. SUPPORT Medi-Cal reimbursement rate increases to incentivize providers to participate in the program.
59. SUPPORT actions that address provider shortages (including physicians, particularly specialists, and nurses). Innovative programs, such as loan forgiveness programs, should be expanded. In an effort to recruit physicians from other states, the licensing and reciprocity requirements should be re-examined. Steps should be taken to reduce the amount of time it takes to obtain a Medi-Cal provider number (currently six to nine months).
60. SUPPORT efforts that implement comprehensive systems of care, including case management, for frequent users of emergency care and those with chronic diseases and/or dual (or multiple) diagnoses. *Approaches could be modeled after current programs in place in safety net systems.*
61. SUPPORT efforts that provide sufficient time for detailed data gathering of current safety funding in the system and the impact of any redirection of funds on remaining county responsibilities. *The interconnectedness of county indigent health funding to public health, correctional health, mental health, alcohol and drug services and social services*

must be fully understood and accounted for in order to protect, and enhance as appropriate, funding for these related services.

62. OPPOSE safety net funding transfers until an analysis of who would remain uninsured (e.g. medically indigent adults, including citizens, who cannot document citizenship under current Medicaid eligibility rules) is completed in order to adequately fund services for these populations.
63. SUPPORT efforts to clearly define and adequately fund remaining county responsibilities.
64. SUPPORT state action to provide an analysis of current health care infrastructure (facilities and providers), including current safety net facilities across the state, to ensure that there are adequate providers and health care facilities (including recovery facilities), and that they can remain viable after health reform.
65. SUPPORT efforts to provide adequate financing for health care reforms to succeed.
66. SUPPORT measures that maximize federal reimbursement from Medicaid and S-CHIP.
67. SUPPORT state action to complete actuarial studies on the costs of transferring indigent populations, who currently receive mostly episodic care, to a coverage model to ensure that there is adequate funding in the model.
68. SUPPORT efforts that ensure that safety net health care facilities remain viable during the transition period and be supported afterwards based on analyses of the changing health market and of the remaining safety net population.
69. SUPPORT state action to implement a Medi-Cal waiver in a manner that maximizes the drawdown of federal funds for services and facilities, provides flexibility, and ensures that counties receive their fair share of funding.
70. SUPPORT efforts to increase revenues and to contain mandated costs in the County's hospital and clinics system.
71. SUPPORT efforts to obtain a fair-share of any state funds in a distribution of funding for the integration of IHSS and managed care.
72. SUPPORT efforts to increase the availability of health care (including alcohol and other drugs recovery) to the uninsured in California, whether employed or not.
73. SUPPORT legislation that improves the quality of health care, whether through the use of technology, innovative delivery models or combining and better accessing various streams of revenue, including but not limited to acute and long term care integration.

74. SUPPORT legislation to protect safety net providers, both public and private. Legislation should focus on stabilizing Medi-Cal rates and delivery modes and should advocate that these actions are essential to the success of any effort to improve access and make health care more affordable.
75. SUPPORT efforts that allow counties to draw down federal Medicaid funds for providing confidential alcohol and drug screening and brief intervention services to pregnant women and women of childbearing age who also qualify for Medi-Cal benefits.
76. SUPPORT state efforts to increase the scope of benefits and reimbursement rates contained in Minor Consent Medi-Cal to give youth suffering from substance abuse disorders access to a continuum of care, including residential and one-on-one outpatient treatment.
77. SUPPORT efforts to give incentives to providers to establish more youth-driven treatment facilities within the community.
78. SUPPORT efforts to extend Minor Consent Medi-Cal Coverage to incarcerated youths, many of whom are in custody due to drug related crimes. *This could greatly decrease recidivism in the juvenile justice system.*
79. SUPPORT county efforts in the promotion of partnerships that provide integrated responses to the needs of alcohol and other drugs populations, including criminal justice, perinatal and youth as well as those populations with co-occurring disorders.
80. SUPPORT and encourage the development of strategies that include alcohol and other drugs services in the provision of all culturally appropriate health care services.
81. SUPPORT efforts to require coverage of medically necessary alcohol and substance abuse related disorder treatment on the same levels as other medical conditions in health care service plans and disability insurance policies. *Alcohol and other drugs treatment services are the most under-funded of all health services. Neither the state nor the federal allocations to the County covers medical treatment for AOD services, and so are a cost borne by the County.*
82. SUPPORT legislation that extends the restrictions and prohibitions against the smoking of tobacco products to include restrictions or prohibitions against electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) in various places, including, but not limited to, places of employment, school campuses, public buildings, day care facilities, retail food facilities, multi-family housing, and health facilities.
83. SUPPORT and encourage state, federal and/or private funding for pharmaceutical research for the development of new cannabis products which would meet Federal Drug Administration (FDA) standards of known strengths and attributes (and without unnecessary side effects) which would be dispensable through pharmacies and medical facilities consistent with State and Federal law.

Human Services Issues

84. SUPPORT efforts to increase County flexibility in the use of CalWORKs funds and in program requirements in order to better support the transition of welfare dependent families from welfare-to-work to self-sufficiency, including, but not limited to: extending supportive services beyond the current limit; enhancing supportive services; increasing diversion and early intervention to obviate the need for aid.

Legislative changes to support these initiatives could include the following:

- a. **Supportive Services.** Extending the length of time CalWORKs recipients can receive supportive service such as help with transportation, child care, work uniforms, etc.
- b. **Welfare to Work.** Extending the length of time families can receive Welfare to Work services (job training and search and other employment related services) including job retention services. Currently CalWORKs recipients are eligible to receive supportive services and Welfare to Work services for up to 48 months if they are in compliance with CalWORKs rules. After 48 months these services or for CalWORKs cash aid. Helping people move from poverty and significant education gaps to full time employment in jobs that pay a high enough wage to be self-sufficient is difficult. It can take longer than 48 months and allowing for the flexibility to extend supportive services and training past the 48 month time limit would help.
- c. **Diversion:** Removing the criteria that someone has to be apparently eligible to CalWORKs in order to qualify for diversion and base the criteria on the client's circumstance and ability to maintain the situation on their own without the need of continued assistance.
 - When applying income and resource requirements for diversion, use only half of their income and/or resource value or increase the limits for income and resources for diversion only.
 - Increasing the amount of the diversion payment. If the applicant doesn't "use" all of the amount, they have 12 months to come back into the office and apply for the remaining amount of their diversion payments
 - Allowing families to reapply for CalWORKs during their diversion period without a repayment penalty or CalWORKs ineligibility.
- d. Expanding job retention services;
- e. Exempting the hard-to-serve from WTW activities and the 20% exemption or providing flexibility in the time limit (dependent upon terms and conditions of TANF authorization). Developing an eligibility definition to 250% of the federal poverty level (FPL). Currently, the CalWORKs poverty level is 130% of the FPL for each Assistance Unit (AU). An increase to 250% would ensure more families meet income eligibility requirements.

All of these measures would make it easier for CalWORKs families to enter employment services, become employed, and continue with the support they need in order to maintain their jobs.

85. SUPPORT efforts to revise the definition of “homelessness” in the Welfare & Institutions Codes to include families who have received eviction notices due to a verified financial hardship, thus allowing early intervention assistance for CalWORKs families. *Current law prevents CalWORKs from providing homeless assistance until the CalWORKs family is actually “on the street.” This rule change would enable the County to work with CalWORKs families who are being threatened with homelessness to prevent the eviction and, presumably, better maintain the family members’ employment status.*
86. SUPPORT efforts to establish an “umbrella code” for the reporting of incidents of elder abuse to the Department of Justice, thus more accurately recording the incidence of abuse. Current reporting policies within California’s law enforcement community and social services departments are uncoordinated in regards to the reporting of adult abuse. Under an “umbrella code,” law enforcement agencies and social services departments would uniformly report incidents of elder abuse and California would have much better data for policy and budget development purposes.
87. SUPPORT efforts to ensure funding of child care for CalWORKs and former CalWORKs families at levels sufficient to meet demand. The State of California has not fully funded the cost of child care for the “working poor.” *Additional funding would allow more CalWORKs and post-CalWORKs families to become and/or stay employed.*
88. SUPPORT efforts that seek to identify and eliminate elder financial abuse and elder exposure to crime that may be committed through conservatorships, powers of attorney, notaries and others who have the right to control elder assets.
89. *SUPPORT efforts to allow the CalFresh redetermination process to be done by mail without interview and permit the mail in process for CalFresh aged and/or disabled households. This would increase the efficiency of CalFresh redetermination and help people who are receiving the benefit who would have difficulty coming into a benefits office.*
90. SUPPORT efforts to expand the number of counties in the Federal IV-E waiver funding for pre-placement, prevention activities; development of caretaker recruitment and retention campaigns;; and, funding to implement Children’s Child Welfare Workload Study Results, SB 2030. *Changes in these areas would enable counties to better meet their performance accountability goals, as required under federal and state statutes.*
91. SUPPORT efforts to allow Medi-Cal clients transportation access to medical care via the most efficient transportation mode possible instead of the very costly ambulance transportation that is currently prevalent. *California is currently limited to the types of non-emergency medical transportation for reimbursement by Medi-Cal. However, the*

federal Medicaid program allows other much less costly forms of transportation to be used. Other states use this more permissive definition of approved non-emergency medical transportation to encourage Medicaid clients to receive preventative care and reduce the incidence of last-resort ambulance transportation to hospital emergency rooms for primary care.

92. OPPOSE any legislation that increases tobacco taxes but does not contain language to replace any funds consequently lost to The California Children and Families Act/Trust Fund for local services as currently funded by tobacco taxes, Proposition 10 in 1998 and Proposition 99 in 1988.
93. OPPOSE legislation, rules, regulations or policies that restrict or affect the amount of funds available to, or the local autonomy of, First 5 Commissions to allocate their funds in accordance with local needs.
94. SUPPORT efforts by the Contra Costa County's executive directors and program administrators of all Child Care and Development Programs to restore state budget allocations to the FY 2009-10 levels *if verified that this is an increase by fiscal analysts for the California State Preschool Program (CSPP), California Center-Based General Child Care Program (CCTR), CalWORKs Stage 2 (C2AP), CalWORKs Stage 3 (C3AP), Alternate Payment Program (CAPP), Child Care and Development Grant and the Child Care Retention Program (AB 212). Budgets in these programs have been flat or cut and an increase would greatly help low-income people find work and stay in jobs.*
95. SUPPORT efforts to increase the number of subsidized child care slots to address the shortage of over 20,000 slots serving children 0-12 years of age in Contra Costa County; and SUPPORT efforts to enhance the quality of early learning programs and maintain local Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) for early learning providers. *Affordable child care is key to low-income workers remaining employed and there is a significant dearth of subsidized child care slots. Increasing quality of early learning is important to developing skills in the next generation.*
96. SUPPORT the restoration of funding for Facility Restoration and Repair (FRR) grants by California Department of Education. *Increasing the funding amounts for facility restoration of early childhood education would allow for improved facilities at Head Start sites.*
97. SUPPORT continued and improved funding for substance abuse treatment and mental health services including those that provide alternatives to incarceration and Laura's Law.
98. SUPPORT alignment of verification requirements for CAIWORKS, CalFRESH and Medi-Cal programs to simplify the customer experience and reduce the potential for error. Consider letting all programs access the Federal Hub used through CalHEERS. *Currently these programs have different requirements for client verification, though they are all benefit programs. Alignment of verifications would make program administration more efficient and improve the client experience.*

99. SUPPORT legislation to expand early child care and education and increase funding for preschool and early learning.
100. SUPPORT ending the student restrictions that disallow CalFresh for poor students. *Students should not be penalized for getting an education.*
101. SUPPORT Allowing all individuals in receipt of Unemployment Benefits (UIB) to be automatically eligible for CalFresh. *Applying for UI and CalFresh is duplicative because requirements of both programs are so similar. This would increase CalFresh uptake in an efficient way.*
102. SUPPORT A State Earned Income Tax Credit. Developing a state earned income tax credit would incentivize work and reduce poverty. *The Federal EITC program is the most effective government antipoverty program and 22 other states have a state EITC.*
103. SUPPORT establishing a State funded and administered General Assistance Program. *The General Assistance Program is 100% County funded. Moving it to the State would relieve pressure on the County budget and appropriately direct costs to the State.*

Indian Gaming Issues

Contra Costa County is currently home to the Lytton Band of the Pomo Indians' Casino in San Pablo, a Class II gaming facility. There is also a proposal for an additional casino in North Richmond. Local governments have limited authority in determining whether or not such facilities should be sited in their jurisdiction; the terms and conditions under which the facilities will operate; and what, if any, mitigation will be paid to offset the cost of increased services and lost revenues. Contra Costa County has been active in working with CSAC and others to address these issues, as well as the need for funding for participation in the federal and state review processes and for mitigation for the existing Class II casino.

104. SUPPORT efforts to ensure that counties who have existing or proposed Class II Indian gaming facilities receive the Special Distribution Funds.
105. CONSIDER, on a case by case basis, whether or not to SUPPORT or OPPOSE Indian gaming facilities in Contra Costa County, and only SUPPORT facilities that are unique in nature and can demonstrate significant community benefits above and beyond the costs associated with mitigating community impacts.
106. OPPOSE the expansion or approval of Class III gaming machines at the existing gaming facility in Contra Costa County unless it can be demonstrated that there would be significant community benefits above and beyond the costs associated with mitigating community impacts.
107. SUPPORT State authority to tighten up the definition of a Class II machine.

108. SUPPORT State legislative and administration actions consistent with the CSAC policy documents on development on Indian Lands and Compact negotiations for Indian gaming.

Land Use/Community Development Issues

109. SUPPORT efforts to promote economic incentives for "smart growth," in Priority Development Areas including in-fill and transit-oriented development. *Balancing the need for housing and economic growth with the urban limit line requirements of Measure J (2004) will rely on maximum utilization of "smart growth" and Sustainable Community Strategy principles.*
110. SUPPORT efforts to increase the supply of affordable housing, including, but not limited to, state issuance of private activity bonds, affordable and low income housing bond measures, low-income housing tax credits and state infrastructure financing. *This position supports Goals 2, 3 and 4 of the County General Plan Housing Element.*
111. SUPPORT establishment of a CEQA exemption for affordable housing financing. Current law provides a statutory exemption from CEQA to state agencies for financing of affordable housing (Section 21080.10(b) of the California Public Resources Code and Section 15267 of the CEQA Guidelines)—but not to local agencies. *The current exemption for state agencies is only operational if a CEQA review process has been completed by another agency (e.g., by the land use permitting agency). Since the act of financing does not change the environmental setting, the net effect of the exemption is streamlining the process for providing financial assistance for already approved projects. AB 2518 (Houston) in 2006 was a Contra Costa County-sponsored bill to accomplish this, but it was not successful in the Legislature.*
112. SUPPORT efforts to obtain a CEQA exemption or to utilize CEQA streamlining provisions for infill development or Priority Development Areas, including in unincorporated areas. Section 15332 of the CEQA Guidelines is a Categorical Exemption for infill development projects but only within cities or unincorporated areas of a certain size surrounded by cities. *Without the exemption, housing projects in the unincorporated areas that are not surrounded by cities (e.g. North Richmond, Montalvin Manor and Rodeo) are subject to a more time-consuming and costly process in order to comply with the CEQA guidelines than that which is required of cities, despite having similar housing obligations. The CEQA exemption bill signed by the Governor in 2013 (SB 741) only applies to mixed-use or non-residential projects in the unincorporated areas that are both within ½ mile of a BART station and within the boundaries of an adopted Specific Plan.*
113. SUPPORT efforts to reform State housing element law to promote the actual production and preservation of affordable housing and to focus less on process and paper compliance.
114. OPPOSE efforts to limit the County's ability to exercise local land use authority.

115. SUPPORT efforts to reduce the fiscalization of land use decision-making by local government, which favors retail uses over other job-creating uses and housing. *Reducing incentives for inappropriate land use decisions, particularly those that negatively affect neighboring jurisdictions, could result in more rational and harmonious land use.*
116. SUPPORT allocations, appropriations, and policies that support and leverage the benefits of approved Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs), such as the East Contra Costa County NCCP. Support the granting of approximately \$20 million to the East Contra Costa County NCCP from the \$90 million allocation for NCCPs in Proposition 84. Support the position that NCCPs are an effective strategy for addressing the impacts of climate change and encourage appropriate recognition of the NCCP tool in implementation of climate change legislation such as SB 375 and AB 32. Promote effective implementation of NCCPs as a top priority for the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Support efforts to streamline implementation of NCCPs including exemptions from unnecessary regulatory oversight such as the Delta Plan Covered Actions process administered by the Delta Stewardship Council.
117. SUPPORT legislation that would give local agencies specific tools for economic development purposes in order to enhance job opportunities, with emphasis on attracting and retaining businesses, blight removal and promoting smart growth and affordable housing development, while balancing the impacts on revenues for health and safety programs and healthy communities.
118. OPPOSE legislation that would create substantial uncertainty over the tax allocation bonds issued by redevelopment agencies and possible negative credit impact.
119. SUPPORT legislation that would resolve the administrative funding gap for agencies serving as the Successor Housing Agency. Such legislation should not have a negative impact on the localities' general fund. The Redevelopment Dissolution Act allows Successor Agencies a modest allowance of tax increment funds to support Successor Agency administrative costs. There is no such carve out for Housing Successors. However, unlike Successor Agencies, Housing Successors have an ongoing obligation to monitor existing affordable housing developments. These obligations will continue for up to 55 years.
120. SUPPORT legislation that would clarify the ability of successor agencies to former redevelopment agencies to enter into contracts with its sponsoring jurisdiction and third parties to fulfill enforceable obligations. *The existing redevelopment dissolution statute limits the contracting powers of successor agencies which is causing delays in their ability to expeditiously retire certain enforceable obligations of the former redevelopment agencies.*
121. SUPPORT legislative and regulatory efforts that streamline compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by integrating it with other environmental protection laws and regulations, modifying the tiering of environmental reviews,

expanding the application of prior environmental reviews, focusing areas of potential CEQA litigation, and enhancing public disclosure and accountability.

- 122. OPPOSE CEQA reform efforts that reduce environmental protections for projects that cross county or city boundaries.
- 123. SUPPORT efforts to improve or streamline CEQA for efficiency without losing sight of its ultimate goal to thoroughly identify environmental impacts and mitigations.
- 124. OPPOSE efforts to change CEQA solely to accommodate one particular infrastructure project or set of projects.
- 125. SUPPORT legislation that amends Section 20133 of the Public Contract Code to 1) delete the existing sunset date of July 1, 2014 for design-build authority granted to counties, and 2) eliminate the current project cost threshold of \$2.5 million required for the use of the design-build method.

Law and Justice System Issues

- 126. SUPPORT legislation that seeks to curb metal theft by making it easier for law enforcement agencies to track stolen metals sold to scrap dealers through such means as requiring identification from customers selling commonly stolen metals, banning cash transactions over a certain amount, and requiring scrap dealers to hold materials they buy for a certain period of time before melting them down or reselling them.
- 127. SUPPORT legislation that provides a practical and efficient solution to addressing the problem of abandoned and trespassing vessels and ground tackle in an administrative process that allows the California State Lands Commission to both remove and dispose of such vessels and unpermitted ground tackle. *Boat owners in increasing numbers are abandoning both recreational and commercial vessels in areas within the Commission's jurisdiction. Our state waterways are becoming clogged with hulks that break up, leak, sink and add pollutants to our waterways and marine habitat.*
- 128. OPPOSE legislative proposals to realign additional program responsibility to counties without adequate funding and protections.
- 129. OPPOSE legislation that would shift the responsibility of parolees from the state to the counties without adequate notification, documentation and funding.
- 130. SUPPORT legislation that will help counties implement the 2011 Public Safety Realignment as long as the proposal would: provide for county flexibility, eliminate redundant or unnecessary reporting, and would not transfer more responsibility without funding.
- 131. SUPPORT legislation that will combat the negative impact that human trafficking has on victims in our communities, including the impact that this activity has on a range of

County services and supports, and support efforts to provide additional tools, resources and funding to help counties address this growing problem.

Levee Issues

132. ADVOCATE for administrative and legislative action to provide significant funding for rehabilitation of levees in the western and central Delta. *Proposition 1E, passed in November 2006, provides for over \$3 billion for levees, primarily those in the Central Valley Flood Control Program. Language is included in the bond for other Delta levees but funding is not specifically directed. The County will work on a coalition basis to actively advocate for \$1 billion in funding through this bond.*
133. SUPPORT legislation that requires the levee repair funds generated by Proposition 1E be spent within one year or legislative hearings conducted on expediting the expenditure of bond proceeds through the Department of Water Resources Delta Levees Section. Many public agencies, including reclamation districts charged with maintaining levees, have complained about the state's inaction in allocating and distributing the levee funds that were raised by the bond sales authorized by Proposition 1E in 2008. Legislation could require the immediate distribution of these funds to local levee projects. The Delta Reform Act of 2009 authorized over \$202 million for levee repairs. Legislative hearings may produce explanations from the state as to why these funds are not being distributed or identify methods to streamline administration of these funds.
134. SUPPORT legislation to amend California Water Code Section 12986, to maintain the state/local funding ratio of 75/25 for the state's Delta Levees Subventions Program, which provides funds for local levee repair and maintenance projects. The code provisions that have the state paying 75% of project costs will expire on July 1, 2013. At that time the matching ratio will change to 50/50. This means local reclamation districts will have to pay a larger portion of project costs (50%, compared to their current 25% requirement). Many districts do not have the funding to do so. The Delta Levees Subventions Program should continue to use funds from bonds or other dedicated sources, rather than the state's General Fund. For the past several years the program has been funded from bonds. When these bond funds run out, the program will have to be funded from the General Fund, unless some other new dedicated funding source is established.
135. ADVOCATE for legislation dealing with the Delta, including levees and levee programs, level and type of flood protection, beneficiary-pays programs, flood insurance, liability and other levee/land use issues.
136. SUPPORT legislation/regulation requiring Reclamation Districts to develop, publish, and maintain hazard emergency plans for their districts. *Emergency response plans are critical to emergency management, particularly in an area or situation like the Delta where a levee break could trigger other emergencies. This legislation/regulation should also include the requirement for plan review and annual distribution of the plan to the*

residents of the district, County Office of Emergency Services and other government agencies that have emergency response interests within the district.

137. SUPPORT legislation to amend California Water Code Section 85057.5 to bring the Delta Stewardship Council's "covered actions" land-use review process into consistency with CEQA. This section of state code defines a "covered action," which refers to local permit decisions that are subject to potential revocation by the Council, as adopted in the Council's Delta Plan. The proposed process works as follows: (1) if a local permit application meets the definition of a "covered action," the jurisdiction must evaluate it for consistency with all of the policies in the Council's Delta Plan. (2) If the jurisdiction finds the project is consistent with the Delta Plan, they notify the Council of this finding. (3) Anyone who objects to the project may appeal the consistency finding, and it will be up to the Council to make the final decision. Should the Council decide against the local jurisdiction, there is no appeal process available to the jurisdiction or project applicant other than legal action.

"Covered actions" are defined in Section 85057.5 of the California Water Code. It defines them as plans, projects or programs as defined by CEQA, and then goes on to grant several exemptions to certain types of projects. It does not, however, provide exemptions for all the project types that CEQA itself exempts. CEQA provides a lengthy list of categorical exemptions for plans, projects and programs that generally do not have significant environmental impacts, and projects that have compelling reasons to move forward quickly (such as public safety projects). The entire list of categorical exemptions from CEQA also should be exempt from the Delta Stewardship Council's "covered actions" process.

Library Issues

138. SUPPORT State financial assistance in the operation of public libraries, including full funding of the Public Library Fund (PLF) and the Direct/Interlibrary Loan (Transaction Based Reimbursement) program.
139. SUPPORT State bonds for public library construction. The 2000 library construction bond provided funding for two libraries in Contra Costa County. There is currently a need of approximately \$289,000,000 for public library construction, expansion and renovation in Contra Costa County.
140. SUPPORT continued funding for the California Library Literacy and English Acquisition Services Program, which provides matching funds for public library adult literacy programs that offer free, confidential, one-on-one basic literacy instruction to English-speaking adults who want to improve their reading, writing, and spelling skills.

Telecommunications Issues

141. SUPPORT clean-up legislation on AB 2987 that provides for local emergency notifications similar to provisions in cable franchises for the last 20 years. *Currently our*

franchises require the cable systems to carry emergency messages in the event of local emergencies. With the occurrence of several local refinery incidents, this service is critical for Contra Costa. Under federal law, Emergency Alert System requirements leave broad discretion to broadcasters to decide when and what information to broadcast, emergency management offices to communicate with the public in times of emergencies.

142. SUPPORT preservation of local government ownership and control of the local public rights-of-way. *Currently, local government has authority over the time, place, and manner in which infrastructure is placed in their rights-of-way. The California Public Utilities Commission is considering rulemaking that would give them jurisdiction to decide issues between local government and telecommunication providers.*

Transportation Issues

143. SUPPORT increased flexibility in the use of transportation funds.
144. SUPPORT regional coordination that provides for local input in addressing transportation needs. *Coordinated planning and delivery of public transit, paratransit, and rail services will help ensure the best possible service delivery to the public. Regional coordination also will be needed to effectively deal with the traffic impacts of Indian gaming casinos such as those in West County. Regional coordination also will be essential to complete planning and development of important regional transportation projects that benefit the state and local road system such as State Route 239, improvements to Vasco Road, completion of remaining segments of the Bay Trail, improvements to the Delta DeAnza Regional Trail, and the proposed California Delta Trail. There may be interest in seeking enhanced local input requirements for developing the Sustainable Communities Strategy for the Bay Area mandated by SB 375 for greenhouse gas reduction. It is important that the regional coordination efforts are based on input gathered from the local level, to ensure the regional approach does not negatively impact local communities. "Top-down" regional planning efforts would be inconsistent with this goal.*
145. SUPPORT efforts to improve safety throughout the transportation system. *The County supports new and expanded projects and programs to improve safety for bicyclists, pedestrians and wheelchair users, as well as projects to improve safety on high-accident transportation facilities such as Vasco Road. Data on transportation safety would be improved by including global positioning system (GPS) location data for every reported accident to assist in safety analysis and planning. The County also supports the expansion of school safety improvement programs such as crossing guards, revised school zone references in the vehicle code, Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) grants, efforts to improve the safety, expansion and security of freight transportation system including public and private maritime ports, airports, rail yards, railroad lines, rail bridges and sidings. The County also supports limits or elimination of public liability for installing traffic-calming devices on residential neighborhood streets.*

146. SUPPORT funding or incentives for the use of renewable resources in transportation construction projects. *The County seeks and supports grant programs, tax credits for manufacturers, state purchasing programs, and other incentives for local jurisdictions to use environmentally friendly materials such as the rubberized asphalt (made from recycled tires) that the County has used as paving material on San Pablo Dam Road and Pacheco Boulevard.*
147. SUPPORT streamlining the delivery of transportation safety projects. *The length of time and amount of paperwork should be reduced to bring a transportation safety project more quickly through the planning, engineering and design, environmental review, funding application, and construction phases, such as for Vasco Road. This could include streamlining the environmental review process and also streamlining all state permitting requirements that pertain to transportation projects. Realistic deadlines for use of federal transportation funds would help local jurisdictions deliver complex projects without running afoul of federal time limits which are unrealistically tight for complex projects.*
148. SUPPORT efforts to coordinate development of state-funded or regulated facilities such as courts, schools, jails, roads and state offices with local planning. The County supports preserving the authority of Public Works over County roads by way of ensuring the Board of Supervisors' control over County roads as established in the Streets & Highways Code (Ch2 §940) is not undermined. This includes strongly opposing any action by a non-local entity that would ultimately dilute current Board of Supervisors discretion relative to road design and land use.
149. SUPPORT efforts to coordinate planning between school districts, the state, and local jurisdictions for the purposes of: (1) locating and planning new schools, (2) funding programs that foster collaboration and joint use of facilities, and (3) financing off-site transportation improvements for improved access to existing schools. The County supports the California Department of Education's current effort to better leverage school facilities in developing sustainable communities. Related to this effort, the County supports reform of school siting practices by way of legislative changes related to any new statewide school construction bond authorization. The County takes the position that reform components should include bringing school siting practices and school zone references in the vehicle code into alignment with local growth management policies, safe routes to school best practices, State SB 375 principles, and the State Strategic Growth Council's "Health in All Policies Initiative."
150. SUPPORT regional aviation transportation planning efforts for coordinated aviation network planning to improve service delivery. Regional aviation coordination could also improve the surrounding surface transportation system by providing expanded local options for people and goods movement.
151. SUPPORT efforts to increase waterborne transport of goods and obtaining funds to support this effort. *The San Francisco to Stockton Ship Channel is a major transportation route for the region, providing water access to a large number of industries and the Ports of Sacramento and Stockton. A project is underway to deepen*

the channel, providing additional capacity to accommodate increasing commerce needs of the Ports and providing better operational flexibility for the other industries. Increased goods movement via waterways has clear benefits to congestion management on highways and railroads (with resultant air quality benefits).

152. SUPPORT legislative and administrative measures to enhance rail safety, increase state oversight of railroad bridges, provide funding for the training of first responders, and implement regulations that increase tank car safety standards for cars transporting crude oil and other hazardous materials, and regulations that require railroads to share data with state emergency managers and local responders.

Veterans Issues

153. SUPPORT legislation and budget actions that will continue the state's annual local assistance for County Veterans Service Offices at a minimum of the \$5.6 million level. The eventual goal is to fully fund CVSOs by appropriating the full \$11 million in local assistance funding as reflected in Military and Veterans Code Section 972.1(d). *County Veterans Service Offices (CVSOs) play a vital role in the local veteran community, not only within the Veterans Affairs claims process, but in other aspects as well. This includes providing information about all veterans' benefits (Federal, State and local), as well as providing claims assistance for all veteran-related benefits, referring veterans to ancillary community resources, providing hands-on development and case management services for claims and appeals and transporting local veterans to VA facilities.*
154. SUPPORT legislation and budget actions that will provide veterans organizations with resources to make necessary repairs to, or replacement of, their meeting halls and facilities. *Across California, the meeting halls and posts of Veterans Service Organizations such as the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars serve as unofficial community centers. Many of these facilities are not compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility standards, are not earthquake retrofitted, or have deteriorated in recent years due to declining membership and reduced rental revenues as a result of the economic downturn. The County will support legislation that would create a competitive grant program for veterans' organizations, classified by the IRS as 501c19 non-profit organizations and comprised primarily of past or present members of the United States Armed Forces and their family members, to use for repairs and improvements to their existing facilities.*
155. SUPPORT legislation that will improve the timeliness and quality of both VA benefits claim decisions and VA healthcare services. Specifically, legislation that works toward improving on the expedited processing of claims, providing VA healthcare, and administering of benefits to populations with unique needs, such as homeless Veterans, Women Veterans, and Veterans experiencing service related Posttraumatic Stress Disorder or service related Traumatic Brain Injury.

Waste Management Issues

156. SUPPORT legislation that establishes producer responsibility for management of their products, including pharmaceuticals, batteries, sharps and veterinary medicine, at the end of their useful life.
157. SUPPORT efforts to increase the development of markets for recycled materials.
158. SUPPORT legislative and regulatory efforts to allow third parties, under specific circumstances and conditions, to collect and transport household hazardous waste to collection facilities.
159. SUPPORT legislation that seeks to remedy the environmental degradation and solid waste management problems on a State-wide basis of polystyrene containers and single-use plastic bags typically given away for free at grocery, retail and other establishments.
160. SUPPORT legislation that does not require increased diversion from landfills without out an adequate funding mechanism.
161. SUPPORT legislation that would make changes to the used tire redemption program. *Instead of collecting a disposal fee from the consumer when new tires are purchased, a disposal fee would be collected at the wholesale level and redeemed by the disposal site when the used tires are brought to the site. The party bringing the tires to the disposal site would also receive a portion of the fee.*
162. SUPPORT legislation that relieves counties with privately-operated landfills from the state requirement for maintaining a 15-year supply of disposal capacity for waste generated within each county. *In 1989, Contra Costa County amended its general plan to accommodate construction of Keller Canyon Landfill. Due to the difficulty in siting landfills and the requirements of Public Resources Code 47100 – Countywide Siting Element, the County maintained authority to control the amount of waste disposed at this facility from outside the county. Despite Contra Costa County’s opposition, AB 845 became law on January 1, 2013 and prohibits any jurisdiction from regulating the amount of waste disposed at a privately-operated landfill based on its place of origin.*

Because local jurisdictions can no longer control importation of waste to privately-operated landfills, a host County that receives a significant amount of waste from outside the county will have a greater need to undertake the difficult task of identifying new disposal capacity pursuant to the Countywide Siting Element requirement. Since the state believes there is no need for local jurisdictions to regulate disposal of solid waste by place of origin, the state should remove existing statutes that require each County with privately-operated landfills to identify sufficient disposal capacity for the waste generated by the jurisdictions within that County.

163. SUPPORT legislation that can reduce the amount of harmful pharmaceuticals (including veterinary medicine) that ultimately enter waste water treatment facilities, bodies of water, and landfills.
164. SUPPORT legislative and regulatory efforts to restrict payments from the Beverage Container Recycling Program Fund for redemption of beverage containers sold out of state. *Fraudulent redemption of these beverage containers is costing the Fund from \$40 million to \$200 million annually. This fraud combined with loans to the General Fund to reduce the State budget deficit has significantly reduced the availability of funds for increasing recycling as intended under the law.*
165. SUPPORT legislative and regulatory efforts that correct the imbalance between the County's regulatory authority to control the collection and disposal of solid waste generated within the unincorporated areas and our exposure to state penalties for failing to meet state mandates for diverting solid waste generated within these areas as a result of Appellate Court decisions. *In litigation where the County sought to protect its solid waste franchise authority for unincorporated areas the court awarded franchise authority to the Rodeo Sanitary District and Mountain View Sanitary District while the County remains exposed to state penalties for failing to meet state mandates for reducing disposal of solid waste generated in these areas.*