



## LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

December 11, 2017

10:30 A.M.

651 Pine Street, Room 101, Martinez

Supervisor Diane Burgis, 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 September 11, 2017 meeting of the Legislation Committee with any necessary corrections.**
4. **ACCEPT the End of Session Report for 2017 and provide direction to staff, as needed.**
5. **REVIEW the Draft 2018 State Legislative Platform, provide direction to staff on any recommended changes, and RECOMMEND action to the Board of Supervisors.**
6. **REVIEW the Draft 2018 Federal Legislative Platform, provide direction to staff on any recommended changes, and RECOMMEND action to the Board of Supervisors.**
7. Adjourn

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*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.*

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*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.*

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

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For Additional Information Contact:

Lara DeLaney, Committee Staff  
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# Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

## Subcommittee Report

### LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

3.

**Meeting Date:** 12/11/2017  
**Subject:** Record of Action for Legislation Committee  
**Submitted For:** LEGISLATION COMMITTEE,  
**Department:** County Administrator  
**Referral No.:** 2017-34  
**Referral Name:** Record of Action  
**Presenter:** L. DeLaney      **Contact:** L. DeLaney, 925-335-1097

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#### **Referral History:**

County Ordinance (Better Government Ordinance 95-6, Article 25-205, [d]) requires that each County Body keep a record of its meetings. Though the record need not be verbatim, it must accurately reflect the agenda and the decisions made in the meeting.

Any handouts or printed copies of material or testimony distributed at the meeting will be attached to the meeting record.

#### **Referral Update:**

Attached for the Committee's consideration is the Draft Record of Action for its September 11, 2017 meeting.

#### **Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):**

APPROVE the Record of Action, with any necessary corrections.

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#### **Attachments**

Draft Record of Action

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# DRAFT



## LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

September 11, 2017

10:30 A.M.

651 Pine Street, Room 101, Martinez

Supervisor Diane Burgis, 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: Diane Burgis, Chair  
Karen Mitchoff, Vice Chair

Staff Present: Lara DeLaney, Senior Deputy County Administrator  
Anne O, Chief of Staff, District IV  
Susan Jeong, Policy & Planning Division, EHSD

Attendees: Sarah Crow  
Alvaro Fuentes

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 was made.*

3. APPROVE the Record of Action, with any necessary corrections.

*The Committee unanimously approved the Record of Action with no corrections.*

AYE: Chair Diane Burgis, Vice Chair Karen Mitchoff  
Passed

4. REVIEW the draft Resolution and RECOMMEND its adoption, with any necessary changes, to the Board of Supervisors.

*The Committee voted unanimously to approve this item and directed staff to place the item on the Board of Supervisors' consent calendar for September 19, 2017.*

5. CONSIDER recommending to the Board of Supervisors a contract extension with the current state and federal advocacy services providers for one year, January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

***The Committee voted unanimously to support staff's recommendation, directing staff to conduct a contractor procurement process in 2018.***

6. ACCEPT the report on the status of bills of interest to the County and provide direction to staff and advocates, as needed.

***The County's state advocates, Cathy Christian and Ben Palmer, were invited to the meeting via conference call and provided a summary of the key bills of interest to the County. The Supervisors were requested to provide advocacy support to oppose AB 1250 and SB 649.***

7. The next meeting is currently scheduled for October 9, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. in Room 101, 651 Pine Street, Martinez.

***The October 9 and November 13, 2017 meetings of the Legislation Committee were subsequently cancelled.***

8. Adjourn

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# Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

## Subcommittee Report

### LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

4.

**Meeting Date:** 12/11/2017  
**Subject:** End of Session Report 2017  
**Submitted For:** LEGISLATION COMMITTEE,  
**Department:** County Administrator  
**Referral No.:** 2017-36  
**Referral Name:** End of Session Report  
**Presenter:** Cathy Christian & Ben Palmer      **Contact:** L. DeLaney, 925-335-1097

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#### **Referral History:**

At the conclusion of the legislative session, staff provides the Legislation Committee with a summary report of advocacy activity at the state level. The County's legislative advocate, Cathy Christian of Nielsen Merksamer, provides an update on top-priority bills and final outcomes of the 2016 year (**Attachment A**).

#### **Referral Update:**

The End of Session report from the County's state advocates, Cathy Christian and Benjamin Palmer of Nielsen Merksamer, is Attachment A.

#### **Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):**

ACCEPT the End of Session Report from the state's advocates, Nielsen Merksamer, and provide direction to staff, as needed.

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#### **Attachments**

**Attachment A**

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To: David Twa  
Lara Delaney  
Contra Costa County

From: Cathy Christian  
Benjamin Palmer

Date: December 1, 2017

Re: **2017 Legislation and Legislative Issues**

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In the early hours of the morning of September 16<sup>th</sup>, both houses of the California State Legislature adjourned the first year of the 2016-2017 legislative session. As is typical of the end of session in Sacramento, the legislature wrestled with a few incredibly important issues until the very last moment. When the dust settled, along with approving and sending Governor Brown hundreds of bills, they managed to concur on a few issues that had remained unresolved from the 2015-2016 session. Along with approving a long awaited \$4 billion housing bond for the November General Election Ballot, they passed a \$4 billion parks and water bond for the June 5<sup>th</sup> Statewide Primary Election Ballot and SB 54 (dé Leon), the so called “Sanctuary State” bill. Also, in a major victory for California local governments, a months long campaign by mostly local government entities and non-profits was able to force the brakes on AB 1250 by Assemblyman Jones-Sawyer, that would have dramatically changed and complicated the way local governments establish personal services contracts.

### **And so it began...**

2017 started out on some rocky footing. Governor Brown’s initial budget offering included a \$4.4 billion IHSS cost shift to counties. To make matters worse, his proposed budget included no revenues to pay for the added costs to counties. Counties were also dealt another significant blow as the Governor’s budget also outlined an end to the IHSS MOE as a result of the discontinuation of the Coordinated Care Initiative. The resulting \$625 million cut, combined with the IHSS cost shift set the stage for a very busy year. It is also worth mentioning that the 2015-2016 legislative session ended without resolution on three of California’s biggest issues/priorities, addressing California’s affordable housing crisis, its chronic homelessness problem and the critical need for repair of California’s local roads and streets. 2017 was going to be a year of challenges for both the Legislature and California’s local governments.

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Just a few weeks later, on January 24<sup>th</sup>, in front of a joint session of the legislature, Governor Brown swore in the State's 33<sup>rd</sup> Attorney General, Xavier Becerra. Becerra was appointed by the Governor to fill the void left by Kamala Harris, who was elected to fill outgoing Senator Barbara Boxer's seat. Becerra's congressional seat (CD 34) was filled by then Assemblyman, Jimmy Gomez. Gomez' 51<sup>st</sup> Assembly District seat remains vacant, and is currently contended by an incredibly crowded field of more than a dozen, mostly Democratic, candidates. In his brief tenure, Becerra has already waded into high profile battles with the Trump Administration on U.S. – Mexico Border Wall construction, federal immigration enforcement and greenhouse gas regulation.

In the first week of April, the logjam of big ticket items that the legislature had not been able to resolve in the last legislation seemed to break. On April 6<sup>th</sup>, both houses passed SB 1 (Beall) and ACA 5 (Frazier). Together, these bills increased several taxes and fees to generate roughly \$52 billion over 10 years to pay for deferred maintenance on state highways and local streets and roads, and to improve the state's trade corridors, transit and active transit facilities. Further, ACA 5 added a constitutional protection for the funding to ensure that it will be used solely for transportation purposes. While this victory was not a panacea for all of the issues plaguing California's aging transportation infrastructure, it was a significant step forward for the state and local governments.

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, Governor Brown released his much anticipated \$124 billion May Revise Budget document. The Governor's proposal included an appropriation (over 4 years) to counties for mitigating the impacts of the aforementioned IHSS cost shift. Though this proposal was far better than the Governor's initial proposal to immediately shift a \$623 million dollar obligation to counties, it still leaves local governments with a significant financial and administrative burden going forward. The Governor's revised proposal also proposed a \$500 million child care package, and a \$6 billion pay down for unfunded CalPERS pension obligations that relied on the Proposition 2 Rainy Day Account. The May Revise was slightly larger than last year's \$122.3 billion budget. The overall increase came from an increase in the capital-gains revenue. Despite the increase in revenue, the budget still predicts a \$3.3 billion shortfall for 2017-2018 (down from a predicted \$5.8 billion shortfall predicted when the Governor's initial budget was proposed in January).

### **Yet another on time budget...**

The legislature passed another on-time state budget on June 15<sup>th</sup>, and Governor signed the document on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The total budget package (including GF, Special and Bond Funds) topped out at just over \$183 billion. Among other things, the plan included \$74.5 billion for K-12 education, expanded the earned income tax credit, used \$1.26 billion in tobacco tax revenue to raise Medi-Cal provider rates, increased childcare provider reimbursement rates and included \$8 million to



provide access to full-day preschool for 2,059 children from low income working families.

Along with the Budget and associated trailer bills, the legislature passed several other significant pieces of legislation on a number of subjects. They passed bills that 1.) curtailed the powers of the Board of Equalization 2.) lengthened the amount of time available to qualify a recall ballot measure, in hopes thwarting the effort to recall Senator Josh Newman 3.) reconciled portions of Proposition 64 with previously passed marijuana regulatory legislation 4.) strengthened dam safety rules.

### **The final push...**

When the legislature reconvened from its summer recess, the halls of the Capitol were filled with the regular end-of-session chaos that comes with the glut of legislation released (and/or held) from the legislature's fiscal committees. Along with the regular amending and vote wrangling, legislative leaders and the Governor were working behind the scenes to garner enough support to finally move on legislation addressing affordable housing and homelessness, parks / drought / water / conservation and an extension of the state's cap and trade program. When the dust settled, in the wee hours of September 16<sup>th</sup>, the Legislature also sent Governor Brown:

**AB 398 (Garcia)** – Extends California's cap-and-trade program until 2030.

**SB 2 (Atkins)** - Enacts the Building Homes and Jobs Act that requires certain percentages of moneys, collected through a \$75 fee on real estate transaction documents, be made available to local governments and the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide funding for affordable housing.

**SB 3 (Beall)** – Enacts the Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018, and authorizes the issuance of \$4 billion in general obligation bonds for affordable housing programs and a veteran's home ownership program, subject to approval by the voters in the November 6, 2018 election.

**SB 35 (Wiener)** - Creates a streamlined, ministerial approval process for infill developments in localities that have failed to meet their regional housing needs assessment (RHNA) numbers.

**SB 5 (de León)** – Proposes the Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018, subject to voter approval in the *June, 2018*, election. This bill proposes the issuance of \$3.5 billion in general obligation bonds to implement its provisions. This bill contains \$52 million for natural community conservation plans.

### **And also....**

There were two significant, if only temporary, victories for CA local governments in the last hours of session. **AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer)**, which would have established new standards for the use of personal services contracts for counties was never brought up for a vote on the Senate Floor. The bill had been referred to Senate Rules committee earlier in the month and many felt that it was incredibly likely that the bill would resurface as a last minute play as local governments and labor continued to firm up support for final floor votes. Local governments would win the day, as the bill was never referred out of Rules Committee. Though stalled for the year, none expect that we've seen the last of 1250. Advocates on both sides continue to strategize in anticipation of a 2018 push of 1250 or similar legislation.

The second major victory for CA local governments was the stalling of SCA 12 (Mendoza), which would have increased the size of Boards of Supervisors in California's largest counties and forced those counties to have an elected executive and a new budget approval process. In a bit of a surprise, Senator Mendoza, in his floor presentation of the bill, committed to work on the bill in the interim and to remove the elected executive and budget adoption language. The bill was subsequently voted to the Assembly where no further action was taken. Negotiations continue.

### **But you can't win them all...**

Senator Hueso was able to get SB 649 which establishes a statewide framework for streamlining the permit siting process for small cell wireless facilities made its way to the Governor's desk, despite a massive advocacy effort made by scores of local government entities, labor and community groups.

### **Or maybe you can...**

In one of his last bill actions of 2017, on his bill signing deadline date, at 11:56 PM (according to the press release), the Governor announced that he had vetoed SB 649, stating in his veto message that:

*"There is something of real value in having a process that results in extending this innovative technology rapidly and efficiently. Nevertheless, I believe that the interest which localities have in managing rights of way requires a more balanced solution than the one achieved in this bill."*

### **The final analysis...**

All in all, 2017 was an incredibly productive year for the Legislature and Governor. Along with another on-time budget, they were able to make forward progress on numerous fronts where progress had been elusive. That being said, 2018 will continue to demand their attention and action as policies are implemented and anticipated revenues will need to be allocated. Much as the

end of the 2017 session was focused on legislation that CA local governments were concerned with, 2018 will likely begin in the same manner. And while that is a full plate, 2018 is also an election year. Attention to the regular business of running the largest state in the Union will be challenged by the prospect of a new Governor, legislative members and leaders in both houses, state Constitutional officers and any number of ballot measures that qualify. And, if that wasn't enough, US House and Senate seats will be up for grabs and the field of challengers for both continues to grow every day. Next year will be a test of endurance no matter how you measure it.

**Contra Costa County Advocacy Bills:**

**AB 18 (Garcia)** - Enacts the California Clean Water, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access For All Act, which would authorize the issuance of bonds to finance a clean water, climate, and coastal protection and outdoor access for all program. Provides for the submission of these provisions to the voters at the statewide direct primary election.

**Status: *In Senate Appropriations Committee***

**AB 205 (Wood)** - Implements provisions regarding federal regulations governing Medicaid managed care plans. Authorizes a person to request a hearing involving a MediCal managed care plan within a specified number of days after receiving a specified notice. Requires the Department of Health Care Services to develop standards for specified provider types to ensure covered services are accessible to enrollees of MediCal managed care plans, and establishes timely appointment standards for MediCal managed care plans.

**Status: *Signed by Governor, Chapter 738, Statutes of 2017***

**AB 435 (Thurmond)** - Authorizes certain counties to develop and implement individualized county child care subsidy plans. Requires the Early Education and Support Division of the State Department of Education to review, and approve or disapprove the plans. Authorizes local policy to supersede state preschool eligibility periods.

**Status: *Signed by Governor, Chapter 703, Statutes of 2017***

**AB 557 (Rubio)** - Authorizes, as of July 1, 2018, applicants for and recipients of CalWORKs benefits, who have experienced domestic violence, to be eligible for CalWORKs homeless assistance and good-cause exemptions from school participation and immunization requirements under specified circumstances.

**Status: *Signed by Governor, Chapter 691, Statutes of 2017***

**AB 732 (Frazier)** - Extends indefinitely the operation of the authorization to advance funds to reimburse local agencies under a program for the maintenance or improvement of project or non-project levees.

**Status: *Held on Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File***

**AB 818 (Burke)** - Permits a CalWORKs recipient to request an extension to the 24-month welfare-to-work time clock in order to obtain a high school education or its equivalent, or to participate in education or activities subsequent to the acquisition of a high school diploma or its equivalent.

**Status: *Signed by Governor, Chapter 141, Statutes of 2017***

**AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer)** - Establishes specific standards for the use of personal services contracts by counties. Requires the county to demonstrate that the proposed contract will result in costs savings to the county and to show that the contract does not cause displacement of county or city workers. Establishes liability provisions for employment law violations and torts committed in the course of providing services under contract. Imposes disclosure requirements on contracts.

**Status: *Held in Senate Rules Committee***

**AB 1268 (Reyes)** - Creates the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention Fund to provide grants to nonprofit organizations for the purpose of funding programs that incorporate comprehensive, evidence-based, and promising practices to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault. Requires grants to be awarded by the Office of Emergency Services according to criteria for funding. Creates specified requirements for organizations receiving funds.

**Status: *Held on Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File***

**AB 1404 (Berman)** - Revises exemptions from the California Environmental Quality Act to include proposed residential and mixed-use housing projects occurring within an unincorporated area of a county. Requires the Office of Planning and Research to recommend proposed regulatory amendments for the implementation of these provisions.

**Status: *Held on Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File***

**AB 1603 (Ridley Thomas)** - Provides that persons who are employed jointly by a public agency and any other employer (e.g., a private staffing agency or registry) at specified public clinics or hospitals are public employees subject to the Meyers-Milius-Brown Act. The bill also provides that these public/private jointly-employed employees may be included in appropriate bargaining units without the consent of any agency or joint employer.

**Status: *Senate Inactive File***

**SB 1 (Beall)** - Increases several taxes and fees to raise the equivalent of roughly \$52.4 billion over ten years in new transportation revenues and makes adjustments for inflation every year; directs the funding to be used towards

deferred maintenance on the state highways and local streets and roads, and to improve the state's trade corridors, transit, and active transportation facilities.

**Status: *Signed by Governor, Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017***

**SB 171 (Hernandez)** - Implements various provisions in regard to governing Medicaid managed care plans. Requires the department to determine the remittance amount on a plan-specific basis for each rating region of the plan and to calculate the federal and nonfederal share amounts associated with each remittance. Requires the nonfederal share of amounts remitted by a Medi-Cal managed care plan to be transferred to the Medically Underserved Account for Physicians within the Health Professions Education Fund.

**Status: *Signed by Governor, Chapter 768, Statutes of 2017***

**SB 231 (Hertzberg)** - Relates to a provision of the California Constitution that requires that assessments, fees, and charges be submitted to property owners for approval or rejection after the provision of written notice and the holding of a public hearing.

**Status: *Signed by Governor, Chapter 536, Statutes of 2017***

**SB 522 (Glazer)** - Dissolves the existing elected board of the West Contra Costa Healthcare District. Requires the Board of Supervisors of the County of Contra Costa, at its election, to either serve as the district board.

**Status: *Senate Rules Committee***

**SB 649 (Hueso)** - Establishes a statewide framework for streamlining the permit siting process for small cell wireless facilities that meet specified requirements. Specifically, this bill requires an administrative and encroachment permit in lieu of a discretionary permit for installations in the right-of-way and also within a commercial or industrial zone, limits the fees to these attachments to all costs plus \$250, and establishes other requirements.

**Status: *Vetoed by Governor***

**SB 704 (Galgiani)** - Requires that the Division of Boating and Waterways collaborate with the California Conservation Corps and use members of the corps in implementing its invasive aquatic plants control programs.

**Status: *Signed by Governor, Chapter 247, Statutes of 2017***

**SCA 3 (Dodd)** - Creates an additional exception to the 1% real property tax limit for a rate imposed by a city, county, or special district to service bonded indebtedness incurred to fund public library facilities, that are approved by a certain percentage of the voters of the city, county, or special district.

**Status: *Senate Inactive File***

**SCA 12 (Mendoza)** - Provides that in a county that is found, beginning with the 2020 census, to have a population of more than 5 million, the measure requires a governing body consisting of a sufficient number of members as to ensure that each member represents a district containing a population equivalent to no more than 2 districts in the U.S. House of Representatives. Requires a county that is found to have a population of more than 5 million to have an elected county executive.

**Status:** *In Assembly*



# Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

## Subcommittee Report

### LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

5.

**Meeting Date:** 12/11/2017  
**Subject:** Draft 2018 State Legislative Platform  
**Submitted For:** LEGISLATION COMMITTEE,  
**Department:** County Administrator  
**Referral No.:** 2017-37  
**Referral Name:** Draft 2018 State Platform  
**Presenter:** L. DeLaney      **Contact:** L. DeLaney, 925-335-1097

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#### **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, as well as the Board's advisory bodies, to provide recommended changes or additions to the current adopted Platforms. In September, all were invited to provide suggested edits to the State Platform by submitting input in writing.

The Legislation Committee typically reviews the draft Platform in November and/or December, with the Proposed Platform recommended to the Board of Supervisors for adoption in January. The Draft 2018 State Platform in redline version (showing changes from the adopted 2017 Platform) is **Attachment A**. A clean-copy version is **Attachment B**.

The proposed policies from the Contra Costa County Commission on Women are included in **Attachment C**. The proposed amendments from the Hazardous Materials Commission are included in the Draft 2018 State Platform.

#### **Referral Update:**

The significant proposed amendments to the 2017 State Platform that are recommended by staff for the 2018 Draft State Platform include the following:

### **COUNTY-SPONSORED LEGISLATION**

For 2018, the following bill will be pursued:

#### **West Contra Costa Healthcare District (SB 522)**

Given the District's limited funding and change in operations, legislation that would allow the Board of Supervisors to appoint the District's governing body is necessary and appropriate. It would eliminate the cost of elections and foster collaboration between the District and the County as these two public agencies work together to meet the medical needs of District residents. On



August 1, 2017, the Board of Supervisors authorized the County Administrator to seek legislation to change the District's Board of Directors from an elected board to one appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The District's governing body also supports this change. A bill has been introduced to accomplish this, SB 522, and will be considered in January 2018.

## **LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY ADVOCACY PRIORITIES**

Staff is not recommending any changes to the nature or order of legislative priorities for 2018. However, a text change is recommended to Priority 1: State Budget to recognize the anticipated impact of the State-imposed changes to the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program.

## **STATE PLATFORM POLICY POSITIONS**

### ***Climate Change***

Add: Policy #20: SUPPORT efforts to expand eligible expenditures of the Greenhouse Gas Revenue Fund to investments in accessible transit/transportation systems (serving seniors, disabled, veterans) which result in more efficient (shared trips, increased coordination) service and corresponding reductions in greenhouse gas production. This policy is in support of the accessible transit/transportation initiatives discussed during the Measure X and 2017 Countywide Transportation Plan approval, and is consistent with the "Accessible Transportation" report provided to the Board of Supervisors in September 2017 which documented the need for substantial investment to make improvements in this field. The September 2017 report established that the County is not unique in this situation; these issues are widespread which justifies a statewide/nationwide legislative approach.

Add: Policy #24: As California and the East Bay region experiences more frequent and prolonged periods of extreme heat, extreme heat will impact human health, demand on health services, potable water, agriculture, vectors, wild fires, and demand on electricity. SUPPORT funding and infrastructure to help protect vulnerable communities and populations as the mean temperature of the region steadily increases due to global climate change.

### ***Health Care***

In addition to numerous text changes, staff proposes the addition of the following policies:

85. SUPPORT legislation and administrative actions that further align a statewide regulatory framework for the commercial cannabis industry and that continue to authorize local jurisdictions to adopt more restrictive measures to protect the health, safety and welfare of their residents.

109. SUPPORT legislation that extends the restrictions and prohibitions against the smoking of, and exposure to, marijuana products in various places, including, but not limited to, places of employment, school campuses, public buildings, day care facilities, multi-family housing, health facilities, alcohol and other drug treatment facilities, and homeless shelters; further prohibit marijuana edibles to prevent youth/children access to harmful products; restrictions on advertising of marijuana products targeting youth and near places frequented by youth or alcohol and other drug treatment facilities.

110. SUPPORT funding, legislation, policy, and programs that would accomplish the following:



a. create an effective crisis response system of services for persons experiencing homelessness, particularly families and transition-age youth; b. increases permanent housing with services for persons experiencing or at-risk of homelessness with a chronic disability; and c. protects and expands the availability of affordable housing, particularly for the Very Low and Extremely Low Income population.

111. OPPOSE new block-granting proposals, harsh cuts, or proposals that will significantly and/or permanently shift the structure of health and human service funding and programming that would lead to the restriction or elimination of safety-net programs. Reductions in federal human services funding and programming severely limits critical support for our community and state. Block grants often lead to decreases in funding that forces states to limit benefits for families, cap enrollment, and establish waitlists. These restrictions result in families who need these supports and services, not being able to access them, possibly leading them into deeper poverty and distress.

112. OPPOSE efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act or to replace it with any proposals that represent significant, permanent structural alterations to current subsidized segments of the health care system. This would include proposals that would convert Medicaid enrollee categories to a per-capita cap model, thereby establishing hard federal funding caps for state Medicaid programs. These proposals could force the state to make cuts of its own to offset the loss of federal funding. Contra Costa's entire Medi-Cal (Medicaid) population of approximately 250,000 people, including 90,000 children, could be affected as a result.

113. OPPOSE legislation and administrative actions to repeal DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) as well as legislation and administrative efforts that target individuals due to their color, religious affiliation or national origin.

### ***Human Services***

Human Services was reorganized into the following categories: Administrative Support Services, Aging and Adult Services, Safety Net Programs, Early Care and Education, Child Welfare, and Violence Prevention. New policy proposals include the following:

114. OPPOSE the establishment of specific or stricter standards for the use of personal services contracts by counties, that would make contracting with community-based organizations more difficult for counties.

127. SUPPORTS efforts to allow counties to use alternative reassessment approaches, including but not limited to telephonic reassessments, that would be applied to customers rated low on the Functional Index Rating Scale.

128. SUPPORT efforts that focus on dependent adult and elder abuse prevention including, but not limited to, providing respite for caregivers.

129. SUPPORT efforts that identify, eliminate and prevent in-home neglect of the elderly and dependent adults; and scams and fraud (internet and otherwise) targeted at the elderly and dependent adults.

130. SUPPORT efforts that would require the California Department of Social Services to translate all state-provided materials used by In-Home Support Services providers into the

statewide threshold languages: English, Spanish, Armenian, and Chinese.

131. SUPPORT efforts that would help to stabilize and provide short-term housing supports for at-risk Adult Protective Services clients.

132. SUPPORT legislative efforts that would enhance confidentiality of DMV records for Adult Protective Services social workers (a practice already in place for Child Protective Services social workers).

148. SUPPORT efforts for a more flexible framework that allows the state to supplement CalFresh benefits if federal assistance is insufficient or unavailable. Recent natural disasters have underscored the need for a more permanent framework for the state to respond.

149. SUPPORT continuous investment in the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) and efforts to increase access to California Earned Income Tax Credit, including increase in tax credit.

150. SUPPORT the expansion of benefits and services for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

151. SUPPORT providing funding for graduation bonuses for non-pregnant/parenting CalWORKs students who obtain a high school diploma/equivalent.

152. SUPPORT shared housing efforts to secure permanent housing assistance for CalWORKs participants.

166. SUPPORT efforts to that would establish/allow the enrollment of 2.9 year olds in the California State Preschool Program.

167. SUPPORT alignment of family eligibility for subsidized child care with cost of living adjustments and higher minimum wage rates.

168. SUPPORT the restoration of State Quality Child Care Funds which funds the Local Child Care Planning Council.

169. SUPPORT the increase in flexibility of child care contracts with the California Department of Education that would allow voluntary transfer of funds to occur outside of November and May months.

170. SUPPORT efforts to raise wages for the early care and education workforce (such as child care workers, preschool/infant-toddler teachers).

171. SUPPORT efforts that encourage access to early education home visiting programming - supporting families in providing an environment that promotes healthy growth and development of their young children.

176. SUPPORT legislative efforts that would amend the definition of “relative” as applied to state funded Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payments (Kin-Gap) to be consistent with the federally funded Kin-Gap. This will allow all Kinship guardianship cases to be treated uniformly and allow more families to experience independence, normalcy and other benefits of

permanence as legal guardians.

178. SUPPORT efforts to expand California Earned Income Tax Credit (Cal-EITC) eligibility to former foster youth under age 25 years.

179. SUPPORT efforts that would create state Homeless Youth Housing Program grants fund to establish or expand programs that provide specified housing assistance and supportive services to homeless youth.

184. SUPPORT efforts to increase training on human trafficking (with a specific focus on labor trafficking) for law enforcement and others involved in criminal investigations.

185. SUPPORT efforts that seek to specialize and build expertise for designated staff and systems (such as developing a commercially sexually exploited youth court or creating human trafficking units) to better support survivors of human trafficking.

186. SUPPORT efforts that differentiate risk and provide differential response for both victims of domestic violence and sex crimes and offenders of domestic violence and sex crimes.

187. SUPPORT efforts to increase language access and cultural responsive services for survivors of interpersonal violence.

188. SUPPORT efforts that foster collaboration across protective and criminal systems which allow for facilitation of cross-reporting of interpersonal violence.

189. SUPPORT efforts to increase cross-agency and cross-system collaboration on human trafficking and domestic violence cases including the sharing of confidential or protected information in multidisciplinary team settings in order to increase support for survivors.

190. SUPPORT efforts that promote training, capacity building and deeper understanding for students, educators and social service staff on trauma informed care, adverse childhood experiences, healthy workplaces and schools.

191. SUPPORT efforts that ensure survivors of interpersonal violence feel safe to access services.

### ***Land Use/Community Development***

The following policy proposal was submitted by the Hazardous Materials Commission:

213. SUPPORT legislation that funds programs to remediate brownfield sites in the County and modifies existing programs to make implementation easier or apply more broadly. Specifically:

- Consider modification to the Cleanup Loans and Environmental Assistance to Neighborhoods (CLEAN) program that would simplify the approval process for applications;
- Broaden the criteria for sites that are eligible for California Land Reuse and Revitalization Act (CLRRRA) to include all sites that are listed by the State or Federal Government as contaminated; and
- Fully fund the California Recycle Underutilized Sites (CALReUse) program.

### ***Transportation***

In addition to text changes, staff proposes the following additional policies:

249. OPPOSE efforts to condition or link the distribution of transportation funds to a jurisdiction's production of housing relative to RHNA (Regional Housing Needs Allocation).

250. SUPPORT administrative or legislative mechanisms that facilitate coordination between transportation agencies and utilities relative to expediting construction projects. *Without willing and proactive coordination, transportation projects are subject to delays and substantially increased costs. These costs are borne by the taxpayers.*

### ***Workforce Development***

Staff proposes the addition of the following policy:

265. SUPPORT efforts to include marginally attached workers, including discouraged workers, and involuntary part-time workers more formally in the California Workforce Investment Act.

### **Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):**

REVIEW the Draft 2018 State Legislative Platform, provide direction to staff on any recommended changes, and RECOMMEND action to the Board of Supervisors.

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### **Attachments**

Attachment A: Draft 2018 State Platform--redline

Attachment B: Draft 2018 State Platform--cleancopy

Attachment C: CCCW Platform Proposals

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# 2018 DRAFT STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

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Contra Costa County

December 11, 2017

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## 2018 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

#### West Contra Costa Healthcare District (SB 522)

Given the District's limited funding and change in operations, legislation that would allow the Board of Supervisors to appoint the District's governing body is necessary and appropriate. It would eliminate the cost of elections and foster collaboration between the District and the County as these two public agencies work together to meet the medical needs of District residents. On August 1, 2017, the Board of Supervisors authorized the County Administrator to seek legislation to change the District's Board of Directors from an elected board to one appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The District's governing body also supports this change. A bill has been introduced to accomplish this, SB 522, and will be considered in January 2018.

### LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

Each year, issues emerge through the legislative process that are of importance to the County and require advocacy efforts. For 2018, 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. While the Governor's Budget identifies cost pressures and budget risks in health and human services programs, 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.

Due to the restructuring of In-home Supportive Services (IHSS) funding in the State Budget (SB 90), the new Maintenance of Effort will shift program costs to counties; Contra Costa County anticipates a resultant decrease in IHSS administration funding. At the same time, the County anticipates that IHSS caseloads and authorized hours per case will continue to increase. In Contra Costa County, the number of caseloads increased by 16% from FY 2013-14 to FY 2016-17; the number of providers grew by 13%; and average authorized hours per case increased by 19%. The

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The County has been engaged in advocating for the reform of school siting policies for a number of years. Late in 2016 the California Department of Education (CDE) announced an effort to revise Title 5 to, among other things, "align school facilities and siting policies with state sustainability goals..." In meeting with CDE staff and our Legislative Delegation over the past 5 years it has become apparent that in order to revise Title 5 such that requirements (as opposed to guidance) can be established, a legislative solution may be necessary.

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~~new proposed administrative funding is not expected to match the growing need for increased administration time and support needed to meet the demand of the growing IHSS population. Anticipated negotiations for the FY 2019-2020 State budget will re-examine the funding structure for IHSS and determine the sustainability of county revenues and programs.~~

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**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 actively participate in discussions of how to best reform and preserve 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).

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The optional Medi-Cal Expansion, in effect on Jan. 1, 2014, was a significant part of the State Budget process in 2013. 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 exercised.

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.

~~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 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, work on the adequacy of rates under the new health care system, and advocate for adequate state funding for community-based health and social service networks to improve service coordination, health outcomes and quality of life.~~

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**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, 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 and 2012 ballots but successfully passed on the 2014 state ballot, as Proposition 1.

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Significant future impacts on the County in the areas of water quality and supply, levee stability, ecosystem health, local land use authority and flood control are anticipated.

Particular areas of concern for 2018 include, but are not limited to: (1) the ongoing development of the BDCP project, now recast as the California WaterFix (CWF) and whether the state water bond appropriates funds specific to the BDCP/CWF; and (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.

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**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 continues 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.

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Any future proposals to realign programs to counties must have constitutionally guaranteed ongoing funding and protections. The County will oppose any proposals that would 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.

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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. 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.

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## 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*.

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### Agriculture

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.

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## Animal Services

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 a yardstick against which other Animal Control organizations are measured. The local control exercised by the Board of Supervisors is key to that hallmark.*

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**Child Support Services**

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.

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## Climate Change

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, have Natural Community Conservation Plans or similar land conservation efforts that will address climate change and have demonstrated a local commitment to climate protection (e.g. established emissions reduction targets, prepared Climate Action Plans, etc.). *The County has several good projects that would sequester carbon, such as Creek and wetland restoration projects.*
20. SUPPORT efforts to expand eligible expenditures of the Greenhouse Gas Revenue Fund to investments in accessible transit/transportation systems (serving seniors, disabled, veterans) which result in more efficient (shared trips, increased coordination) service and corresponding reductions in greenhouse gas production. This policy is in support of the accessible transit/transportation initiatives discussed during the Measure X and 2017 Countywide Transportation Plan approval, and is consistent with the "Accessible Transportation" report provided to the Board of Supervisors in September 2017 which documented the need for substantial investment to make improvements in this field. The September 2017 report established that the County is not unique in this situation; these issues are widespread which justifies a statewide/nationwide legislative approach.
21. SUPPORT efforts to ensure life-cycle costs are considered when planning new projects in the state. A key challenge for State and local agencies is funding the ongoing operation and maintenance of infrastructure. This includes all aspects of the built environment: buildings, roads, parks, and other infrastructure. *As California begins to implement more aggressive climate goals, the State should be thinking about new methodologies for anticipating project costs. In particular, it is evident that California will need a different transportation system than the one we have currently, and that this new transportation system will be more expensive to maintain. Traditional accounting methods that look only*

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*at initial project cost lead to situations where infrastructure fails, at greater replacement cost than if ongoing operation and maintenance had been included from the beginning. This would include methodologies for internalizing the social and environmental costs of projects.*

22. SUPPORT revisions to the Public Resources Code and the Air Resources Board's Investment Plans to provide Cap and Trade funding for the conservation of natural lands, parks and open space through fee title acquisition as well as easements.
23. OPPOSE changes to the California Environmental Protection Agency's protocols for designating disadvantaged communities which result in a reduction in the number or size of disadvantaged communities in Contra Costa County. Disadvantaged communities are prioritized for receipt of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds, the funding source for a number of state grant programs. *Contra Costa County has a number of communities and neighborhoods that are economically and socially disadvantaged and located near large, current and former industrial sites. These industrial operations contribute through the Cap and Trade program to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. The state designations should continue to reflect the disproportionately acute needs of these communities.*
24. As California and the East Bay region experiences more frequent and prolonged periods of extreme heat, extreme heat will impact human health, demand on health services, potable water, agriculture, vectors, wild fires, and demand on electricity. SUPPORT funding and infrastructure to help protect vulnerable communities and populations as the mean temperature of the region steadily increases due to global climate change.

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### **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 adopted 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.

### **Elections**

25. 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.*
26. 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*

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*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.*

#### **Emergency Preparedness, Emergency Response**

27. 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.
28. 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.
29. SUPPORT legislation that would require responses to future oil spills in a shorter timeframe, with a more regional approach.
30. 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.
31. 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.
32. 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**

33. 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.
34. 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.

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### **Flood Control and Clean Water**

35. 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.*
36. 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.*
37. 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.*
38. 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 200-year flood plain maps, but if they do, only working in areas protected by project levees which does not include any areas within Contra Costa County.*
39. 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**

*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.*

40. 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.

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41. 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.)*
42. OPPOSE efforts to limit local authority over transient occupancy taxes (TOT).
43. 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.
44. 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.*
45. 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.
46. 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.
47. SUPPORT efforts to relieve California of the federal Child Support penalties without shifting the cost of the penalties to the counties.
48. 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.
49. 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.*
50. 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.
51. SUPPORT efforts to reduce County costs for Workers' Compensation, including the ability to control excessive medical utilization and litigation. *Workers' Compensation costs are*

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*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.*

52. SUPPORT state actions that maximize Federal and State revenues for county-run services and programs.
53. SUPPORT legislative compliance with both the intent and language of Proposition 1A.
54. 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.
55. SUPPORT full State funding of all statewide special elections, including recall elections.
56. 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.*
57. 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.*
58. 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.*
59. 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.*
60. SUPPORT legislation that provides constitutional protections and guaranteed funding to counties under Realignment.

#### **Health Care**

*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*

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*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.*

61. 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.*
62. SUPPORT Medi-Cal reimbursement rate increases to incentivize providers to participate in the program.
63. 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).
64. 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 should include community-based providers and could be modeled after current programs in place in safety net systems.*
65. 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.*
66. 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.
67. SUPPORT efforts to clearly define and adequately fund remaining county responsibilities.
68. 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.

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69. SUPPORT efforts to provide adequate financing for health care reforms to succeed.
70. SUPPORT measures that maximize federal reimbursement from Medicaid and S-CHIP.
71. 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.
72. 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.
73. 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.
74. SUPPORT efforts to increase revenues and to contain mandated costs in the County's hospital and clinics system.
75. SUPPORT efforts to obtain a fair-share of any state funds in a distribution of funding for the integration of IHSS and managed care.
76. SUPPORT efforts to increase the availability of health care (including alcohol and other drugs recovery) to the uninsured in California, whether employed or not.
77. 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.
78. 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.
79. SUPPORT state efforts to increase the scope of benefits and reimbursement rates contained in Minor Consent Medi-Cal to give youth with substance abuse disorders access to a continuum of care, including residential and outpatient treatment.
80. SUPPORT efforts to give incentives to providers to establish more youth substance use disorder residential treatment facilities within the county.
81. SUPPORT efforts to extend Drug Medi-Cal and 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.*

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82. SUPPORT funding and policy changes to support coverage of medically necessary alcohol and substance use related disorder treatment at the same level as other medical conditions in health care services, including county's responsibility for Federal Financial Participation (FFP) portion to increase Drug Medi-Cal reimbursement rates and incentivize providers to participate in the program.

83. SUPPORT legislation that extends the restrictions and prohibitions against the smoking of, and exposure to, 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; preventing the use of tobacco, electronic smoking devices (e-cigarettes) and flavored tobacco by youth and young adults; eliminating exposure to second-hand and third-hand smoke; restrictions on advertising of electronic smoking devices; reducing and eliminating disparities related to tobacco use and its effects among specific populations; increasing the minimum age to 21 to purchase tobacco products; and the promotion of cessation among young people and adults. Support legislation that extends restrictions and prohibitions against the sale of flavored tobacco products, prohibits the sale of tobacco products in stores that operate a pharmacy and establishes distance and density restrictions on the establishment of a new tobacco retailer within proximity of youth sensitive venues such as schools, day cares, or parks.

84. 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.

85. SUPPORT legislation and administrative actions that further align a statewide regulatory framework for the commercial cannabis industry and that continue to authorize local jurisdictions to adopt more restrictive measures to protect the health, safety and welfare of their residents.

86. SUPPORT funding and policy changes to support population-based chronic disease prevention efforts. Collectively, these include efforts to move up-stream from the treatment of illness associated with chronic disease to advance a policy, systems and organizational-change approach to address the underlying environmental factors and conditions that influence health and health behaviors.

87. SUPPORT funding and policy changes to support developing a workforce with gerontological expertise to manage the exponential growth in the chronically ill aging population.

88. SUPPORT efforts that would advance a Health-In-All-Policies approach to policy work done across the County. This implies consideration of how health is influenced by the built environment and a connection with land use planning and development.

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<#>SUPPORT and encourage the development of strategies that include alcohol and other drugs services in the provision of all culturally appropriate health care services. ¶  
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89. SUPPORT ongoing study of the health impacts of global and regional climate change and ongoing countywide mitigation and adaptation efforts.
90. SUPPORT efforts that would preserve the nature and quality and continuity of care associated with safety net services historically provided at the local level, such as the California Children's Services (CCS) and Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) programs, which are being transitioned into managed care at the state level.
91. SUPPORT efforts that promote aging in place through the utilization of long-term supports and services and caregiver support services.
92. SUPPORT increasing the level of funding for Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) and Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) to meet the increase in cost to provide services and to meet the tremendous increase in the aging population.
93. SUPPORT maintaining level or enhanced funding, streamlined processes and greater flexibility for use of State and Federal funding to respond to Public Health Emergency Preparedness initiatives including Pandemic Influenza, emerging diseases, and continued funding for all categories related to Public Health Preparedness, including Hospital Preparedness Program, Homeland Security, Cities Readiness Initiative and core Public Health Preparedness.
94. SUPPORT increased funding and policy changes for Tuberculosis (TB) prevention and treatment, to reflect the increased risk of transmission faced across the Bay Area. *The Bay Area, including Contra Costa County, experiences more cases of active Tuberculosis than do most states in the nation. The demographic make-up of our communities combined with frequent international travel between the Bay and areas where TB is endemic, present an added risk and thus the need to maintain adequate funding and program infrastructure.*
95. SUPPORT increased funding for the public health infrastructure, capacity and prevention services as outlined in the public health components of the Affordable Care Act and the National Prevention and Public Health Fund.
96. SUPPORT recognition of Local Public Health Departments as an authorized provider for direct billing reimbursement related to the provision of Immunization, Family Planning, HIV, STD and TB services.
97. SUPPORT the reversal of the pre-emption language regarding local Menu-Labeling that is included in the Affordable Care Act.
98. SUPPORT enhanced funding and capacity for public health programs, specifically:
- a. Prevention programs in the areas of chronic disease, specifically, obesity, diabetes, asthma and cancer.

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- b. Prevention and risk reduction programs in the area of HIV, STD, teen pregnancy, injury prevention as well as health promotion programs, such as nutrition and activity education;
  - c. Oral health programs, especially those which address the needs of children and those with oral health disparities;
  - d. Protecting the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF), as established in the Affordable Care Act;
  - e. Increased resources dedicated to surveillance and prevention programs targeting chronic diseases such as cardiovascular, stroke, cancer, diabetes, and asthma, as well as injury and violence;
  - f. **Funding and initiatives that support the surveillance, prevention and local preparation for emerging** diseases, such as Zika, novel Influenza, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Chlamydia, and seasonal Influenza and public health programs which provide screening, diagnosis, and treatment;
  - g. Provide for adequate State funding for children's programs, including the California Children's Services (CCS) program for clients who are not Medi-Cal eligible to assure that counties are not overmatched in their financial participation;
  - h. Programs which seek to monitor and address the needs of Foster youth, especially those on psychotropic medication; and
  - i. Best practice programs which seeks to protect and enhance the health of pregnant women and that address maternal, child and adolescent health needs.
99. SUPPORT efforts to strengthen needle exchange programs as part of an overall program to combat the spread of HIV and other diseases; allowing items associated with needle exchange programs such as, cookers, sterile water, and cotton to be distributed along with clean needles; and the elimination of the federal ban on funding needle exchange programs.
100. SUPPORT legislative efforts to reduce or eliminate lead and toxic substances in consumer products, particularly those used by infants and children.
101. SUPPORT legislative efforts to reduce exposure to toxic air pollutants and the reduction of greenhouse gases.
102. SUPPORT funding, policy and programs dedicated to suicide, injury and violence prevention. Additionally, support efforts aimed at reducing health disparities and inequities associated with violence against women, communities of color and the LGBT community. Programs which seek to limit the effects of injury, violence and abuse on children, seniors and persons with disability.
103. SUPPORT funding and policy **changes to support** program development aimed at reducing the misuse of prescription drugs, most especially opioids, **and increase prevention and treatment of opioid disorders to eliminate overdoses and combat the opioid epidemic.** Additionally, support funding and **legislation to restrict the sale and use of powdered alcohol and other similar products marketed to youth.**

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104. SUPPORT necessary County infrastructure and adequate funding related to education, regulatory, testing and enforcement functions associated with the State Medical Marijuana regulatory controls.
105. SUPPORT legislation and/or similar policy efforts to tax certain beverages that contain added sugars, by establishing a per fluid ounce health impact fee on sugar sweetened beverages at the distributor level. In addition, support efforts which would create the Sugar Sweetened Beverage Safety warning act, which would require a safety warning on all sealed sugar sweetened beverages.
106. SUPPORT legislation and efforts that support healthy meals, adequate meal time, and increased physical activity/education for school-age children.
107. SUPPORT efforts to dedicate funding that sustains and expands non-infrastructure Safe Routes to School programs that educate students, parents, and school staff about safe walking and bicycling to school.
108. SUPPORT efforts to address the underlying determinants of health and health equity, such as housing and prevention of displacement, educational attainment and livable wage jobs, and accessible transportation.
109. SUPPORT legislation that extends the restrictions and prohibitions against the smoking of, and exposure to, marijuana products in various places, including, but not limited to, places of employment, school campuses, public buildings, day care facilities, multi-family housing, health facilities, alcohol and other drug treatment facilities, and homeless shelters; further prohibit marijuana edibles to prevent youth/children access to harmful products; restrictions on advertising of marijuana products targeting youth and near places frequented by youth or alcohol and other drug treatment facilities.
110. SUPPORT funding, legislation, policy, and programs that would accomplish the following:
- a. create an effective crisis response system of services for persons experiencing homelessness, particularly families and transition-age youth;
  - b. increases permanent housing with services for persons experiencing or at-risk of homelessness with a chronic disability; and
  - c. protects and expands the availability of affordable housing, particularly for the Very Low and Extremely Low Income population.
111. OPPOSE new block-granting proposals, harsh cuts, or proposals that will significantly and/or permanently shift the structure of health and human service funding and programming that would lead to the restriction or elimination of safety-net programs. *Reductions in federal human services funding and programming severely limits critical support for our community and state. Block grants often lead to decreases in funding that forces states to limit benefits for families, cap enrollment, and establish waitlists. These restrictions result in families who need these supports and services, not being able to access them, possibly leading them into deeper poverty and distress.*

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112. OPPOSE efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act or to replace it with any proposals that represent significant, permanent structural alterations to current subsidized segments of the health care system. This would include proposals that would convert Medicaid enrollee categories to a per-capita cap model, thereby establishing hard federal funding caps for state Medicaid programs. *These proposals could force the state to make cuts of its own to offset the loss of federal funding. Contra Costa's entire Medi-Cal (Medicaid) population of approximately 250,000 people, including 90,000 children, could be affected as a result.*

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113. OPPOSE legislation and administrative actions to repeal DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) as well as legislation and administrative efforts that target individuals due to their color, religious affiliation or national origin.

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#### Human Services

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#### Administrative Support Services

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114. OPPOSE the establishment of specific or stricter standards for the use of personal services contracts by counties, that would make contracting with community-based organizations more difficult for counties.

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#### Aging and Adult Services

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115. SUPPORT efforts to promote safety of Adult Protective Services workers conducting required unannounced home visits by allowing them to request and receive from law enforcement criminal record checks through the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS). *This would primarily be used for reported abusers in the household.*

116. SUPPORT efforts to develop emergency temporary shelter and/or short-term options for Adult Protective Services population and consider options that include but are not limited to, licensing of facilities specifically for this population and exploring Medi-Cal billing options to support clients in hospitals and other care facilities pending a more permanent housing placement.

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117. SUPPORT simplification of IHSS service hour calculation and allocation to insure compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and efficiently provide services to consumers.

118. 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, including through solutions that allow access for Adult Protective Services to access financial records for investigation of financial abuse and exploitation. *Financial abuse is a fast-growing form of abuse of seniors and adults with disabilities and current law does not authorize financial institutions*

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*to grant access to financial records necessary to investigate the reported abuse without the consent of the account holder or authorized representative.*

119. 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.
120. SUPPORT funding for statewide Adult Protective Services training.
121. 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.*
122. SUPPORT legislative efforts that allow for coordination of services and data, across state and county departments, that support aging and elder populations.
123. SUPPORT creation of a pilot program “Fostering Dignity in Aging,” to provide grant funding to counties to be used specifically for housing preservation and eviction prevention services of victims of elder and dependent adult abuse, exploitation, neglect, or self-neglect.
124. SUPPORT creation of funding opportunities and policies which promote the development of aging-friendly communities.
125. SUPPORT legislation and investments related to long-term care, senior housing affordability, medical service access, transportation, isolation and other quality of life issues to support aging with dignity.
126. SUPPORT research that describes and assesses local service needs and gaps impacting aging residents and that proposes specific and actionable local strategies to address these needs.
127. SUPPORTS efforts to allow counties to use alternative reassessment approaches, including but not limited to telephonic reassessments, that would be applied to customers rated low on the Functional Index Rating Scale.
128. SUPPORT efforts that focus on dependent adult and elder abuse prevention including, but not limited to, providing respite for caregivers.
129. SUPPORT efforts that identify, eliminate and prevent in-home neglect of the elderly and dependent adults; and scams and fraud (internet and otherwise) targeted at the elderly and dependent adults.

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130. SUPPORT efforts that would require the California Department of Social Services to translate all state-provided materials used by In-Home Support Services providers into the statewide threshold languages: English, Spanish, Armenian, and Chinese.

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131. SUPPORT efforts that would help to stabilize and provide short-term housing supports for at-risk Adult Protective Services clients.

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132. SUPPORT legislative efforts that would enhance confidentiality of DMV records for Adult Protective Services social workers (a practice already in place for Child Protective Services social workers).

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#### Safety Net Programs

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133. SUPPORT efforts to extend family stabilization mental health/substance abuse funding to include all family members. *Current law only funds services for adult Welfare to Work participants.*

134. SUPPORT solutions to address gaps in existing state statute that cause disruptions to continuity of care for some Covered California Insurance Affordability Program (IAP) enrollees when a new determination of IAP takes place.

135. SUPPORT the use of state funds to pay for CalFresh benefits for those Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACAs) and PRUCOL (Permanent Residents Under the Color of Law) who would otherwise be ineligible for CalFresh.

136. SUPPORT efforts to extend eligibility to zero share of Medi-Cal cost when recipients report new earned income. *Potential increases to state and local minimum wage impacts eligibility to free health care.*

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137. SUPPORT efforts to extend eligibility of CalWORKs benefit by exempting the first 6 months of earned income received from new employment or wage increases. *This is intended to create better financial stability when a family's income increases due to changes in local and state minimum wage law.*

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138. SUPPORT fully funding Medi-Cal Administrative costs.

139. 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:

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- 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 Welfare-to-Work 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.*

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140. 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*

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*CalWORKs families who are being threatened with homelessness to prevent the eviction and, presumably, better maintain the family members' employment status.*

141. SUPPORT alignment of verification requirements for CalWORKs, 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.*
142. 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 program are so similar. This would increase CalFresh uptake in an efficient way.*
143. SUPPORT efforts to increase CalFresh benefit amounts to better meet recipients' nutritional needs, improve ease and accessibility of the CalFresh application and recertification processes, and adjust CalFresh eligibility requirements to include currently excluded populations with significant need.
144. SUPPORT efforts to restore cuts to the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) Program, increase grant amounts that would allow improvement of quality of life, and reinstate the annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA.)
145. 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.*
146. SUPPORT efforts to improve and expand emergency food assistance networks' (e.g. local food banks, food pantries) ability to procure, store, and distribute nutritious food to those in need.
147. SUPPORT increase of daily rate available under Temporary HA from \$65 per day to \$85 per day for homeless CalWORKs families of four or fewer and provide an additional \$15 per day for each additional family member up to a maximum of \$145 daily.
148. SUPPORT efforts for a more flexible framework that allows the state to supplement CalFresh benefits if federal assistance is insufficient or unavailable. Recent natural disasters have underscored the need for a more permanent framework for the state to respond.
149. SUPPORT continuous investment in the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) and efforts to increase access to California Earned Income Tax Credit, including increase in tax credit.

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150. SUPPORT the expansion of benefits and services for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

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151. SUPPORT providing funding for graduation bonuses for non-pregnant/parenting CalWORKs students who obtain a high school diploma/equivalent.

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152. SUPPORT shared housing efforts to secure permanent housing assistance for CalWORKs participants.

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153. SUPPORT a federal waiver that would allow county social services agencies to process CalFresh applications for jail inmates and suspend rather than terminate CalFresh eligibility when a recipient is detained in a county jail for a period of less than a year.

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154. SUPPORT efforts that would allow CalWORKs Welfare to Work participants to participate and achieve high school equivalency program without having their 24-month clock be impacted during their time in the program.

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#### ***Early Care and Education***

155. SUPPORT the efforts of CHSA (California Head Start Association) in securing legislation to support a state-wide integrated child care licensing structure. This will allow childcare programs to apply for and have one child care license for all children 0-5 as opposed to the current system of a two-license structure for varying ages of children in care. California remains only one of two states in the nation to maintain the two license structure.

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156. 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.

157. OPPOSE any legislation that increases tobacco taxes but fails to include language to replace any funds subsequently lost to The California Children and Families Act/Trust Fund for local services funded by tobacco taxes, Proposition 10 in 1998 and Proposition 99 in 1988.

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158. 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 stagnated or reduced. An increase would greatly help low-income people find work and stay in jobs.*

159. 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;

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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.*

160. SUPPORT legislation to expand early child care and education and increase funding for preschool and early learning.
161. 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.*
162. SUPPORT legislation to expand early care and education and increase funding for preschool and early learning, through a diverse and multi-faceted delivery system.
163. SUPPORT restoration of child development programs (pre-2011 funding) under Proposition 98 funding.
164. SUPPORT legislation that would clarify and streamline the definition of homelessness across categorical eligibility for child care services to homeless children.
165. SUPPORT legislation that would clarify the definition of “volunteer” in SB 792, a bill which prohibits, commencing September 1, 2016, a person from being employed or volunteering at a day care center or a day care home if he or she has not been immunized against influenza, pertussis, and measles. *Current law does not specify an established minimum of time spent in a child care facility to be considered a volunteer. SB 792, therefore, would apply to parents/grandparents coming to child care centers for one-time volunteer activities, to provide proof of vaccination.*
166. SUPPORT efforts to that would establish/allow the enrollment of 2.9 year olds in the California State Preschool Program.
167. SUPPORT alignment of family eligibility for subsidized child care with cost of living adjustments and higher minimum wage rates.
168. SUPPORT the restoration of State Quality Child Care Funds which funds the Local Child Care Planning Council.
169. SUPPORT the increase in flexibility of child care contracts with the California Department of Education that would allow voluntary transfer of funds to occur outside of November and May months.
170. SUPPORT efforts to raise wages for the early care and education workforce (such as child care workers, preschool/infant-toddler teachers).

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171. SUPPORT efforts that encourage access to early education home visiting programming supporting families in providing an environment that promotes healthy growth and development of their young children.

#### **Child Welfare**

172. SUPPORT continued and improved funding for substance abuse treatment and mental health services including those that provide alternatives to incarceration and Laura's Law.

173. SUPPORT increased funding for Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention.

174. SUPPORT continued and improved funding for implementation of Continuum of Care Reform.

175. SUPPORT child-specific approval for kinship caregivers (and non-related extended family members) to enable relatives to care for their related child/children, if in the child's best interest, even if the relative/NREFM is not able or willing to be approved as a foster parent for their foster children.

176. SUPPORT legislative efforts that would amend the definition of "relative" as applied to state funded Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payments (Kin-Gap) to be consistent with the federally funded Kin-Gap. This will allow all Kinship guardianship cases to be treated uniformly and allow more families to experience independence, normalcy and other benefits of permanence as legal guardians.

177. SUPPORT counties to access CWS/CMS to determine family's child abuse history for the Resource Family Approval process.

178. SUPPORT efforts to expand California Earned Income Tax Credit (Cal-EITC) eligibility to former foster youth under age 25 years.

179. SUPPORT efforts that would create state Homeless Youth Housing Program grants fund to establish or expand programs that provide specified housing assistance and supportive services to homeless youth.

#### **Violence Prevention**

180. SUPPORT efforts that seek to address the impact of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, elder abuse and child abuse, and implement culturally relevant, trauma-informed responses, connect victims to services, and prevent interpersonal violence.

181. SUPPORT increased investments in housing for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking including the preservation of emergency and long-term housing options for victims.

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**Deleted:** SUPPORT efforts to improve and expand emergency food assistance networks' (e.g. local food banks, food pantries) ability to procure, store, and distribute nutritious food to those in need. ¶

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182. SUPPORT efforts that prevent **domestic violence** and domestic violence homicide including assessment of risk for assault or lethal force (**including stalking and strangulation**) throughout the criminal justice system.

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183. SUPPORT investments in continuous training and coordination of training for all law enforcement officers, District Attorneys, Public Defenders, Judges and other court staff on issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, elder abuse and trauma informed approaches.

184. SUPPORT efforts to increase training on human trafficking (with a specific focus on labor trafficking) for law enforcement and others involved in criminal investigations.

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185. SUPPORT efforts that seek to specialize and build expertise for designated staff and systems (such as developing a commercially sexually exploited youth court or creating human trafficking units) to better support survivors of human trafficking.

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186. SUPPORT efforts that differentiate risk and provide differential response for both victims of domestic violence and sex crimes and offenders of domestic violence and sex crimes.

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187. SUPPORT efforts to increase language access and cultural responsive services for survivors of interpersonal violence.

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188. SUPPORT efforts that foster collaboration across protective and criminal systems which allow for facilitation of cross-reporting of interpersonal violence.

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SUPPORT a federal waiver that would allow county social services agencies to process CalFresh applications for jail inmates and suspend rather than terminate CalFresh eligibility when a recipient is detained in a county jail for a period of less than a year.¶

¶

SUPPORT efforts that would allow CalWORKs Welfare to Work participants to participate and achieve high school equivalency program without having their 24-month clock be impacted during their time in the program.¶

¶

SUPPORT increase of daily rate available under Temporary HA from \$65 per day to \$85 per day for homeless CalWORKs families of four or fewer and provide an additional \$15 per day for each additional family member up to a maximum of \$145 daily.¶

¶

SUPPORT research that describes and assesses local service needs and gaps impacting aging residents and that proposes specific and actionable local strategies to address these needs. ¶

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**Moved up [2]:** SUPPORT increase of daily rate available from \$65 per day to \$85 per day for homeless CalWORKs families of four or fewer and provide an additional \$15 per day for each additional family member up to a maximum of \$145 daily.

**Moved up [1]:** SUPPORT legislation and investments related to long-term care, senior housing affordability, medical service access, transportation, isolation and other quality of life issues to support aging with dignity.¶

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189. SUPPORT efforts to increase cross-agency and cross-system collaboration on human trafficking and domestic violence cases including the sharing of confidential or protected information in multidisciplinary team settings in order to increase support for survivors.

190. SUPPORT efforts that promote training, capacity building and deeper understanding for students, educators and social service staff on trauma informed care, adverse childhood experiences, healthy workplaces and schools

## **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 has been 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.*

192. SUPPORT efforts to ensure that counties who have existing or proposed Class II Indian gaming facilities receive the Special Distribution Funds.

193. 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.
194. 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.
195. SUPPORT State authority to tighten up the definition of a Class II machine.
196. 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**

197. SUPPORT efforts to promote economic incentives for "smart growth," in Priority Development and Priority Production 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. Priority Production Areas are locally designated zones where manufacturing, warehousing, distribution and repair services would be a priority consideration in determining future land use.*
198. 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 a number of goals in the County General Plan Housing Element.*
199. 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.*
200. 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

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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.*

201. 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.
202. OPPOSE efforts to limit the County's ability to exercise local land use authority.
203. 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.*
204. 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 \$24 million to the East Contra Costa County NCCP from the \$90 million allocation for NCCPs in Proposition 84. Support the inclusion of NCCPs for funding in allocations from Proposition 1. Support \$90 million for implementation of NCCPs and an additional \$100 million for watershed protection and habitat conservation in future park, water or natural resource bonds. 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, AB 32 as well as an appropriate tool for spending Cap and Trade revenues. Promote effective implementation of NCCPs as a top priority for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Support an increase to \$1.6 million for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Local Assistance Grant program. 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. Support alignment of State and Regional of Water Board permits (Section 401 clean water act and storm water permits) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife Streambed Alteration Agreement (Section 1602 of the Fish and Game code) and other State natural resource permitting with California Endangered Species Act permitting through NCCPs to improve the overall efficiency, predictability and effectiveness of natural resource regulation.
205. 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.

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206. 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.
207. 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.*
208. 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.
209. OPPOSE CEQA reform efforts that reduce environmental protections for projects that cross county or city boundaries.
210. SUPPORT efforts to improve or streamline CEQA for efficiency without losing sight of its ultimate goal to thoroughly identify environmental impacts and mitigations.
211. OPPOSE efforts to change CEQA solely to accommodate one particular infrastructure project or set of projects.
212. 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.
213. SUPPORT legislation that funds programs to remediate brownfield sites in the County and modifies existing programs to make implementation easier or apply more broadly. Specifically:
- Consider modification to the Cleanup Loans and Environmental Assistance to Neighborhoods (CLEAN) program that would simplify the approval process for applications;
  - Broaden the criteria for sites that are eligible for California Land Reuse and Revitalization Act (CLRRRA) to include all sites that are listed by the State or Federal Government as contaminated; and

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- Fully fund the California Recycle Underutilized Sites (CALReUse) program.

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## Law and Justice System

214. 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.
215. 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.*
216. SUPPORT legislation that requires boater's insurance. *Currently, boaters are not required to carry insurance in California.*
217. SUPPORT legislation that provides better funding for local agencies forced to deal with abandoned and sunken vessels and their environmental impacts.
218. OPPOSE legislative proposals to realign additional program responsibility to counties without adequate funding and protections.
219. OPPOSE legislation that would shift the responsibility of parolees from the state to the counties without adequate notification, documentation and funding.
220. 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.
221. 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.
222. ADVOCATE for State legislation banning the sale of alcopop products by businesses that sell alcoholic beverages. The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control is responsible for regulating the type of alcohol products that a business may sell. *A type of flavored malt alcoholic beverage product known as "alcopops" has been identified as a contributor to under-age drinking in the County. The term alcopops usually refers to sweetened malt or alcoholic beverages that are typically sold in single-serving bottles or*

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*cans. The Board, through recommendations from the Public Protection Committee, has adopted amendments to the Alcoholic Beverage Sales Commercial Activities Zoning Ordinance that authorizes the County to prohibit the sale of alcopops at any establishment not in compliance with the performance standards. Along with the code changes, various implementation strategies were also approved in order to better coordinate efforts between County Departments and agencies for streamlined implementation and enforcement of the Ordinance.*

223. SUPPORT legislative reform of current bail provisions that will replace reliance on money bail with a system that incorporates a pretrial risk assessment tool and evidence-based pretrial release decisions. *The current reliance on fixed bail schedules and commercial money bonds ignores public safety factors and unfairly penalizes poor people who are awaiting trial. Bail reform in this manner will ensure that only dangerous persons who cannot be safely supervised in the community while they are awaiting trial will be held in custody pretrial. Locally, our County has moved in this direction with an AB109 funded pretrial program.*

#### **Levees**

224. 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 to actively advocate for \$1 billion in funding through this bond.*
225. 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.
226. 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

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bond funds run out, the program will have to be funded from the General Fund, unless some other new dedicated funding source is established.

227. 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.
228. 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.*
229. 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**

230. 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.
231. 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

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approximately \$289,000,000 for public library construction, expansion and renovation in Contra Costa County.

232. 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.

### **Pipeline Safety**

233. SUPPORT legislation that contains specific mitigations or solutions for installation of Automatic Shutoff Valves for both High Consequence Areas (HCA) and for those that transverse Active Seismic Earthquake Faults for all intrastate petroleum pipelines. *State Fire Marshal Annual Inspections of all Intrastate Petroleum Pipelines do not contain the specific mitigations or solutions for installation of Automatic Shutoff Valves for both High Consequence Areas (HCA) and for those that transverse Active Seismic Earthquake Faults that are mandated for Gas Pipelines under AB 2856. The County has several petroleum pipelines that should be classified under these categories and present the same explosive nature as gas pipelines do.*
234. SUPPORT legislation that contains specific language for protection of all seasonal and all year creeks and all State Waterways where petroleum pipelines are present. *New and replacement pipelines near environmentally and ecologically sensitive areas should use the best available technology including, but not limited to, the installation of leak detection technology, automatic shutoff systems or remote controlled sectionalized block valves, or any combination of these technologies to reduce the amount of oil released in an oil spill to protect state waters and wildlife.*

### **Telecommunications and Broadband**

235. 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.*
236. 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.*

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237. SUPPORT the expansion of broadband (high speed internet service) to drive economic development and job opportunities, support county service delivery, and improve health, education and public safety outcomes for residents. For communities to realize these full benefits of broadband it must be capable of supporting current technology.

Access and adoption are both necessary elements that should be supported in state and federal legislative or regulatory proposals. This entails the following:

- Establishing and maintaining reliable broadband in unserved or underserved communities;
- Promoting the knowledge, skills and behaviors that comprise digital literacy;
- Making broadband affordable for all households;
- Maximizing funding for infrastructure; and
- Reducing infrastructure deployment barriers.

### Transportation

238. SUPPORT increased flexibility in the use of transportation funds.

239. SUPPORT regional coordination that provides for local input in addressing transportation needs. *Coordinated planning and delivery of public transit, paratransit, non-profit/community-based transit, and rail services will help ensure the best possible service delivery to the public. Regional coordination will be essential to complete planning and development of important regional transportation projects that benefit the state and local road system such as TriLink (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 and Marsh Creek Trails. 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 or state planning efforts would be inconsistent with this goal. Consistent with that position, relief from the requirements imposed on the County by the state relative to the Iron Horse corridor would foster coordination along this multi-jurisdictional corridor.*

240. 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 stable/dedicated funding for crossing guards, revised school zone references in the vehicle code, Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) grants, statutory authorization of an automated safety enforcement (speed cameras) pilot program, efforts to improve the safety, expansion and security of freight transportation*

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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.

241. SUPPORT funding or incentives for the use of environmentally-friendly 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 renewable and environmentally friendly materials such as pervious concrete, cool pavements, rubberized asphalt (made from recycled tires) that the County has used as paving material on San Pablo Dam Road and Pacheco Boulevard, and other emerging technologies/materials.*

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242. 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.*

243. 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. In addition to being coordinated with local planning, there are well documented conflicts between state school development policies and state policies related to greenhouse gas reduction, safe routes to school, complete streets, and "Health In All Policies." The County supports administrative and legislative efforts to resolve these conflicts.*

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244. 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 will urge the California Department of Education's current Title 5 update effort to include removing the current conflict between current school siting policies and 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."*

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245. 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.
246. 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).*
247. 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.

248. SUPPORT funding increases for active transportation projects and planning. *Funding is needed for improved pedestrian infrastructure and enhancements and expansion of: trails, on-street bike facilities (Class II and III), and separated facilities (Class I and Class IV [cycle track]). Funding is also needed for corridor and "bicycle superhighway" planning, trail access improvements, overcrossings, intersection improvements, Class I - IV inter-connectivity projects (gap closures), wayfinding/signage projects, and facilities/designs identified in emerging best practices.*

249. OPPOSE efforts to condition or link the distribution of transportation funds to a jurisdiction's production of housing relative to RHNA (Regional Housing Needs Allocation).

250. SUPPORT administrative or legislative mechanisms that facilitate coordination between transportation agencies and utilities relative to expediting construction projects. *Without willing and proactive coordination, transportation projects are subject to delays and substantially increased costs. These costs are borne by the taxpayers.*

## Veterans

251. 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*

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*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.*

252. 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.*
253. 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**

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254. SUPPORT legislation that establishes producer responsibility for management at the end of their useful life of products, including pharmaceuticals, batteries, sharps and veterinary medicine.
255. SUPPORT efforts to increase the development of markets for recycled materials.
256. SUPPORT legislative and regulatory efforts to allow third parties, under specific circumstances and conditions, to collect and transport household hazardous waste to collection facilities.
257. 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.
258. SUPPORT legislation that does not require increased diversion from landfills without an adequate funding mechanism.
259. 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*

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*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.*

260. 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.*

261. 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.
262. 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.*
263. 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.*

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## Workforce Development

264. SUPPORT legislative and regulatory efforts that make the necessary changes to existing law for the implementation of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) in California. *The County supports legislation that would include provisions that state that the Local Plan developed by local workforce boards should be the basis of all workforce planning in the local areas and all workforce-related state grants. Additionally, the County supports provisions that ensure that staffing costs and support services should be included in the training expenditure requirement. Finally, the County supports provisions that require all programs listed in the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) work together to ensure that data is collected and reported across all programs, utilizing the state's base-wage file system to ease local reporting burdens.*

265. SUPPORT efforts to include marginally attached workers, including discouraged workers, and involuntary part-time workers more formally in the California Workforce Investment Act.

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# 2018 DRAFT STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

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Contra Costa County

December 11, 2017



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## 2018 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

#### **West Contra Costa Healthcare District (SB 522)**

Given the District's limited funding and change in operations, legislation that would allow the Board of Supervisors to appoint the District's governing body is necessary and appropriate. It would eliminate the cost of elections and foster collaboration between the District and the County as these two public agencies work together to meet the medical needs of District residents. On August 1, 2017, the Board of Supervisors authorized the County Administrator to seek legislation to change the District's Board of Directors from an elected board to one appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The District's governing body also supports this change. A bill has been introduced to accomplish this, SB 522, and will be considered in January 2018.

### LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

*Each year, issues emerge through the legislative process that are of importance to the County and require advocacy efforts. For 2018, 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. While the Governor's Budget identifies cost pressures and budget risks in health and human services programs, 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.

Due to the restructuring of In-home Supportive Services (IHSS) funding in the State Budget (SB 90), the new Maintenance of Effort will shift program costs to counties; Contra Costa County anticipates a resultant decrease in IHSS administration funding. At the same time, the County anticipates that IHSS caseloads and authorized hours per case will continue to increase. In Contra Costa County, the number of caseloads increased by 16% from FY 2013-14 to FY 2016-17; the number of providers grew by 13%; and average authorized hours per case increased by 19%. The

new proposed administrative funding is not expected to match the growing need for increased administration time and support needed to meet the demand of the growing IHSS population. Anticipated negotiations for the FY 2019-2020 State budget will re-examine the funding structure for IHSS and determine the sustainability of county revenues and programs.

***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 actively participate in discussions of how to best reform and preserve 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 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 exercised.

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.

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 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, work on the adequacy of rates under the new health care system, and advocate for adequate state funding for community-based health and social service networks to improve service coordination, health outcomes and quality of life.

***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, 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 and 2012 ballots but successfully passed on the 2014 state ballot, as Proposition 1.

Significant future impacts on the County in the areas of water quality and supply, levee stability, ecosystem health, local land use authority and flood control are anticipated.

Particular areas of concern for 2018 include, but are not limited to: (1) the ongoing development of the BDCP project, now recast as the California WaterFix (CWF) and whether the state water bond appropriates funds specific to the BDCP/CWF; and (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 continues 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 would 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. 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*.

### Agriculture

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

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 a 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**

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

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, have Natural Community Conservation Plans or similar land conservation efforts that will address climate change and have demonstrated a local commitment to climate protection (e.g. established emissions reduction targets, prepared Climate Action Plans, etc.). *The County has several good projects that would sequester carbon, such as Creek and wetland restoration projects.*
20. SUPPORT efforts to expand eligible expenditures of the Greenhouse Gas Revenue Fund to investments in accessible transit/transportation systems (serving seniors, disabled, veterans) which result in more efficient (shared trips, increased coordination) service and corresponding reductions in greenhouse gas production. *This policy is in support of the accessible transit/transportation initiatives discussed during the Measure X and 2017 Countywide Transportation Plan approval, and is consistent with the "Accessible Transportation" report provided to the Board of Supervisors in September 2017 which documented the need for substantial investment to make improvements in this field. The September 2017 report established that the County is not unique in this situation; these issues are widespread which justifies a statewide/nationwide legislative approach.*
21. SUPPORT efforts to ensure life-cycle costs are considered when planning new projects in the state. A key challenge for State and local agencies is funding the ongoing operation and maintenance of infrastructure. This includes all aspects of the built environment: buildings, roads, parks, and other infrastructure. *As California begins to implement more aggressive climate goals, the State should be thinking about new methodologies for anticipating project costs. In particular, it is evident that California will need a different transportation system than the one we have currently, and that this new transportation system will be more expensive to maintain. Traditional accounting methods that look only*

*at initial project cost lead to situations where infrastructure fails, at greater replacement cost than if ongoing operation and maintenance had been included from the beginning. This would include methodologies for internalizing the social and environmental costs of projects.*

22. SUPPORT revisions to the Public Resources Code and the Air Resources Board's Investment Plans to provide Cap and Trade funding for the conservation of natural lands, parks and open space through fee title acquisition as well as easements.
23. OPPOSE changes to the California Environmental Protection Agency's protocols for designating disadvantaged communities which result in a reduction in the number or size of disadvantaged communities in Contra Costa County. Disadvantaged communities are prioritized for receipt of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds, the funding source for a number of state grant programs. *Contra Costa County has a number of communities and neighborhoods that are economically and socially disadvantaged and located near large, current and former industrial sites. These industrial operations contribute through the Cap and Trade program to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. The state designations should continue to reflect the disproportionately acute needs of these communities.*
24. As California and the East Bay region experiences more frequent and prolonged periods of extreme heat, extreme heat will impact human health, demand on health services, potable water, agriculture, vectors, wild fires, and demand on electricity. SUPPORT funding and infrastructure to help protect vulnerable communities and populations as the mean temperature of the region steadily increases due to global climate change.

### **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 adopted 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.

### **Elections**

25. 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.*
26. 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.*

### **Emergency Preparedness, Emergency Response**

27. 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.
28. 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.
29. SUPPORT legislation that would require responses to future oil spills in a shorter timeframe, with a more regional approach.
30. 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.
31. 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.
32. 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**

33. 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.
34. 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**

35. 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.*
36. 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.*
37. 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.*
38. 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 200-year flood plain maps, but if they do, only working in areas protected by project levees which does not include any areas within Contra Costa County.*
39. 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**

*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.*

40. 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.

41. 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.)*
42. OPPOSE efforts to limit local authority over transient occupancy taxes (TOT).
43. 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.
44. 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.*
45. 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.
46. 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.
47. SUPPORT efforts to relieve California of the federal Child Support penalties without shifting the cost of the penalties to the counties.
48. 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.
49. 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.*
50. 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.
51. 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.*
52. SUPPORT state actions that maximize Federal and State revenues for county-run services and programs.
  53. SUPPORT legislative compliance with both the intent and language of Proposition 1A.
  54. 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.
  55. SUPPORT full State funding of all statewide special elections, including recall elections.
  56. 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.*
  57. 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.*
  58. 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.*
  59. 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.*
  60. SUPPORT legislation that provides constitutional protections and guaranteed funding to counties under Realignment.

## **Health Care**

*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.*

61. 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.*
62. SUPPORT Medi-Cal reimbursement rate increases to incentivize providers to participate in the program.
63. 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).
64. 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 should include community-based providers and could be modeled after current programs in place in safety net systems.*
65. 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.*
66. 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.
67. SUPPORT efforts to clearly define and adequately fund remaining county responsibilities.
68. 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.

69. SUPPORT efforts to provide adequate financing for health care reforms to succeed.
70. SUPPORT measures that maximize federal reimbursement from Medicaid and S-CHIP.
71. 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.
72. 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.
73. 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.
74. SUPPORT efforts to increase revenues and to contain mandated costs in the County's hospital and clinics system.
75. SUPPORT efforts to obtain a fair-share of any state funds in a distribution of funding for the integration of IHSS and managed care.
76. SUPPORT efforts to increase the availability of health care (including alcohol and other drugs recovery) to the uninsured in California, whether employed or not.
77. 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.
78. 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.
79. SUPPORT state efforts to increase the scope of benefits and reimbursement rates contained in Minor Consent Medi-Cal to give youth with substance abuse disorders access to a continuum of care, including residential and outpatient treatment.
80. SUPPORT efforts to give incentives to providers to establish more youth substance use disorder residential treatment facilities within the county.
81. SUPPORT efforts to extend Drug Medi-Cal and 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.*



82. SUPPORT funding and policy changes to support coverage of medically necessary alcohol and substance use related disorder treatment at the same level as other medical conditions in health care services, including county's responsibility for Federal Financial Participation (FFP) portion to increase Drug Medi-Cal reimbursement rates and incentivize providers to participate in the program.
83. SUPPORT legislation that extends the restrictions and prohibitions against the smoking of, and exposure to, 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; preventing the use of tobacco, electronic smoking devices (e-cigarettes) and flavored tobacco by youth and young adults; eliminating exposure to second-hand and third-hand smoke; restrictions on advertising of electronic smoking devices; reducing and eliminating disparities related to tobacco use and its effects among specific populations; increasing the minimum age to 21 to purchase tobacco products; and the promotion of cessation among young people and adults. **Support legislation that extends restrictions and prohibitions against the sale of flavored tobacco products, prohibits the sale of tobacco products in stores that operate a pharmacy and establishes distance and density restrictions on the establishment of a new tobacco retailer within proximity of youth sensitive venues such as schools, day cares, or parks.**
84. 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.
85. **SUPPORT legislation and administrative actions that further align a statewide regulatory framework for the commercial cannabis industry and that continue to authorize local jurisdictions to adopt more restrictive measures to protect the health, safety and welfare of their residents.**
86. SUPPORT funding and policy changes to support population-based chronic disease prevention efforts. Collectively, these include efforts to move up-stream from the treatment of illness associated with chronic disease to advance a policy, systems and organizational-change approach to address the underlying environmental factors and conditions that influence health and health behaviors.
87. SUPPORT funding and policy changes to support developing a workforce with gerontological expertise to manage the exponential growth in the chronically ill aging population.
88. SUPPORT efforts that would advance a Health-In-All-Policies approach to policy work done across the County. This implies consideration of how health is influenced by the built environment and a connection with land use planning and development.

89. SUPPORT ongoing study of the health impacts of global and regional climate change and ongoing countywide mitigation and adaptation efforts.
90. SUPPORT efforts that would preserve the nature and quality and continuity of care associated with safety net services historically provided at the local level, such as the California Children's Services (CCS) and Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) programs, which are being transitioned into managed care at the state level.
91. SUPPORT efforts that promote aging in place through the utilization of long-term supports and services and caregiver support services.
92. SUPPORT increasing the level of funding for Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) and Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) to meet the increase in cost to provide services and to meet the tremendous increase in the aging population.
93. SUPPORT maintaining level or enhanced funding, streamlined processes and greater flexibility for use of State and Federal funding to respond to Public Health Emergency Preparedness initiatives including Pandemic Influenza, emerging diseases, and continued funding for all categories related to Public Health Preparedness, including Hospital Preparedness Program, Homeland Security, Cities Readiness Initiative and core Public Health Preparedness.
94. SUPPORT increased funding and policy changes for Tuberculosis (TB) prevention and treatment, to reflect the increased risk of transmission faced across the Bay Area. *The Bay Area, including Contra Costa County, experiences more cases of active Tuberculosis than do most states in the nation. The demographic make-up of our communities combined with frequent international travel between the Bay and areas where TB is endemic, present an added risk and thus the need to maintain adequate funding and program infrastructure.*
95. SUPPORT increased funding for the public health infrastructure, capacity and prevention services as outlined in the public health components of the Affordable Care Act and the National Prevention and Public Health Fund.
96. SUPPORT recognition of Local Public Health Departments as an authorized provider for direct billing reimbursement related to the provision of Immunization, Family Planning, HIV, STD and TB services.
97. SUPPORT the reversal of the pre-emption language regarding local Menu-Labeling that is included in the Affordable Care Act.
98. SUPPORT enhanced funding and capacity for public health programs, specifically:
  - a. Prevention programs in the areas of chronic disease, specifically, obesity, diabetes, asthma and cancer;



- b. Prevention and risk reduction programs in the area of HIV, STD, teen pregnancy, injury prevention as well as health promotion programs, such as nutrition and activity education;
  - c. Oral health programs, especially those which address the needs of children and those with oral health disparities;
  - d. Protecting the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF), as established in the Affordable Care Act;
  - e. Increased resources dedicated to surveillance and prevention programs targeting chronic diseases such as cardiovascular, stroke, cancer, diabetes, and asthma, as well as injury and violence;
  - f. Funding and initiatives that support the **surveillance, prevention and local preparation for** emerging diseases, such as Zika, novel Influenza, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Chlamydia, and seasonal Influenza and public health programs which provide screening, diagnosis, and treatment;
  - g. Provide for adequate State funding for children's programs, including the California Children's Services (CCS) program for clients who are not Medi-Cal eligible to assure that counties are not overmatched in their financial participation;
  - h. Programs which seek to monitor and address the needs of Foster youth, especially those on psychotropic medication; and
  - i. Best practice programs which seeks to protect and enhance the health of pregnant women and that address maternal, child and adolescent health needs.
99. SUPPORT efforts to strengthen needle exchange programs as part of an overall program to combat the spread of HIV and other diseases; allowing items associated with needle exchange programs such as, cookers, sterile water, and cotton to be distributed along with clean needles; and the elimination of the federal ban on funding needle exchange programs.
100. SUPPORT legislative efforts to reduce or eliminate lead and toxic substances in consumer products, particularly those used by infants and children.
101. SUPPORT legislative efforts to reduce exposure to toxic air pollutants and the reduction of greenhouse gases.
102. SUPPORT funding, policy and programs dedicated to suicide, injury and violence prevention. Additionally, support efforts aimed at reducing health disparities and inequities associated with violence against women, communities of color and the LGBT community. Programs which seek to limit the effects of injury, violence and abuse on children, seniors and persons with disability.
103. SUPPORT funding and policy changes to support program development aimed at reducing the misuse of prescription drugs, most especially opioids, and increase prevention and treatment of opioid disorders to eliminate overdoses and combat the opioid epidemic. Additionally, support funding and legislation to restrict the sale and use of powdered alcohol and other similar products marketed to youth.

104. SUPPORT necessary County infrastructure and adequate funding related to education, regulatory, testing and enforcement functions associated with the State Medical Marijuana regulatory controls.
105. SUPPORT legislation and/or similar policy efforts to tax certain beverages that contain added sugars, by establishing a per fluid ounce health impact fee on sugar sweetened beverages at the distributor level. In addition, support efforts which would create the Sugar Sweetened Beverage Safety warning act, which would require a safety warning on all sealed sugar sweetened beverages.
106. SUPPORT legislation and efforts that support healthy meals, adequate meal time, and increased physical activity/education for school-age children.
107. SUPPORT efforts to dedicate funding that sustains and expands non-infrastructure Safe Routes to School programs that educate students, parents, and school staff about safe walking and bicycling to school.
108. SUPPORT efforts to address the underlying determinants of health and health equity, such as housing and prevention of displacement, educational attainment and livable wage jobs, and accessible transportation.
109. SUPPORT legislation that extends the restrictions and prohibitions against the smoking of, and exposure to, marijuana products in various places, including, but not limited to, places of employment, school campuses, public buildings, day care facilities, multi-family housing, health facilities, alcohol and other drug treatment facilities, and homeless shelters; further prohibit marijuana edibles to prevent youth/children access to harmful products; restrictions on advertising of marijuana products targeting youth and near places frequented by youth or alcohol and other drug treatment facilities.
110. SUPPORT funding, legislation, policy, and programs that would accomplish the following:
  - a. create an effective crisis response system of services for persons experiencing homelessness, particularly families and transition-age youth;
  - b. increases permanent housing with services for persons experiencing or at-risk of homelessness with a chronic disability; and
  - c. protects and expands the availability of affordable housing, particularly for the Very Low and Extremely Low Income population.
111. OPPOSE new block-granting proposals, harsh cuts, or proposals that will significantly and/or permanently shift the structure of health and human service funding and programming that would lead to the restriction or elimination of safety-net programs. *Reductions in federal human services funding and programming severely limits critical support for our community and state. Block grants often lead to decreases in funding that forces states to limit benefits for families, cap enrollment, and establish waitlists. These restrictions result in families who need these supports and services, not being able to access them, possibly leading them into deeper poverty and distress.*

112. OPPOSE efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act or to replace it with any proposals that represent significant, permanent structural alterations to current subsidized segments of the health care system. This would include proposals that would convert Medicaid enrollee categories to a per-capita cap model, thereby establishing hard federal funding caps for state Medicaid programs. *These proposals could force the state to make cuts of its own to offset the loss of federal funding. Contra Costa's entire Medi-Cal (Medicaid) population of approximately 250,000 people, including 90,000 children, could be affected as a result.*
113. OPPOSE legislation and administrative actions to repeal DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) as well as legislation and administrative efforts that target individuals due to their color, religious affiliation or national origin.

## **Human Services**

### ***Administrative Support Services***

114. OPPOSE the establishment of specific or stricter standards for the use of personal services contracts by counties, that would make contracting with community-based organizations more difficult for counties.

### ***Aging and Adult Services***

115. SUPPORT efforts to promote safety of Adult Protective Services workers conducting required unannounced home visits by allowing them to request and receive from law enforcement criminal record checks through the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS). *This would primarily be used for reported abusers in the household.*
116. SUPPORT efforts to develop emergency temporary shelter and/or short-term options for Adult Protective Services population and consider options that include but are not limited to, licensing of facilities specifically for this population and exploring Medi-Cal billing options to support clients in hospitals and other care facilities pending a more permanent housing placement.
117. SUPPORT simplification of IHSS service hour calculation and allocation to insure compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and efficiently provide services to consumers.
118. 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, including through solutions that allow access for Adult Protective Services to access financial records for investigation of financial abuse and exploitation. *Financial abuse is a fast-growing form of abuse of seniors and adults with disabilities and current law does not authorize financial institutions*

*to grant access to financial records necessary to investigate the reported abuse without the consent of the account holder or authorized representative.*

119. 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.
120. SUPPORT funding for statewide Adult Protective Services training.
121. 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.*
122. SUPPORT legislative efforts that allow for coordination of services and data, across state and county departments, that support aging and elder populations.
123. SUPPORT creation of a pilot program “Fostering Dignity in Aging,” to provide grant funding to counties to be used specifically for housing preservation and eviction prevention services of victims of elder and dependent adult abuse, exploitation, neglect, or self-neglect.
124. SUPPORT creation of funding opportunities and policies which promote the development of aging-friendly communities.
125. SUPPORT legislation and investments related to long-term care, senior housing affordability, medical service access, transportation, isolation and other quality of life issues to support aging with dignity.
126. SUPPORT research that describes and assesses local service needs and gaps impacting aging residents and that proposes specific and actionable local strategies to address these needs.
127. SUPPORTS efforts to allow counties to use alternative reassessment approaches, including but not limited to telephonic reassessments, that would be applied to customers rated low on the Functional Index Rating Scale.
128. SUPPORT efforts that focus on dependent adult and elder abuse prevention including, but not limited to, providing respite for caregivers.
129. SUPPORT efforts that identify, eliminate and prevent in-home neglect of the elderly and dependent adults; and scams and fraud (internet and otherwise) targeted at the elderly and dependent adults.

- 130. SUPPORT efforts that would require the California Department of Social Services to translate all state-provided materials used by In-Home Support Services providers into the statewide threshold languages: English, Spanish, Armenian, and Chinese.
- 131. SUPPORT efforts that would help to stabilize and provide short-term housing supports for at-risk Adult Protective Services clients.
- 132. SUPPORT legislative efforts that would enhance confidentiality of DMV records for Adult Protective Services social workers (a practice already in place for Child Protective Services social workers).

### ***Safety Net Programs***

- 133. SUPPORT efforts to extend family stabilization mental health/substance abuse funding to include all family members. *Current law only funds services for adult Welfare to Work participants.*
- 134. SUPPORT solutions to address gaps in existing state statute that cause disruptions to continuity of care for some Covered California Insurance Affordability Program (IAP) enrollees when a new determination of IAP takes place.
- 135. SUPPORT the use of state funds to pay for CalFresh benefits for those Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACAs) and PRUCOL (Permanent Residents Under the Color of Law) who would otherwise be ineligible for CalFresh.
- 136. SUPPORT efforts to extend eligibility to zero share of Medi-Cal cost when recipients report new earned income. *Potential increases to state and local minimum wage impacts eligibility to free health care.*
- 137. SUPPORT efforts to extend eligibility of CalWORKs benefit by exempting the first 6 months of earned income received from new employment or wage increases. *This is intended to create better financial stability when a family's income increases due to changes in local and state minimum wage law.*
- 138. SUPPORT fully funding Medi-Cal Administrative costs.
- 139. 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 Welfare-to-Work 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.*

140. 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.*

141. SUPPORT alignment of verification requirements for CalWORKs, 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.*
142. 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 program are so similar. This would increase CalFresh uptake in an efficient way.*
143. SUPPORT efforts to increase CalFresh benefit amounts to better meet recipients' nutritional needs, improve ease and accessibility of the CalFresh application and recertification processes, and adjust CalFresh eligibility requirements to include currently excluded populations with significant need.
144. SUPPORT efforts to restore cuts to the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) Program, **increase grant amounts that would allow improvement of quality of life**, and reinstate the annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA.)
145. 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.*
146. SUPPORT efforts to improve and expand emergency food assistance networks' (e.g. local food banks, food pantries) ability to procure, store, and distribute nutritious food to those in need.
147. SUPPORT increase of daily rate available under Temporary HA from \$65 per day to \$85 per day for homeless CalWORKs families of four or fewer and provide an additional \$15 per day for each additional family member up to a maximum of \$145 daily.
148. **SUPPORT efforts for a more flexible framework that allows the state to supplement CalFresh benefits if federal assistance is insufficient or unavailable. Recent natural disasters have underscored the need for a more permanent framework for the state to respond.**
149. **SUPPORT continuous investment in the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) and efforts to increase access to California Earned Income Tax Credit, including increase in tax credit.**



- 150. SUPPORT the expansion of benefits and services for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.
- 151. SUPPORT providing funding for graduation bonuses for non-pregnant/parenting CalWORKs students who obtain a high school diploma/equivalent.
- 152. SUPPORT shared housing efforts to secure permanent housing assistance for CalWORKs participants.
- 153. SUPPORT a federal waiver that would allow county social services agencies to process CalFresh applications for jail inmates and suspend rather than terminate CalFresh eligibility when a recipient is detailed in a county jail for a period of less than a year.
- 154. SUPPORT efforts that would allow CalWORKs Welfare to Work participants to participate and achieve high school equivalency program without having their 24-month clock be impacted during their time in the program.

### **Early Care and Education**

- 155. SUPPORT the efforts of CHSA (California Head Start Association) in securing legislation to support a state-wide integrated child care licensing structure. This will allow childcare programs to apply for and have one child care license for all children 0-5 as opposed to the current system of a two-license structure for varying ages of children in care. California remains only one of two states in the nation to maintain the two license structure.
- 156. 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.
- 157. OPPOSE any legislation that increases tobacco taxes but fails to include language to replace any funds subsequently lost to The California Children and Families Act/Trust Fund for local services funded by tobacco taxes, Proposition 10 in 1998 and Proposition 99 in 1988.
- 158. 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 stagnated or reduced. An increase would greatly help low-income people find work and stay in jobs.*
- 159. 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.*

160. SUPPORT legislation to expand early child care and education and increase funding for preschool and early learning.
161. 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.*
162. SUPPORT legislation to expand early care and education and increase funding for preschool and early learning, through a diverse and multi-faceted delivery system.
163. SUPPORT restoration of child development programs (pre-2011 funding) under Proposition 98 funding.
164. SUPPORT legislation that would clarify and streamline the definition of homelessness across categorical eligibility for child care services to homeless children.
165. SUPPORT legislation that would clarify the definition of “volunteer” in SB 792, a bill which prohibits, commencing September 1, 2016, a person from being employed or volunteering at a day care center or a day care home if he or she has not been immunized against influenza, pertussis, and measles. *Current law does not specify an established minimum of time spent in a child care facility to be considered a volunteer. SB 792, therefore, would apply to parents/grandparents coming to child care centers for one-time volunteer activities, to provide proof of vaccination.*
166. SUPPORT efforts to that would establish/allow the enrollment of 2.9 year olds in the California State Preschool Program.
167. SUPPORT alignment of family eligibility for subsidized child care with cost of living adjustments and higher minimum wage rates.
168. SUPPORT the restoration of State Quality Child Care Funds which funds the Local Child Care Planning Council.
169. SUPPORT the increase in flexibility of child care contracts with the California Department of Education that would allow voluntary transfer of funds to occur outside of November and May months.
170. SUPPORT efforts to raise wages for the early care and education workforce (such as child care workers, preschool/infant-toddler teachers).

171. SUPPORT efforts that encourage access to early education home visiting programming - supporting families in providing an environment that promotes healthy growth and development of their young children.

### ***Child Welfare***

172. SUPPORT continued and improved funding for substance abuse treatment and mental health services including those that provide alternatives to incarceration and Laura's Law.
173. SUPPORT increased funding for Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention.
174. SUPPORT continued and improved funding for implementation of Continuum of Care Reform.
175. SUPPORT child-specific approval for kinship caregivers (and non-related extended family members) to enable relatives to care for their related child/children, if in the child's best interest, even if the relative/NREFM is not able or willing to be approved as a foster parent for their foster children.
176. SUPPORT legislative efforts that would amend the definition of "relative" as applied to state funded Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payments (Kin-Gap) to be consistent with the federally funded Kin-Gap. This will allow all Kinship guardianship cases to be treated uniformly and allow more families to experience independence, normalcy and other benefits of permanence as legal guardians.
177. SUPPORT counties to access CWS/CMS to determine family's child abuse history for the Resource Family Approval process.
178. SUPPORT efforts to expand California Earned Income Tax Credit (Cal-EITC) eligibility to former foster youth under age 25 years.
179. SUPPORT efforts that would create state Homeless Youth Housing Program grants fund to establish or expand programs that provide specified housing assistance and supportive services to homeless youth.

### ***Violence Prevention***

180. SUPPORT efforts that seek to address the impact of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, elder abuse and child abuse, and implement culturally relevant, trauma-informed responses, connect victims to services, and prevent interpersonal violence.
181. SUPPORT increased investments in housing for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking including the preservation of emergency and long-term housing options for victims.

182. SUPPORT efforts that prevent domestic violence and domestic violence homicide including assessment of risk for assault or lethal force (including stalking and strangulation) throughout the criminal justice system.
183. SUPPORT investments in continuous training and coordination of training for all law enforcement officers, District Attorneys, Public Defenders, Judges and other court staff on issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, elder abuse and trauma informed approaches.
184. SUPPORT efforts to increase training on human trafficking (with a specific focus on labor trafficking) for law enforcement and others involved in criminal investigations.
185. SUPPORT efforts that seek to specialize and build expertise for designated staff and systems (such as developing a commercially sexually exploited youth court or creating human trafficking units) to better support survivors of human trafficking.
186. SUPPORT efforts that differentiate risk and provide differential response for both victims of domestic violence and sex crimes and offenders of domestic violence and sex crimes.
187. SUPPORT efforts to increase language access and cultural responsive services for survivors of interpersonal violence.
188. SUPPORT efforts that foster collaboration across protective and criminal systems which allow for facilitation of cross-reporting of interpersonal violence.
189. SUPPORT efforts to increase cross-agency and cross-system collaboration on human trafficking and domestic violence cases including the sharing of confidential or protected information in multidisciplinary team settings in order to increase support for survivors.
190. SUPPORT efforts that promote training, capacity building and deeper understanding for students, educators and social service staff on trauma informed care, adverse childhood experiences, healthy workplaces and schools
191. SUPPORT efforts that ensure survivors of interpersonal violence feel safe to access services.

### **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 has been 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.*

192. SUPPORT efforts to ensure that counties who have existing or proposed Class II Indian gaming facilities receive the Special Distribution Funds.

193. 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.
194. 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.
195. SUPPORT State authority to tighten up the definition of a Class II machine.
196. 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**

197. SUPPORT efforts to promote economic incentives for "smart growth," in Priority Development and Priority Production 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. Priority Production Areas are locally designated zones where manufacturing, warehousing, distribution and repair services would be a priority consideration in determining future land use.*
198. 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 a number of goals in the County General Plan Housing Element.*
199. 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.*
200. 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.*

201. 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.
202. OPPOSE efforts to limit the County's ability to exercise local land use authority.
203. 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.*
204. 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 \$24 million to the East Contra Costa County NCCP from the \$90 million allocation for NCCPs in Proposition 84. Support the inclusion of NCCPs for funding in allocations from Proposition 1. Support \$90 million for implementation of NCCPs and an additional \$100 million for watershed protection and habitat conservation in future park, water or natural resource bonds. 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, AB 32 as well as an appropriate tool for spending Cap and Trade revenues. Promote effective implementation of NCCPs as a top priority for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Support an increase to \$1.6 million for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Local Assistance Grant program. 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. Support alignment of State and Regional of Water Board permits (Section 401 clean water act and storm water permits) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife Streambed Alteration Agreement (Section 1602 of the Fish and Game code) and other State natural resource permitting with California Endangered Species Act permitting through NCCPs to improve the overall efficiency, predictability and effectiveness of natural resource regulation.
205. 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.

206. 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.
207. 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.*
208. 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.
209. OPPOSE CEQA reform efforts that reduce environmental protections for projects that cross county or city boundaries.
210. SUPPORT efforts to improve or streamline CEQA for efficiency without losing sight of its ultimate goal to thoroughly identify environmental impacts and mitigations.
211. OPPOSE efforts to change CEQA solely to accommodate one particular infrastructure project or set of projects.
212. 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.
213. SUPPORT legislation that funds programs to remediate brownfield sites in the County and modifies existing programs to make implementation easier or apply more broadly. Specifically:
- Consider modification to the Cleanup Loans and Environmental Assistance to Neighborhoods (CLEAN) program that would simplify the approval process for applications;
  - Broaden the criteria for sites that are eligible for California Land Reuse and Revitalization Act (CLRRA) to include all sites that are listed by the State or Federal Government as contaminated; and



- Fully fund the California Recycle Underutilized Sites (CALReUse) program.

## **Law and Justice System**

214. 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.
215. 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.*
216. SUPPORT legislation that requires boater's insurance. *Currently, boaters are not required to carry insurance in California.*
217. SUPPORT legislation that provides better funding for local agencies forced to deal with abandoned and sunken vessels and their environmental impacts.
218. OPPOSE legislative proposals to realign additional program responsibility to counties without adequate funding and protections.
219. OPPOSE legislation that would shift the responsibility of parolees from the state to the counties without adequate notification, documentation and funding.
220. 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.
221. 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.
222. ADVOCATE for State legislation banning the sale of alcopop products by businesses that sell alcoholic beverages. The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control is responsible for regulating the type of alcohol products that a business may sell. *A type of flavored malt alcoholic beverage product known as "alcopops" has been identified as a contributor to under-age drinking in the County. The term alcopops usually refers to sweetened malt or alcoholic beverages that are typically sold in single-serving bottles or*

*cans. The Board, through recommendations from the Public Protection Committee, has adopted amendments to the Alcoholic Beverage Sales Commercial Activities Zoning Ordinance that authorizes the County to prohibit the sale of alcopops at any establishment not in compliance with the performance standards. Along with the code changes, various implementation strategies were also approved in order to better coordinate efforts between County Departments and agencies for streamlined implementation and enforcement of the Ordinance.*

223. SUPPORT legislative reform of current bail provisions that will replace reliance on money bail with a system that incorporates a pretrial risk assessment tool and evidence-based pretrial release decisions. *The current reliance on fixed bail schedules and commercial money bonds ignores public safety factors and unfairly penalizes poor people who are awaiting trial. Bail reform in this manner will ensure that only dangerous persons who cannot be safely supervised in the community while they are awaiting trial will be held in custody pretrial. Locally, our County has moved in this direction with an AB109 funded pretrial program.*

### **Levees**

224. 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 to actively advocate for \$1 billion in funding through this bond.*
225. 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.
226. 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.

227. 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.
228. 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.*
229. 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**

230. 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.
231. 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.

232. 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.

### **Pipeline Safety**

233. SUPPORT legislation that contains specific mitigations or solutions for installation of Automatic Shutoff Valves for both High Consequence Areas (HCA) and for those that transverse Active Seismic Earthquake Faults for all intrastate petroleum pipelines. *State Fire Marshal Annual Inspections of all Intrastate Petroleum Pipelines do not contain the specific mitigations or solutions for installation of Automatic Shutoff Valves for both High Consequence Areas (HCA) and for those that traverse Active Seismic Earthquake Faults that are mandated for Gas Pipelines under AB 2856. The County has several petroleum pipelines that should be classified under these categories and present the same explosive nature as gas pipelines do.*
234. SUPPORT legislation that contains specific language for protection of all seasonal and all year creeks and all State Waterways where petroleum pipelines are present. *New and replacement pipelines near environmentally and ecologically sensitive areas should use the best available technology including, but not limited to, the installation of leak detection technology, automatic shutoff systems or remote controlled sectionalized block valves, or any combination of these technologies to reduce the amount of oil released in an oil spill to protect state waters and wildlife.*

### **Telecommunications and Broadband**

235. 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.*
236. 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.*

237. SUPPORT the expansion of broadband (high speed internet service) to drive economic development and job opportunities, support county service delivery, and improve health, education and public safety outcomes for residents. For communities to realize these full benefits of broadband it must be capable of supporting current technology.

Access and adoption are both necessary elements that should be supported in state and federal legislative or regulatory proposals. This entails the following:

- Establishing and maintaining reliable broadband in unserved or underserved communities;
- Promoting the knowledge, skills and behaviors that comprise digital literacy;
- Making broadband affordable for all households;
- Maximizing funding for infrastructure; and
- Reducing infrastructure deployment barriers.

### **Transportation**

238. SUPPORT increased flexibility in the use of transportation funds.
239. SUPPORT regional coordination that provides for local input in addressing transportation needs. *Coordinated planning and delivery of public transit, paratransit, non-profit/community-based transit, and rail services will help ensure the best possible service delivery to the public. Regional coordination will be essential to complete planning and development of important regional transportation projects that benefit the state and local road system such as TriLink (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 and Marsh Creek Trails. 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 or state planning efforts would be inconsistent with this goal. Consistent with that position, relief from the requirements imposed on the County by the state relative to the Iron Horse corridor would foster coordination along this multi-jurisdictional corridor.*
240. 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 stable/dedicated funding for crossing guards, revised school zone references in the vehicle code, Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) grants, statutory authorization of an automated safety enforcement (speed cameras) pilot program, 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.*

241. SUPPORT funding or incentives for the use of environmentally-friendly 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 renewable and environmentally friendly materials such as pervious concrete, cool pavements, rubberized asphalt (made from recycled tires) that the County has used as paving material on San Pablo Dam Road and Pacheco Boulevard, and other emerging technologies/materials.*
242. 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.*
243. 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. In addition to being coordinated with local planning, there are well documented conflicts between state school development policies and state policies related to greenhouse gas reduction, safe routes to school, complete streets, and "Health In All Policies." The County supports administrative and legislative efforts to resolve these conflicts.*
244. 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 will urge the California Department of Education's current Title 5 update effort to include removing the current conflict between current school siting policies and 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."*

245. 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.
246. 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).*
247. 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.
248. SUPPORT funding increases for active transportation projects and planning. *Funding is needed for improved pedestrian infrastructure and enhancements and expansion of: trails, on-street bike facilities (Class II and III), and separated facilities (Class I and Class IV [cycle track]). Funding is also needed for corridor and "bicycle superhighway" planning, trail access improvements, overcrossings, intersection improvements, Class I - IV inter-connectivity projects (gap closures), wayfinding/signage projects, and facilities/designs identified in emerging best practices.*
249. OPPOSE efforts to condition or link the distribution of transportation funds to a jurisdiction's production of housing relative to RHNA (Regional Housing Needs Allocation).
250. SUPPORT administrative or legislative mechanisms that facilitate coordination between transportation agencies and utilities relative to expediting construction projects. *Without willing and proactive coordination, transportation projects are subject to delays and substantially increased costs. These costs are borne by the taxpayers.*

## **Veterans**

251. 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.*

252. 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.*
253. 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**

254. SUPPORT legislation that establishes producer responsibility for management at the end of their useful life of products, including pharmaceuticals, batteries, sharps and veterinary medicine.
255. SUPPORT efforts to increase the development of markets for recycled materials.
256. SUPPORT legislative and regulatory efforts to allow third parties, under specific circumstances and conditions, to collect and transport household hazardous waste to collection facilities.
257. 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.
258. SUPPORT legislation that does not require increased diversion from landfills without an adequate funding mechanism.
259. 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.*

260. 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.*

261. 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.
262. 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.*
263. 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.*



## **Workforce Development**

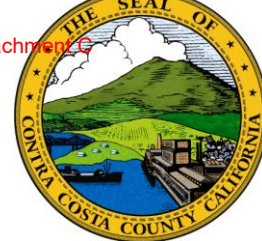
264. SUPPORT legislative and regulatory efforts that make the necessary changes to existing law for the implementation of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) in California. *The County supports legislation that would include provisions that state that the Local Plan developed by local workforce boards should be the basis of all workforce planning in the local areas and all workforce-related state grants. Additionally, the County supports provisions that ensure that staffing costs and support services should be included in the training expenditure requirement. Finally, the County supports provisions that require all programs listed in the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) work together to ensure that data is collected and reported across all programs, utilizing the state's base-wage file system to ease local reporting burdens.*
265. SUPPORT efforts to include marginally attached workers, including discouraged workers, and involuntary part-time workers more formally in the California Workforce Investment Act.

### ***Amended Legislation – State Priorities***

1. **Support Homeless Youth Advocacy and Housing Program-** California females are more likely than males to live on incomes below the federal poverty level: 16% of women and girls compared to 14% of men and boys live below the poverty level. Women and girls are also more likely to live in extreme poverty on incomes less than 50% of the FPL. CCCW support establishing the Homeless Youth Advocacy and Housing Program to provide housing assistance and supportive services to homeless young and teenage girls with the goal of transitioning youth towards self-sufficiency. **AB 1406 2017 legislative priority 141.**
2. **Expand Access to Childcare-** Support keeping promises in the state budget to increase access for 1,479,000 children in California who are eligible for subsidized childcare. When mothers cannot find or afford childcare, the economy suffers, and workforce opportunities are missed. Support legislation that allows parents earning the minimum wage to keep their affordable child care. Outdated income guidelines harm working parent's due to the increase in minimum wage and mothers and fathers are no longer eligible for affordable childcare if they work full-time. The extra 50 cents an hour has unintentionally caused families to lose childcare. **2017 legislative priority 132.**
3. **Support improving access to comprehensive and affordable health care for women.** We strongly encourage better access to health benefits, wellness and preventative healthcare, literacy, and better doctor-patient relationships. Among California women who delayed medical care, just over half (51%) cited cost or lack of insurance as the reason: 59% of Latinas, 50% of White women, 37% of Asian-American women and 35% of African-American women delayed care due to cost or lack of insurance. **2017 Priority 2 healthcare.**
4. **Mental Health -**Support the court's postponement of prosecution of a misdemeanor or a felony punishable in a county jail and place a defendant in a pretrial diversion program if the court is satisfied the defendant has a mental disorder and meets certain other requirements. Women in Contra Costa County suffer from mental health issues at an alarming rate. This would allow the defense to arrange for a program of mental health treatment utilizing inpatient or outpatient mental health resources. **CA SB 8 - 2017 Priority 4: Realignment Implementation.**
5. **Domestic Violence -**Support Governor Brown's recommendation to maintain full funding of domestic violence program at \$20.6 million. Keep equal access funds and legal services for domestic violence survivors by supporting a \$30 million increase to the Equal Access Fund to broaden the availability of legal advocacy to low-income Californians and survivors. Improve safety for immigrant survivors supporting the California Values Act, which separates federal immigration enforcement from local law enforcement efforts decreasing fear of deportation among immigrant survivors when reporting harm, they have experienced. **2017- item 150.**

### *Amended Legislation – Federal Priorities*

1. **Human Trafficking** –Human Trafficking is the illegal recruitment, transportation, harboring, provision or obtaining of people (by force, fraud or coercion), typically for forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation. Nearly 20.9 million people around the world fall victim to this multi-billion-dollar industry. In the last two years, Contra Costa partners on a Federal human trafficking grant have served over 240 victims of human trafficking. **Women and girls are the predominant groups of people that are harmed by these actions.** The County will advocate for the following federal actions to ensure support and services for victims of human trafficking, and the systems that help them: • SUPPORT federal funding that effectively enables service providers to assist victims and law enforcement to prosecute traffickers. Because it takes a well-resourced multifaceted approach to support victims and to ensure traffickers are prosecuted support cross-system, comprehensive approaches to preventing human trafficking. SUPPORT efforts that increase the level of training, awareness, and funding to address promising practices related to labor trafficking (including the hospitality industry, restaurants, etc.). Victims of trafficking may be found everywhere– some may be found working against their will in hotels/motels for long hours for little or no pay. Labor Adopted 2017 Federal Platform January 19, 2017, trafficking has been found in diverse labor settings including domestic work, restaurants, nail salons, small businesses, large farms, and factories.
2. **Sexual Assault** -Support providing funding to services for victims of sexual violence, and encourage systemic change to aid survivors and those who serve them. In the wake of the federal government rescinding Title IX sexual assault guidelines that provide the framework for school investigations on campus sexual misconduct we must look to provide alternative resources to ensure **the safety of women and girls in the community.**
3. **Workforce Development** – Contra Costa County supports policies that meet the needs of serving businesses, workers, job seekers, and youth. The County further supports policies under the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) that preserve local decision-making relative to spending, the direction of work, and other functions of local workforce boards. The County also supports **policies that promote equal employment opportunities for women and men in an effort to increase employment** and the creation of jobs in both the public and private sector and that enhance business' access to a qualified talent pool, and promote business growth through the development of a skilled workforce. The County also favors policies that provide increased funding to support job seeker services, as well as policies that make strategic investments to leverage existing funding in the workforce development arena.



**Department:** Contra Costa County  
Commission for Women  
& Girls

**Email:** laurenababb@gmail.com

**Contact Person:** Lauren Babb/ Beth Mora

**Telephone:** (313) 452-1107

**Title: Member** Support legislation that would guarantee pay equity for women.

**Check one:**                    **State Platform**    ☒    **Federal Platform**    ☐

**Dept. Priority:**              1  of  5      (e.g. 1 of 3)

**I. Summary of Proposal:**

*Please briefly describe the proposal and include the following information (where applicable):*

*1.        **Fair Pay and Job Opportunity** - Support legislation that would guarantee pay equity for women. Women continue to be paid less than men across virtually all occupational categories reported in California. The gender wage gap for full-time, year-round workers in California is 86 cents on the dollar, resulting in California women earning on average approximately \$7,000 a year less than men. Supporting legislation that mandates equal pay reports from contractors in the county that allows Contra Costa Health and Human Services to review compensation by sex, race, and ethnicity to investigate pay discrimination. This will enable stronger protections for women in the workplace. Equal pay reports from contractors with the county.*

**II. Action Requested:**

**Support and include in the 2018 State Legislative priorities.**

**III. Fiscal Impact:**

a. **County :** We are not seeking legislation at this time. Women in the county have expressed this as a critical problem here in the County. In accordance with our mission to serve women and girls we ask the Supervisors to consider supporting future legislation that would create more fair paying jobs for women and girls.

b. **State (if applicable)**

c. **Other (if applicable)**

IV. **Anticipated Supporters of proposal:** All likely female likely voters in the 5 districts of Contra Costa County.

V. **Anticipated Opponents of proposal:** Business owners that have a bottom line and may see revenue lost leading to higher market values in the district. This also could reduce the amount parents pay in childcare.

VI. **Position on proposal by CSAC or League of California Cities (if available):**

**VII. Prior History of Proposal (if any):**

December 9<sup>th</sup> 2014, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed the Equal Pay Ordinance



**Department:** Contra Costa County  
Commission for Women  
& Girls

**Email:** laurenababb@gmail.com

**Contact Person:** Lauren Babb/ Beth Mora

**Telephone:** (313) 452-1107

**Title: Member** *(Describe in one sentence the issue you seek to address with State/Federal assistance)*  
Support **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) aka "Dreamers"**

**Check one:**                    **State Platform**    [ ☒ ]                    **Federal Platform**    [ ☐ ]

**Dept. Priority:**              2  of  5      (e.g. 1 of 3)

**VIII. Summary of Proposal:**

*Please briefly describe the proposal and include the following information (where applicable):*

2..                    **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) aka "Dreamers"** - Support establishing community, education strategies to help ensure due process rights for the 65,000 unauthorized immigrants that include women and families a population that makes up 14 percent of the Bay Area's total unauthorized community. According to the Migration Policy Institute, 37 percent of Contra Costa County's unauthorized-immigrant population has at least one U.S. citizen under the age of 18 in their household aka "Dreamer". <https://richmondconfidential.org/2017/09/18/rapid-response-and-legal-aid-project-for-undocumented-immigrants-up-for-vote-tomorrow/>

**IX. Action Requested:**

**Support and include in the 2018 State Legislative priorities.**

**X. Fiscal Impact:**

- a. **County :** According to the Migration Policy Institute, 37 percent of Contra Costa County's unauthorized-immigrant population has at least one U.S. citizen under the age of 18 in their household aka "Dreamer". <https://richmondconfidential.org/2017/09/18/rapid-response-and-legal-aid-project-for-undocumented-immigrants-up-for-vote-tomorrow/>
- b. **State :** Anticipating Governor Brown's signature for SB 54
- c. **Other (if applicable)**

**XI. Anticipated Supporters of proposal:** Democratic likely voters and voter over +65 years of age. The elimination of DACA has the potential to tear apart families in our community. People we consider our neighbors and friends. This is not a political issue it is a matter of basic respect for people that have lived and contributed to the Contra Costa economy.

**XII. Anticipated Opponents of proposal:** Law enforcement

**XIII. Position on proposal by CSAC or League of California Cities (if available):**

**XIV. Prior History of Proposal (if any):** SB 54

**Department:** Contra Costa County  
Commission for Women  
& Girls

**Email:** laurenababb@gmail.com

**Contact Person:** Lauren Babb/ Beth Mora

**Telephone:** (313) 452-1107

**Title: Member** *(Describe in one sentence the issue you seek to address with State/Federal Support Paid Parental Leave)*

**Check one:**                      **State Platform**    [ ☒ ]                      **Federal Platform**    [ ☐ ]

**Dept. Priority:**                        3   *of*   5                        (e.g. 1 of 3)

**XV. Summary of Proposal:**

*Please briefly describe the proposal and include the following information (where applicable):*

3.                      **Paid Parental Leave** - Supports SB 63 which would require businesses with fifty (50) or more employees to provide twelve (12) weeks of job-protected parental leave to eligible workers following childbirth, adoption, or foster care placement. In addition to this legislation, CCCW supports 6 weeks of fully paid leave to bond with a new child. Require employers to provide employee compensation to complement the California Paid Family leave partial compensation benefits so that parents receive full pay during parental leave. (New legislation, SB63.)

**XVI. Action Requested:**

**Support and include in the 2018 State Legislative priorities.**

**XVII. Fiscal Impact:**

- a. **County :** Operational cost for fair pay data analysis .
- State:** Exceeds the requirements of SB 63
- b. **Other (if applicable)**



**XVIII. Anticipated Supporters of proposal:** Women in all 5 districts of Contra Costa County. Families need time to adjust to a new child this legislation allows parents to enjoy the critical moments without the undo financial burden.

**XIX. Anticipated Opponents of proposal:** Local businesses that may not be able to provide coverage for a person gone for an extended period of time.

**XX. Position on proposal by CSAC or League of California Cities (if available):**

**XXI. Prior History of Proposal (if any):** SB 63

**Department:** Contra Costa County  
Commission for Women  
& Girls

**Email:** laurenababb@gmail.com

**Contact Person:** Lauren Babb/ Beth Mora

**Telephone:** (313) 452-1107

**Title: Member** *(Describe in one sentence the issue you seek to address with State/Federal .  
Promote Economic Opportunities for Girls and Women*

**Check one:** **State Platform** [ ☒ ] **Federal Platform** [ ☐ ]

**Dept. Priority:** 4 of 5 (e.g. 1 of 3)

**XXII. Summary of Proposal:**

*Please briefly describe the proposal and include the following information (where applicable):*

4. **Promote Economic Opportunities for Girls and Women** - Support and promote proven techniques for engaging girls in the classroom to participate in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) by exposing female students to diverse role models and mentors. Nearly one in four (24%) of those employed in science, technology, engineering and mathematics occupations are women; women tend to be vastly underrepresented in computer, technology, and engineering. To improve representation in the workplace for women STEM programs outside the classroom should increase in collaboration and partnerships with local business that specialize in STEM.

**XXIII. Action Requested:**

**Support and include in the 2018 State Legislative priorities.**

**XXIV. Fiscal Impact:**

- a. **County :** Conduct county wide survey to assess need for science, technology, engineering and math.
- b. **State:** Exceeds the requirements of SB 63
- c. **Other (if applicable)**

**XXV. Anticipated Supporters of proposal:** Women in all 5 districts of Contra Costa County. Economic opportunity provided by school can only increase our workforce development and boost the economy.







**XXVI. Anticipated Opponents of proposal:** N/A

**XXVII. Position on proposal by CSAC or League of California Cities (if available):**

**XXVIII. Prior History of Proposal (if any):**

**Department:** Contra Costa County  
Commission for Women  
& Girls

**Email:** laurenababb@gmail.com

**Contact Person:** Lauren Babb/ Beth Mora

**Telephone:** (313) 452-1107

**Title: Member** *(Describe in one sentence the issue you seek to address with State/Federal*  
*Access to Menstrual Hygiene Products -*

**Check one:** **State Platform** [ ☒ ] **Federal Platform** [ ☐ ]

**Dept. Priority:** 5 of 5 (e.g. 1 of 3)

**XXIX. Summary of Proposal:**

*Please briefly describe the proposal and include the following information (where applicable):*

5. Access to Menstrual Hygiene Products - Support AB 10 requiring school bathrooms to offer an adequate supply of free menstrual hygiene supplies in school bathrooms and require the Contra Costa County Housing Authority to ensure that an adequate supply of menstrual hygiene supplies are available at all shelters in the county. This allows young women to have the same access to education as boys

**XXX. Action Requested:**

**Support and include in the 2018 State Legislative priorities.**

**XXXI. Fiscal Impact:**

- a. **County :** Cost of providing the necessary products and overhead of Housing Authority.
- b. **State:** AB 10 on Governor Brown's desk
- c. **Other (if applicable)**

**XXXII. Anticipated Supporters of proposal:** Women in all 5 districts of Contra Costa County. Girls should be able to learn without feeling uncomfortable due to financial burden on purchasing menstrual hygiene products.

**XXXIII. Anticipated Opponents of proposal:** School Districts and charter schools

**XXXIV. Position on proposal by CSAC or League of California Cities (if available):**

**XXXV. Prior History of Proposal (if any):** AB 10



# Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

## Subcommittee Report

### LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

6.

**Meeting Date:** 12/11/2017  
**Subject:** Draft 2018 Federal Legislative Platform  
**Submitted For:** LEGISLATION COMMITTEE,  
**Department:** County Administrator  
**Referral No.:** 2017-38  
**Referral Name:** Draft 2018 Federal Platform  
**Presenter:** L. DeLaney      **Contact:** L. DeLaney, 925-335-1097

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#### **Referral History:**

Each fall, the County Administrator's Office initiates the development of the coming year's Federal Legislative Platform by inviting members of the Board of Supervisors, Department Heads and key staff to provide recommended changes or additions to the current adopted Platform.

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

The Legislation Committee typically reviews the Draft Platform in November and/or December of each year, with the Proposed Platform recommended to the Board of Supervisors for adoption in January.

The Draft 2018 Federal Platform in a redline version (showing changes from the adopted 2017 Federal Platform) is **Attachment A** and a clean-copy version is **Attachment B**.

#### **Referral Update:**

The significant amendments to the 2017 adopted Federal Legislative Platform that are proposed by staff include the following:

#### **FEDERAL FUNDING NEEDS**

Two projects have been recommended for deletion from the list due to the identification of other revenue sources.

1. Emergency Operations Center (EOC) - \$350,000,000 for state and local efforts to sustain and enhance the effectiveness of their emergency management programs for all hazards preparedness.
3. Safe and Bright Futures for Children Exposed to Domestic Violence and Trauma – \$400,000 to implement the federally funded plan to diminish the damaging effects of domestic violence, and exposure to early trauma on children and adolescents and to stop the cycle of intentional injury

and abuse.

A policy statement has been recommended for addition: *With respect to any proposed federal Infrastructure bill, the County would support legislative language that includes infrastructure projects for all elements of stormwater: regional scale flood protection infrastructure (usually operated by flood control districts), local scale storm drain pipes (operated by cities and counties), storm water quality treatment facilities (operated by cities and counties), and groundwater recharge (often operated by special districts, but also cities and counties).*

## **FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION NEEDS**

Policy revision to #4 (formerly eBART Extension Next Phase Study/ Environmental and Engineering), now called Brentwood Intermodal Transit Center (BITC). Project to improve access, and advance design and development of a transit center located in Brentwood, and serving Oakley, southeast Antioch, Discovery Bay and Brentwood. The BITC is proposed for Highway 4 between Lone Tree Way and Sand Creek Road and would be served initially by Tri Delta Transit. Access would be provided via an extension of Heidorn Ranch Road, and the multimodal Mokelumne Trail. A possible future extension of eBART from the Antioch Station would be considered later.

Additional text changes are incorporated in the Draft Platform for the most up-to-date project cost and description information, including to the Surface Transportation Program/Highway Bridge Funding, as follows:

In addition to the funding levels, the County also supports regulation changes that permit direct funding to local jurisdictions, bypassing the Federal Highway Administration and Caltrans Local Assistance. The goals of these changes are to:

- Get federal transportation funding into the community as soon as possible to create and preserve jobs, both in the private sector and the public sector, in America;
- Maximize purchasing power by eliminating the burdensome additional administrative process and cost associated with multiple layers of government between funding and construction of shovel ready improvement and maintenance projects; and
- Fund the critical first and last part of each journey of goods, people, and services ? local roads of America ? providing certainty for businesses and laying the foundation for lasting economic growth.

## **POLICY POSITIONS**

Staff recommends the following policy additions to the 2018 Federal Platform:

***Aging and Adult Services*** – Contra Costa County administers grants through the Area Agency on Aging (AAA). Through public and nonprofit agency contracts, the AAA provides many services annually for elderly county residents, including group (congregate) meals, rides to congregate meal sites, nutrition education sessions, home delivered meals, legal assistance, long term care ombudsman services, in home and respite registry services, home visiting and adult day care, family caregiver support, assessments for fall prevention and fall prevention exercise classes. The Older Californians Act provides Title III grants for community services and nutrition.

The County will advocate for the following federal actions: a. OPPOSE the elimination or reduction of funding for the Older Americans Act and Programming. b. OPPOSE the elimination

or cuts to the Elder Justice Act. The Elder Justice Act, as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, provides federal resources to “prevent, detect, treat, understand, intervene in and, where appropriate, prosecute elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.” c. OPPOSE elimination and funding cuts to the Senior Community Service Employment Program, which is the nation’s oldest program that helps low-income, unemployed individuals aged 55+ years find work.

### ***Child Care:***

- OPPOSE block granting Head Start and Early Head Start programs.
- SUPPORT new comprehensive proposals that would enhance funding and development of early care and education infrastructure, including increasing supports, services, and increased compensation for the early education workforce.
- SUPPORT efforts that increase access to home visiting programs that are designed and implemented to support families in providing an environment that promotes healthy growth and development of young children.

### ***Child Welfare and Well-being***

- Modify the Federal Title IV-E Foster Care eligibility income standard from the current 1996 AFDC Federal Poverty Level (100% FPL) to be in line with (and follow) the Medicaid 138% FPL standard.
- OPPOSE the elimination or cuts to the Social Services Block Grant and the Adoption Assistance Program.

***Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals*** – OPPOSE legislation and administrative actions to repeal DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) as well as legislation and administrative efforts that target individuals due to their color, religious affiliation or national origin.

### ***Health***

OPPOSE efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act or to replace it with any proposals that represent significant, permanent structural alterations to current subsidized segments of the health care system. This would include proposals that would convert Medicaid enrollee categories to a per-capita cap model, thereby establishing hard federal funding caps for state Medicaid programs. These proposals could force the state to make cuts of its own to offset the loss of federal funding. Contra Costa’s entire Medi-Cal (Medicaid) population of approximately 250,000 people, including 90,000 children, could be affected as a result.

OPPOSE new block-granting proposals, harsh cuts, or proposals that will significantly and/or permanently shift the structure of health and human service funding and programming that would lead to the restriction or elimination of safety-net programs. Reductions in federal human services funding and programming severely limits critical support for our community and state. Block grants often lead to decreases in funding that forces states to limit benefits for families, cap enrollment, and establish waitlists. These restrictions result in families who need these supports and services, not being able to access them, possibly leading them into deeper poverty and distress.

OPPOSE federal legislation and administrative efforts to eliminate or reduce funding for essential public health services, inclusive of funding for immunization, HIV/Ryan White, Communicable Disease and Tuberculosis Control, Hansen’s Disease, Teen Pregnancy, Public Health Preparedness and Maternal Child Health Funding.

SUPPORT reauthorization of funding for HIV/Ryan White Care, Maternal Child Health Funding including Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV), and CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program).

***Interpersonal Violence*** – Interpersonal violence, often referred to as intimate partner violence, domestic violence or battering, is a pattern of behavior used to establish power and control over another person through fear and intimidation, often including the threat or use of violence. The abuse can take several forms: physical, emotional, sexual, and economic as well as threats, stalking/surveillance, isolation and intimidation. Although women are more likely to be targeted, anyone can be a victim of interpersonal violence including those in the LGBTQ communities, men, disabled persons, seniors, and elders. The County will advocate for the following federal actions:

- OPPOSE any and all funding cuts, including but not limited to elimination of grant programs for violence prevention, human/labor trafficking, victim services, and/or issues related to interpersonal violence. In addition to OPPOSING any threats to cut or eliminate Department of Justice federal grants related to the Violence Against Women Act.
- SUPPORT efforts that increase access to cultural responsiveness and language support for victims of crime.
- SUPPORT efforts that promote collaboration and coordination across systems; including the sharing of confidential or protected information in multidisciplinary team settings in order to increase support for survivors.
- SUPPORT the sustainment and implementation/practice of the Hostile Environment Harassment and Liability for Discriminatory Housing Practices under the Fair Housing Act that protects housing access for victims of harassment and survivors of domestic violence.
- SUPPORT efforts to protect employment rights for survivors of interpersonal violence.
- SUPPORT efforts that promote training, capacity building and deeper understanding for students, educators and social service staff on trauma informed care, adverse childhood experiences, healthy workplaces and schools.

***Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)*** - LIHEAP helps low-income families pay their heating bills. LIHEAP is a grant that offers assistance in the form of a cash grant, sent directly to the utility company, or a crisis grant for households in immediate danger of being without heat. Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) enables low-income families to reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient. Funds are used to improve the energy performance of dwellings families in need, using the most advanced technologies and testing procedures available in the housing industry. The County will advocate for the following federal actions:

- OPPOSE elimination and reduction in funding for the LIHEAP and WAP programs.

***Preservation of the federal deduction on State and Local Taxes (SALT)***--The County opposes repeal of the federal income tax deduction on State and Local Taxes (SALT). Since 1913, the SALT deduction has been a deduction available to taxpayers in recognition that the portion of income deducted was spent on state and local public services such as public safety and transportation. In modern history, the SALT deduction has had a strong correlation to the mortgage interest deduction. This is because most homeowners pay property taxes on real property owned in their State, which are subsequently deducted using the SALT deduction on federal income taxes. For this reason, the SALT deduction can be viewed as a valuable financial benefit of homeownership. Repeal of the SALT deduction and the corresponding reduction in financial benefit of homeownership, could lead to a change in market prices of homes to “price



in” the loss of the SALT deduction to homeowners. In California, ad valorem property taxes, which provide general purpose revenue to local governments, including cities and counties, is based on the assessed value of, among other things, residential homes. Should a repeal of the SALT deduction lead to a corresponding reduction in home values, local governments in California would be negatively impacted by reduced home values.

***Public Housing Programs*** -- Preserve the availability of tax-exempt Private Activity Bonds which are the most common form of financing of affordable multi-family housing projects.

***Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)*** -- SUPPORT efforts that would allow people to apply for CalFresh while incarcerated.

***Temporary Assistance for Needy Families*** –

- SUPPORT policies that do not penalize work and movement towards financial stability. Families who are working and receiving modest cash assistance grants to supplement low earnings should not be subject to the federal time limit on assistance. Running the time limit clock while a parent is working and receiving such supplements means both that a family could lose assistance when it has exhausted its time-limited benefits and not be able to receive additional assistance if the parent loses his/her job. TANF should send a strong message to recipients that “work pays” – running the clock while a family is working undermines this message.
- Allow temporary exemptions from time limits and work requirements for families confronting severe employment barriers - including living in an area of high unemployment or are victims of abuse.
- Reauthorize and increase the TANF Block Grant. The allocation of the block grant has not increased since 1997. Support funding TANF annually by an amount commensurate with the rate of inflation to ensure that the program’s actual value does not decrease each year.

***Workforce Development*** – The County will OPPOSE cuts to WIOA funding and programming.

Additional text changes are proposed to the Draft 2018 Federal Platform that are included in Attachment A.

**Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):**

REVIEW the Draft 2018 Federal Legislative Platform, provide direction to staff on any recommended changes, and RECOMMEND action to the Board of Supervisors.

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**Attachments**

Attachment A: Draft 2018 Federal Platform--redline

Attachment B: Draft 2018 Federal Platform--clean copy

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# 2018 DRAFT FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

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Contra Costa County

December 11, 2017





## 2018 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.

### FEDERAL FUNDING NEEDS

The following list is a preliminary ranking in priority order. Adjustments to the priority order may be appropriate once the President releases a 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. Mt. Diablo Mercury Mine Clean-up – \$483,000** for the Army Corps of Engineers to complete the Technical Planning Process for the clean-up 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. We would also like to continue our request to expand the authority of the Corps through the Restoration of Abandoned Mines Sites (RAMS) program to go beyond planning work and construct remediation projects. This would be accomplished with the addition of language in a future Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) bill)

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**Deleted: 1. Emergency Operations Center (EOC) - \$350,000,000** for state and local efforts to sustain and enhance the effectiveness of their emergency management programs for all hazards preparedness. In FY 2015, California received more than \$27.8 million, the highest funded-state in the country, of which more than \$15.5 million was sub-allocated to approximately the 58 county Operational Areas (OAs) for critical hazard preparation activities. Last year California's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), in accordance with program guidelines, prioritized the building, sustainment, and delivery of all-hazards emergency management capabilities in the following areas: Planning, organization, equipment acquisitions, training, exercises, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) construction and renovation, and maintenance and sustainment. Of particular interest to Contra Costa County is the allowance for funds to be expended for EOC construction and renovation, as the County is seeking funding for the development of an EOC.¶

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**Deleted: 3. Safe and Bright Futures for Children Exposed to Domestic Violence and Trauma – \$400,000** to implement the federally funded plan to diminish the damaging effects of domestic violence, and exposure to early trauma 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 and trauma 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 and trauma 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 and trauma 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.)¶

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**3. 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.)

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**4. 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: \$4.559M 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.)

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**5. 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.)

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**6. 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.)

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**With respect to any proposed federal Infrastructure bill, the County would support legislative language that includes infrastructure projects for all elements of stormwater: regional scale flood protection infrastructure (usually operated by flood control districts), local scale storm drain pipes (operated by cities and counties), storm water quality treatment facilities (operated by cities and counties), and groundwater recharge (often operated by special districts, but also cities and counties).**

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## **FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION NEEDS**

*The following are priority transportation projects and programs for which federal funding is needed.*

**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 project that was funded with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds and completed in 2011.

**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 joint planning, environmental review, right-of-way acquisition and construction 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. Brentwood Intermodal Transit Center (BITC) --** Project to improve access, and advance design and development of a transit center located in Brentwood, and serving Oakley, southeast Antioch, Discovery Bay and Brentwood. The BITC is proposed for Highway 4 between Lone Tree Way and Sand Creek Road and would be served initially by Tri Delta Transit. Access would be provided

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via an extension of Heidorn Ranch Road, and the multimodal Mokelumne Trail. A possible future extension of eBART from the Antioch Station would be considered later.

**5. Iron Horse Corridor Enhancement Program** -- \$25 million for joint planning, environmental review, and the construction of improvements in the Iron Horse Trail Corridor, a 28 mile non-motorized facility used for commute and recreation purposes providing access to schools, recreational facilities, commercial areas, residences, and mass transit hubs. Eligible projects include corridor planning, trail access improvements, trail expansion/enhancements, overcrossings (7 overcrossings in 5 cities), intersection improvements, Class I trail inter-connectivity projects, the potential accommodation of shared/autonomous vehicles, and wayfinding/signage projects.

**6. 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.)

**7. Kirker Pass Road Truck Climbing Lanes** -- \$7 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.

**8. Vasco Road-Byron Highway Connector** -- \$80 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.

➤ **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.

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**7. 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.

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➤ **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 (a need well-established by the Government Accountability Office (GAO)), expand outreach programs to inform potential riders of the available services, and expedite deployment of efficient new technologies and systems, among other needs. The County supports continuation and increased funding levels for federal funding programs dedicated to transit services for these population groups and to incentivize improvements in service delivery models to take advantage of advances in mobile data. 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.

In addition to the funding levels, the County also supports regulation changes that permit direct funding to local jurisdictions, bypassing the Federal Highway Administration and Caltrans Local Assistance. The goals of these changes are to:

- Get federal transportation funding into the community as soon as possible to create and preserve jobs, both in the private sector and the public sector, in America;
- Maximize purchasing power by eliminating the burdensome additional administrative process and cost associated with multiple layers of government between funding and construction of shovel ready improvement and maintenance projects; and
- Fund the critical first and last part of each journey of goods, people, and services - local roads of America - providing certainty for businesses and laying the foundation for lasting economic growth.

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## **APPROPRIATIONS AND GRANTS – SUPPORT POSITIONS**

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

- 1. Buchanan Field Airport** – The County approved a Master Plan for the Buchanan Field Airport in October 2008, which included a Business Plan for project implementation; all of which completed a previously approved Federal Aviation Regulation Part 150 Noise Study. 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 development of a general aviation terminal/administration building and potential replacement of the 65 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.
- 2. 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 (such as improved road access and sewer and water connections) 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.
- 3. 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.
- 4. Multimodal National Freight Network** – In 2015 the primary freight network was established pursuant to MAP-21. The County supports increases in dedicated freight funding as proposed in the National Freight Strategic Plan. The County will pursue grants and appropriations for 1) the Northern Waterfront Initiative – specifically, funding for a short-line railroad feasibility study for the Northern Waterfront Corridor and a Land-Use Cost-Benefit/Fiscalization study for the Northern

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Waterfront; and 2) consistent with the Draft National Freight Strategic Plan congestion reduction strategy, projects along the I-680 corridor.

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**5. *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 \$37.5 million from the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund in the past ~~ten~~ 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.

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**6. *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.

**7. *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.*

**8. *Stormwater Program Funding*** - ~~\$2 million~~ to fund additional compliance costs required by the Clean Water Act. *The Regional Water Quality Control Board issues the County a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit every five years, requiring the County to remove pollutants from stormwater prior to entering the storm drain system. The County has a dedicated revenue source for funding stormwater services derived from an assessment on every parcel in the County, which generates about \$3 million per year in the unincorporated communities. The Regional Board issued a new MS4 permit that will increase costs dramatically over the next five years, starting with a 25% increase and the following year by an increase of almost five times current costs. In 2012, the County attempted to increase the parcel assessment for stormwater services but the voters turned it down. The County needs additional funding through the Environmental Protection Agency, the source of the MS4 requirements, to help pay for compliance costs. Staff estimates the cost for compliance in 2018 at \$5 million, which is \$2 million more than current budget.*

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## **POLICY POSITIONS**

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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.

**Aging and Adult Services** – Contra Costa County administers grants through the Area Agency on Aging (AAA). Through public and nonprofit agency contracts, the AAA provides many services annually for elderly county residents, including group (congregate) meals, rides to congregate meal sites, nutrition education sessions, home delivered meals, legal assistance, long term care ombudsman services, in home and respite registry services, home visiting and adult day care, family caregiver support, assessments for fall prevention and fall prevention exercise classes. The Older Californians Act provides Title III grants for community services and nutrition.

The County will advocate for the following federal actions:

- a. OPPOSE the elimination or reduction of funding for the Older Americans Act and Programming.
- b. OPPOSE the elimination or cuts to the Elder Justice Act. The Elder Justice Act, as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, provides federal resources to “prevent, detect, treat, understand, intervene in and, where appropriate, prosecute elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.”
- c. OPPOSE elimination and funding cuts to the Senior Community Service Employment Program, which is the nation’s oldest program that helps low-income, unemployed individuals aged 55+ years find work.

**Affordable Housing and Homeless Programs** – For Housing and Urban Development (HUD)’s Homeless Assistance Grants, including the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program, 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, including the ESG Program, 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. The Housing Trust Fund should be used to complement and not supplant either the HOME or CDBG programs.

**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

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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.

**Broadband** – Consistent with CSAC policy, Contra Costa County will support the expansion of broadband (high speed internet service) to drive economic development and job opportunities, support county service delivery, and improve health, education and public safety outcomes for residents. For communities to realize these full benefits of broadband it must be capable of supporting current technology.

Access and adoption are both necessary elements that should be supported in state and federal legislative or regulatory proposals. This entails the following:

- Establishing and maintaining reliable broadband in unserved or underserved communities;
- Promoting the knowledge, skills and behaviors that comprise digital literacy;
- Making broadband affordable for all households;
- Maximizing funding for infrastructure; and
- Reducing infrastructure deployment barriers.

**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 efforts that ensure all children have access to quality care by expanding high quality learning opportunities for children 0-5, including but not limited to proposals such as:

- 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.

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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.
- Reauthorization of Head Start that includes consideration of a regional approach to determining eligibility and reforming the Head Start Designation Renewal System by suspending the use of the lowest 10 percent of the Classroom Assessment Scoring System trigger.
- OPPOSE block granting Head Start and Early Head Start programs.
- SUPPORT new comprehensive proposals that would enhance funding and development of early care and education infrastructure, including increasing supports, services, and increased compensation for the early education workforce.
- SUPPORT efforts that increase access to home visiting programs that are designed and implemented to support families in providing an environment that promotes healthy growth and development of young children.

**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.
- Modify the Federal Title IV-E Foster Care eligibility income standard from the current 1996 AFDC Federal Poverty Level (100% FPL) to be in line with (and follow) the Medicaid 138% FPL standard.

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- 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.
- OPPOSE The Family First Prevention Services Act for our Children, an Act that would curtail California's Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) efforts and would result in poor outcomes for especially vulnerable abused and neglected children.
- OPPOSE the elimination or cuts to the Social Services Block Grant and the Adoption Assistance Program.

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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. ¶

***Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), 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, ESG 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, ESG 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, ESG 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.

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***Criminal Justice and Mental Health*** – Contra Costa County supports the Mental Health and Safe Communities Act, which strengthens federal programs related to mental health in the criminal justice system by enhancing the ability of families and communities to identify mental illness; and the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act, which would update the Mentally Ill Offender and Treatment Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA) and facilitate collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, mental health treatment, and substance use systems to ensure that people with mental illnesses receive the support they need.

An increasing number of people with mental illnesses are coming into contact with the criminal justice system—with law enforcement, courts, jails and prisons, and probation and parole agencies—at a tremendous cost to taxpayers and public safety, as well as to these people and their families. According to a U.S. Department of Justice report, approximately 45 percent of people in federal prisons, 56 percent of people in state prisons, and 64 percent of people in local jails displayed symptoms of a mental health condition.

The County will also support the mental health and criminal justice provisions in legislation that support and expand bipartisan initiatives across the country (including the Stepping Up initiative), such as specialized law enforcement training, mental health courts, and other collaborative responses to people in the criminal justice system who have mental health and substance use treatment needs. The County will also support legislation that provides resources for programs in correctional facilities, as well as resources to improve reentry outcomes for people with mental illnesses released from incarceration back into the community, and authorizing the creation of a specialized National Criminal Justice and Mental Health Training and Technical Assistance Center.

***Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals*** – OPPOSE legislation and administrative actions to repeal DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) as well as legislation and administrative efforts that target individuals due to their color, religious affiliation or national origin.

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***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 adopted 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.

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***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

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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 locally controlled, regional 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.*

**Habitat Conservation Permitting and Permit Alignment** – The County will advocate for and support efforts to align federal permits for natural resource impacts federal with permits already

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issued by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to a locally-controlled, regional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), such as East Contra Costa County HCP. One good example of this is the U.S. Army Corps' issuance of Regional General Permit 1 which was designed to be consistent with the East Contra Costa County HCP. The alignment of permit requirements and processes improves the overall efficiency, predictability and effectiveness of natural resource regulation and project delivery.

**Health** – The County will advocate for the following actions by the federal government: a) provide enhanced Medicaid FMAP (the "Federal Medical Assistance Percentage" for Medicaid. It is the federal matching rate for state Medicaid expenditures.); b) suspend the Medicare "clawback" rule; c) 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; d) ease the ability to cover those eligible for Medicaid by making documentation requirements less stringent; and e) 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 by the federal government. 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 (also known as the ACA) significantly expanded both eligibility for and federal funding of Medicaid. OPPOSE amendments to the ACA that would reduce support for Medicaid/Medi-Cal payments to providers.

OPPOSE efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act or to replace it with any proposals that represent significant, permanent structural alterations to current subsidized segments of the health care system. This would include proposals that would convert Medicaid enrollee categories to a per-capita cap model, thereby establishing hard federal funding caps for state Medicaid programs. These proposals could force the state to make cuts of its own to offset the loss of federal funding. Contra Costa's entire Medi-Cal (Medicaid) population of approximately 250,000 people, including 90,000 children, could be affected as a result.

OPPOSE new block-granting proposals, harsh cuts, or proposals that will significantly and/or permanently shift the structure of health and human service funding and programming that would lead to the restriction or elimination of safety-net programs. Reductions in federal human services funding and programming severely limits critical support for our community and state. Block grants often lead to decreases in funding that forces states to limit benefits for families, cap enrollment, and establish waitlists. These restrictions result in families who need these supports and services, not being able to access them, possibly leading them into deeper poverty and distress.

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**OPPOSE** federal legislation and administrative efforts to eliminate or reduce funding for essential public health services, inclusive of funding for immunization, HIV/Ryan White, Communicable Disease and Tuberculosis Control, Hansen's Disease, Teen Pregnancy, Public Health Preparedness and Maternal Child Health Funding.

**SUPPORT** reauthorization of funding for HIV/Ryan White Care, Maternal Child Health Funding including Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV), and CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program).

**Homeless / Runaway Youth** –The County will support continued investment in the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act to ensure that all youth have access to housing and other critical services. *Homelessness among young people is a serious issue. Homeless youth, sometimes referred to as unaccompanied youth, are individuals who lack parental, foster or institutional care. Homeless youth are at a higher risk for physical abuse, sexual exploitation, mental health disabilities, substance abuse, and death. It is estimated that 5,000 unaccompanied youth die each year as a result of assault, illness, or suicide. In Contra Costa County youth under the age of 18 years make up approximately 11% of the homeless population and two thirds of those youth reside in shelters on any given night.*

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**Human Trafficking** – Human Trafficking is the illegal recruitment, transportation, harboring, provision or obtaining of people (by force, fraud or coercion), typically for the purposes of forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation. Nearly 20.9 million people around the world fall victim to this multi-billion dollar industry. **In the past year Contra Costa partners on a Federal human trafficking grant have served over 136 victims of human trafficking. Of those served 1,871 units of services were provided across 22 different categories of service such as legal services, protection and safety planning, family reunification and more.** **Women and girls are the predominant groups of people that are harmed by these actions.**

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The County will advocate for the following federal actions to insure support and services for victims of human trafficking, and the systems that help them:

- **SUPPORT** federal funding that effectively enables service providers to assist victims and law enforcement to prosecute traffickers. Because it takes a well-resourced multi-faceted approach to support victims and to insure traffickers are prosecuted support cross-system, comprehensive approaches to prevent human trafficking.
- **SUPPORT** efforts that increase the level of training, awareness, and funding to address promising practices related to labor trafficking (including the hospitality industry, restaurants, etc.). Victims of trafficking may be found everywhere– some may be found working against their will in hotels/motels for long hours for little or no pay. Labor trafficking has been found in diverse labor settings including domestic work, restaurants, nail salons, small businesses, large farms, and factories.

**Interpersonal Violence** – Interpersonal violence, often referred to as intimate partner violence, domestic violence or battering, is a pattern of behavior used to establish power and control over another person through fear and intimidation, often including the threat or use of violence. The

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abuse can take several forms: physical, emotional, sexual, and economic as well as threats, stalking/surveillance, isolation and intimidation. Although women are more likely to be targeted, anyone can be a victim of interpersonal violence including those in the LGBTQ communities, men, disabled persons, seniors, and elders. The County will advocate for the following federal actions:

- OPPOSE any and all funding cuts, including but not limited to elimination of grant programs for violence prevention, human/labor trafficking, victim services, and/or issues related to interpersonal violence. In addition to OPPOSING any threats to cut or eliminate Department of Justice federal grants related to the Violence Against Women Act.
- SUPPORT efforts that increase access to cultural responsiveness and language support for victims of crime.
- SUPPORT efforts that promote collaboration and coordination across systems; including the sharing of confidential or protected information in multidisciplinary team settings in order to increase support for survivors.
- SUPPORT the sustainment and implementation/practice of the Hostile Environment Harassment and Liability for Discriminatory Housing Practices under the Fair Housing Act that protects housing access for victims of harassment and survivors of domestic violence.
- SUPPORT efforts to protect employment rights for survivors of interpersonal violence.
- SUPPORT efforts that promote training, capacity building and deeper understanding for students, educators and social service staff on trauma informed care, adverse childhood experiences, healthy workplaces and schools.

**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.

**Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** - LIHEAP helps low-income families pay their heating bills. LIHEAP is a grant that offers assistance in the form of a cash grant, sent directly to the utility company, or a crisis grant for households in immediate danger of being without heat. Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) enables low-income families to reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient. Funds are used to improve the energy performance of dwellings families in need, using the most advanced technologies and testing procedures available in the housing industry. The County will advocate for the following federal actions:

- OPPOSE elimination and reduction in funding for the LIHEAP and WAP programs.

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**Multi-Service Centers** – The County will support federal funding for the establishment and operation of coordinated service integration models such as SparkPoint, Service Integration Teams, Family Resource Centers, or Family Justice Centers. Multi-service centers often co-locate county and non-profit agencies working holistically to meet the needs of families. Centers can help individuals and families address immediate financial crises, build financial security, address abuse and violence, provide accessible, coordinated public services, and may, engage families in resident-driven efforts to revitalize their communities.

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**Municipal Securities** – The County supports efforts to preserve, enhance and streamline the availability of tax-exempt financing to fund critical public infrastructure projects. For over 100 years, federal tax policy has granted a tax exemption on municipal bond interest to incentivize investment in local infrastructure projects. Also, the federal government has occasionally provided “direct subsidy bonds” that further mitigate borrowing costs to local government.

- Preservation for the Tax-Exemption for Municipal Bonds: The County will support the continued exemption of municipal bond interest.
- Opposition to Repeal of the “Tower Amendment” to the Securities Acts Amendments of 1975: The Tower Amendment to the Securities Acts Amendments of 1975 has prohibited the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB) from directly or indirectly regulating state and local government issuers of municipal securities prior to the sale of those securities. The County will oppose any repeal of the Tower Amendment which would impose an additional federal regulatory oversight burden on local government issuers, in recognition that the states already have such authority.
- Private Activity Bonds for Government Buildings: The County will support legislation that would create a new category of private activity bonds for governments to join with private parties to help finance government buildings. The tax-exempt bonding mechanism would allow state and local governments to issue private activity bonds to finance the construction and upkeep of certain publically owned buildings. The County will support amending the federal tax code to provide another layer of tax-exempt financing that would encourage the use of public-private partnerships.

**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.

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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.

*Preservation of the federal deduction on State and Local Taxes (SALT)--The County opposes repeal of the federal income tax deduction on State and Local Taxes (SALT). Since 1913, the SALT deduction has been a deduction available to taxpayers in recognition that the portion of income deducted was spent on state and local public services such as public safety and transportation. In modern history, the SALT deduction has had a strong correlation to the mortgage interest deduction. This is because most homeowners pay property taxes on real property owned in their State, which are subsequently deducted using the SALT deduction on federal income taxes. For this reason, the SALT deduction can be viewed as a valuable financial benefit of homeownership. Repeal of the SALT deduction and the corresponding reduction in financial benefit of homeownership, could lead to a change in market prices of homes to "price in" the loss of the SALT deduction to homeowners. In California, ad valorem property taxes, which provide general purpose revenue to local governments, including cities and counties, is based on the assessed value of, among other things, residential homes. Should a repeal of the SALT deduction lead to a corresponding reduction in home values, local governments in California would be negatively impacted by reduced home values.*

**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.

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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 ~~maintain and~~ expand Affordable Housing Opportunities and combat homelessness:

- Fully fund the Home Investment Partnerships Program and HUD's homeless assistance programs, such as the Emergency Solutions Grant Program.
- Capitalize the Housing Trust Fund through a revenue-neutral approach.
- ~~Preserve and strengthen the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program.~~
- ~~Preserve the availability of tax-exempt Private Activity Bonds which are the most common form of financing of affordable multi-family housing projects.~~

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.

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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.

**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.

**Sexual Assault** – Sexual violence affects millions of Americans – nearly every 2 minutes an American is sexually assaulted. The County will advocate for the federal actions to insure support for victims and survivors of sexual assault. The County will support providing funding to services for victims of sexual violence, and encourage systemic change to aid survivors and those who serve them. In the wake of the federal government rescinding Title IX sexual assault guidelines that provide the framework for school investigations on campus sexual misconduct we must look to provide alternative resources to ensure the safety of women and girls in the community.

**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.

**Moved down [1]: 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.¶

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

- Increase SNAP benefit amounts to better meet recipients’ nutritional needs and support local economies.
- Adjust SNAP eligibility requirements to a) include currently excluded populations with significant need b) remove time limits and work requirements for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDS) and full-time students. ABAWDS and pertains to adults receiving food stamps who are considered employable.
- OPPOSE funding cuts or block granting the SNAP program.
- Remove the current federal barriers that prevent some nutrition programs from employing EBT technology.
- SUPPORT efforts that would allow people to apply for CalFresh while incarcerated.

**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.

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**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.
- SUPPORT policies that do not penalize work and movement towards financial stability. Families who are working and receiving modest cash assistance grants to supplement low earnings should not be subject to the federal time limit on assistance. Running the time limit clock while a parent is working and receiving such supplements means both that a family could lose assistance when it has exhausted its time-limited benefits and not be able to receive additional assistance if the parent loses his/her job. TANF should send a strong message to recipients that “work pays” – running the clock while a family is working undermines this message.
- Allow temporary exemptions from time limits and work requirements for families confronting severe employment barriers - including living in an area of high unemployment or are victims of abuse.
- 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.

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- Reauthorize and increase the TANF Block Grant. The allocation of the block grant has not increased since 1997. Support funding TANF annually by an amount commensurate with the rate of inflation to ensure that the program's actual value does not decrease each year.

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

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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

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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 its 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.

**Workforce Development** – Contra Costa County supports policies that meet the needs of serving businesses, workers, job seekers, and youth. The County further supports policies under the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) that preserve local decision-making relative to spending, direction of work, and other functions of local workforce boards. The County also supports policies ~~that promote equal employment opportunities for women and men in an effort to increase employment~~ and the creation of jobs in both the public and private sector and that enhance business’ access to a qualified talent pool, and promote business growth through the development of a skilled workforce. The County also favors policies that provide increased funding to support job seeker services, as well as policies that make strategic investments to leverage existing funding in the workforce development arena. ~~The County will OPPOSE cuts to WIOA funding and programming.~~

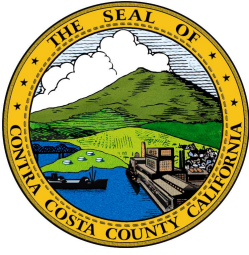
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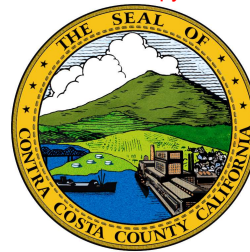


# 2018 DRAFT FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

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Contra Costa County

December 11, 2017



## 2018 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.

### **FEDERAL FUNDING NEEDS**

*The following list is a preliminary ranking in priority order. Adjustments to the priority order may be appropriate once the President releases a 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. Mt. Diablo Mercury Mine Clean-up – \$483,000** for the Army Corps of Engineers to complete the Technical Planning Process for the clean-up 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. We would also like to continue our request to expand the authority of the Corps through the Restoration of Abandoned Mines Sites (RAMS) program to go beyond planning work and construct remediation projects. This would be accomplished with the addition of language in a future Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) bill)*

**3. 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.)

**4. 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.)

**5. 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.)

**6. 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.)

With respect to any proposed federal Infrastructure bill, the County would support legislative language that includes infrastructure projects for all elements of stormwater: regional scale flood protection infrastructure (usually operated by flood control districts), local scale storm drain pipes (operated by cities and counties), storm water quality treatment facilities (operated by cities and counties), and groundwater recharge (often operated by special districts, but also cities and counties).

## **FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION NEEDS**

*The following are priority transportation projects and programs for which federal funding is needed.*

**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 project that was funded with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds and completed in 2011.

**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 joint planning, environmental review, right-of-way acquisition and construction 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. Brentwood Intermodal Transit Center (BITC)** -- Project to improve access, and advance design and development of a transit center located in Brentwood, and serving Oakley, southeast Antioch, Discovery Bay and Brentwood. *The BITC is proposed for Highway 4 between Lone Tree Way and Sand Creek Road and would be served initially by Tri Delta Transit. Access would be provided*



*via an extension of Heidorn Ranch Road, and the multimodal Mokelumne Trail. A possible future extension of eBART from the Antioch Station would be considered later.*

**5. Iron Horse Corridor Enhancement Program** -- \$25 million for joint planning, environmental review, and the construction of improvements in the Iron Horse Trail Corridor, a 28 mile non-motorized facility used for commute and recreation purposes providing access to schools, recreational facilities, commercial areas, residences, and mass transit hubs. Eligible projects include corridor planning, trail access improvements, trail expansion/enhancements, overcrossings (7 overcrossings in 5 cities), intersection improvements, Class I trail inter-connectivity projects, the potential accommodation of shared/autonomous vehicles, and wayfinding/signage projects.

**6. 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.)*

**7. Kirker Pass Road Truck Climbing Lanes** – \$7 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.

**8. Vasco Road-Byron Highway Connector** – \$80 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.

- **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 (a need well-established by the Government Accountability Office (GAO)), expand outreach programs to inform potential riders of the available services, and expedite deployment of efficient new technologies and systems, among other needs. The County supports continuation and increased funding levels for federal funding programs dedicated to transit services for these population groups and to incentivize improvements in service delivery models to take advantage of advances in mobile data. 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.

In addition to the funding levels, the County also supports regulation changes that permit direct funding to local jurisdictions, bypassing the Federal Highway Administration and Caltrans Local Assistance. The goals of these changes are to:

- Get federal transportation funding into the community as soon as possible to create and preserve jobs, both in the private sector and the public sector, in America;
- Maximize purchasing power by eliminating the burdensome additional administrative process and cost associated with multiple layers of government between funding and construction of shovel ready improvement and maintenance projects; and
- Fund the critical first and last part of each journey of goods, people, and services - local roads of America - providing certainty for businesses and laying the foundation for lasting economic growth.

## **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.*

1. ***Buchanan Field Airport*** – The County approved a Master Plan for the Buchanan Field Airport in October 2008, which included a Business Plan for project implementation; all of which completed a previously approved Federal Aviation Regulation Part 150 Noise Study. 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 development of a general aviation terminal/administration building and potential replacement of the 65 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.
  
2. ***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 (such as improved road access and sewer and water connections) 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.
  
3. ***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.
  
4. ***Multimodal National Freight Network*** – In 2015 the primary freight network was established pursuant to MAP-21. The County supports increases in dedicated freight funding as proposed in the National Freight Strategic Plan. The County will pursue grants and appropriations for 1) the Northern Waterfront Initiative – specifically, 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; and 2) consistent with the Draft National Freight Strategic Plan congestion reduction strategy, projects along the I-680 corridor.

5. ***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 \$37.5 million from the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund in the past ten 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.
6. ***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.
7. ***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.*
8. ***Stormwater Program Funding*** - \$2 million to fund additional compliance costs required by the Clean Water Act. *The Regional Water Quality Control Board issues the County a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit every five years, requiring the County to remove pollutants from stormwater prior to entering the storm drain system. The County has a dedicated revenue source for funding stormwater services derived from an assessment on every parcel in the County, which generates about \$3 million per year in the unincorporated communities. The Regional Board issued a new MS4 permit that will increase costs dramatically over the next five years, starting with a 25% increase and the following year by an increase of almost five times current costs. In 2012, the County attempted to increase the parcel assessment for stormwater services but the voters turned it down. The County needs additional funding through the Environmental Protection Agency, the source of the MS4 requirements, to help pay for compliance costs. Staff estimates the cost for compliance in 2018 at \$5 million, which is \$2 million more than current budget.*

## **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.*

***Aging and Adult Services*** – Contra Costa County administers grants through the Area Agency on Aging (AAA). Through public and nonprofit agency contracts, the AAA provides many services annually for elderly county residents, including group (congregate) meals, rides to congregate meal sites, nutrition education sessions, home delivered meals, legal assistance, long term care ombudsman services, in home and respite registry services, home visiting and adult day care, family caregiver support, assessments for fall prevention and fall prevention exercise classes. The Older Californians Act provides Title III grants for community services and nutrition.

The County will advocate for the following federal actions:

- a. OPPOSE the elimination or reduction of funding for the Older Americans Act and Programming.
- b. OPPOSE the elimination or cuts to the Elder Justice Act. The Elder Justice Act, as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, provides federal resources to “prevent, detect, treat, understand, intervene in and, where appropriate, prosecute elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.”
- c. OPPOSE elimination and funding cuts to the Senior Community Service Employment Program, which is the nation’s oldest program that helps low-income, unemployed individuals aged 55+ years find work.

***Affordable Housing and Homeless Programs*** – For Housing and Urban Development (HUD)’s Homeless Assistance Grants, including the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program, 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, including the ESG Program, 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. The Housing Trust Fund should be used to complement and not supplant either the HOME or CDBG programs.

***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.

***Broadband*** – Consistent with CSAC policy, Contra Costa County will support the expansion of broadband (high speed internet service) to drive economic development and job opportunities, support county service delivery, and improve health, education and public safety outcomes for residents. For communities to realize these full benefits of broadband it must be capable of supporting current technology.

Access and adoption are both necessary elements that should be supported in state and federal legislative or regulatory proposals. This entails the following:

- Establishing and maintaining reliable broadband in unserved or underserved communities;
- Promoting the knowledge, skills and behaviors that comprise digital literacy;
- Making broadband affordable for all households;
- Maximizing funding for infrastructure; and
- Reducing infrastructure deployment barriers.

***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 efforts that ensure all children have access to quality care by expanding high quality learning opportunities for children 0-5, including but not limited to proposals such as:

- 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.
- Reauthorization of Head Start that includes consideration of a regional approach to determining eligibility and reforming the Head Start Designation Renewal System by suspending the use of the lowest 10 percent of the Classroom Assessment Scoring System trigger.
- **OPPOSE** block granting Head Start and Early Head Start programs.
- **SUPPORT** new comprehensive proposals that would enhance funding and development of early care and education infrastructure, including increasing supports, services, and increased compensation for the early education workforce.
- **SUPPORT** efforts that increase access to home visiting programs that are designed and implemented to support families in providing an environment that promotes healthy growth and development of young children.

***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.
- **Modify the Federal Title IV-E Foster Care eligibility income standard from the current 1996 AFDC Federal Poverty Level (100% FPL) to be in line with (and follow) the Medicaid 138% FPL standard.**



- 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.
- OPPOSE The Family First Prevention Services Act for our Children, an Act that would curtail California's Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) efforts and would result in poor outcomes for especially vulnerable abused and neglected children.
- OPPOSE the elimination or cuts to the Social Services Block Grant and the Adoption Assistance Program.

***Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), 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, ESG 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, ESG 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, ESG 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 Justice and Mental Health*** – Contra Costa County supports the Mental Health and Safe Communities Act, which strengthens federal programs related to mental health in the criminal justice system by enhancing the ability of families and communities to identify mental illness; and the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act, which would update the Mentally Ill Offender and Treatment Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA) and facilitate collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, mental health treatment, and substance use systems to ensure that people with mental illnesses receive the support they need.

An increasing number of people with mental illnesses are coming into contact with the criminal justice system—with law enforcement, courts, jails and prisons, and probation and parole agencies—at a tremendous cost to taxpayers and public safety, as well as to these people and their families. According to a U.S. Department of Justice report, approximately 45 percent of people in federal prisons, 56 percent of people in state prisons, and 64 percent of people in local jails displayed symptoms of a mental health condition.

The County will also support the mental health and criminal justice provisions in legislation that support and expand bipartisan initiatives across the country (**including the Stepping Up initiative**), such as specialized law enforcement training, mental health courts, and other collaborative responses to people in the criminal justice system who have mental health and substance use treatment needs. The County will also support legislation that provides resources for programs in correctional facilities, as well as resources to improve reentry outcomes for people with mental illnesses released from incarceration back into the community, and authorizing the creation of a specialized National Criminal Justice and Mental Health Training and Technical Assistance Center.

***Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals*** – OPPOSE legislation and administrative actions to repeal DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) as well as legislation and administrative efforts that target individuals due to their color, religious affiliation or national origin.

***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 adopted 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.

***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 locally controlled, regional 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.*

***Habitat Conservation Permitting and Permit Alignment*** – The County will advocate for and support efforts to align federal permits for natural resource impacts federal with permits already

issued by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to a locally-controlled, regional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), such as East Contra Costa County HCP. One good example of this is the U.S. Army Corps' issuance of Regional General Permit 1 which was designed to be consistent with the East Contra Costa County HCP. The alignment of permit requirements and processes improves the overall efficiency, predictability and effectiveness of natural resource regulation and project delivery.

**Health** – The County will advocate for the following actions by the federal government: a) provide enhanced Medicaid FMAP (the "Federal Medical Assistance Percentage" for Medicaid. It is the federal matching rate for state Medicaid expenditures.); b) suspend the Medicare "clawback" rule; c) 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; d) ease the ability to cover those eligible for Medicaid by making documentation requirements less stringent; and e) 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 by the federal government. 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 (also known as the ACA) significantly expanded both eligibility for and federal funding of Medicaid. OPPOSE amendments to the ACA that would reduce support for Medicaid/Medi-Cal payments to providers.

OPPOSE efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act or to replace it with any proposals that represent significant, permanent structural alterations to current subsidized segments of the health care system. *This would include proposals that would convert Medicaid enrollee categories to a per-capita cap model, thereby establishing hard federal funding caps for state Medicaid programs. These proposals could force the state to make cuts of its own to offset the loss of federal funding. Contra Costa's entire Medi-Cal (Medicaid) population of approximately 250,000 people, including 90,000 children, could be affected as a result.*

OPPOSE new block-granting proposals, harsh cuts, or proposals that will significantly and/or permanently shift the structure of health and human service funding and programming that would lead to the restriction or elimination of safety-net programs. *Reductions in federal human services funding and programming severely limits critical support for our community and state. Block grants often lead to decreases in funding that forces states to limit benefits for families, cap enrollment, and establish waitlists. These restrictions result in families who need these supports and services, not being able to access them, possibly leading them into deeper poverty and distress.*

OPPOSE federal legislation and administrative efforts to eliminate or reduce funding for essential public health services, inclusive of funding for immunization, HIV/Ryan White, Communicable Disease and Tuberculosis Control, Hansen's Disease, Teen Pregnancy, Public Health Preparedness and Maternal Child Health Funding.

SUPPORT reauthorization of funding for HIV/Ryan White Care, Maternal Child Health Funding including Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV), and CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program).

**Homeless / Runaway Youth** –The County will support continued investment in the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act to ensure that all youth have access to housing and other critical services. *Homelessness among young people is a serious issue. Homeless youth, sometimes referred to as unaccompanied youth, are individuals who lack parental, foster or institutional care. Homeless youth are at a higher risk for physical abuse, sexual exploitation, mental health disabilities, substance abuse, and death. It is estimated that 5,000 unaccompanied youth die each year as a result of assault, illness, or suicide. In Contra Costa County youth under the age of 18 years make up approximately 11% of the homeless population and two thirds of those youth reside in shelters on any given night.*

**Human Trafficking** – Human Trafficking is the illegal recruitment, transportation, harboring, provision or obtaining of people (by force, fraud or coercion), typically for the purposes of forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation. Nearly 20.9 million people around the world fall victim to this multi-billion dollar industry. In the past year Contra Costa partners on a Federal human trafficking grant have served over 136 victims of human trafficking. Of those served 1,871 units of services were provided across 22 different categories of service such as legal services, protection and safety planning, family reunification and more. Women and girls are the predominant groups of people that are harmed by these actions.

The County will advocate for the following federal actions to insure support and services for victims of human trafficking, and the systems that help them:

- SUPPORT federal funding that effectively enables service providers to assist victims and law enforcement to prosecute traffickers. Because it takes a well-resourced multi-faceted approach to support victims and to insure traffickers are prosecuted support cross-system, comprehensive approaches to prevent human trafficking.
- SUPPORT efforts that increase the level of training, awareness, and funding to address promising practices related to labor trafficking (including the hospitality industry, restaurants, etc.). Victims of trafficking may be found everywhere– some may be found working against their will in hotels/motels for long hours for little or no pay. Labor trafficking has been found in diverse labor settings including domestic work, restaurants, nail salons, small businesses, large farms, and factories.

**Interpersonal Violence** – Interpersonal violence, often referred to as intimate partner violence, domestic violence or battering, is a pattern of behavior used to establish power and control over another person through fear and intimidation, often including the threat or use of violence. The

abuse can take several forms: physical, emotional, sexual, and economic as well as threats, stalking/surveillance, isolation and intimidation. Although women are more likely to be targeted, anyone can be a victim of interpersonal violence including those in the LGBTQ communities, men, disabled persons, seniors, and elders. The County will advocate for the following federal actions:

- OPPOSE any and all funding cuts, including but not limited to elimination of grant programs for violence prevention, human/labor trafficking, victim services, and/or issues related to interpersonal violence. In addition to OPPOSING any threats to cut or eliminate Department of Justice federal grants related to the Violence Against Women Act.
- SUPPORT efforts that increase access to cultural responsiveness and language support for victims of crime.
- SUPPORT efforts that promote collaboration and coordination across systems; including the sharing of confidential or protected information in multidisciplinary team settings in order to increase support for survivors.
- SUPPORT the sustainment and implementation/practice of the Hostile Environment Harassment and Liability for Discriminatory Housing Practices under the Fair Housing Act that protects housing access for victims of harassment and survivors of domestic violence.
- SUPPORT efforts to protect employment rights for survivors of interpersonal violence.
- SUPPORT efforts that promote training, capacity building and deeper understanding for students, educators and social service staff on trauma informed care, adverse childhood experiences, healthy workplaces and schools.

***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.

***Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)*** - LIHEAP helps low-income families pay their heating bills. LIHEAP is a grant that offers assistance in the form of a cash grant, sent directly to the utility company, or a crisis grant for households in immediate danger of being without heat. Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) enables low-income families to reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient. Funds are used to improve the energy performance of dwellings families in need, using the most advanced technologies and testing procedures available in the housing industry. The County will advocate for the following federal actions:

- OPPOSE elimination and reduction in funding for the LIHEAP and WAP programs.



**Multi-Service Centers** – The County will support federal funding for the establishment and operation of coordinated service integration models such as SparkPoint, Service Integration Teams, Family Resource Centers, or Family Justice Centers. Multi-service centers often co-locate county and non-profit agencies working holistically to meet the needs of families. Centers can help individuals and families address immediate financial crises, build financial security, address abuse and violence, provide accessible, coordinated public services, and may, engage families in resident-driven efforts to revitalize their communities.

**Municipal Securities** – The County supports efforts to preserve, enhance and streamline the availability of tax-exempt financing to fund critical public infrastructure projects. For over 100 years, federal tax policy has granted a tax exemption on municipal bond interest to incentivize investment in local infrastructure projects. Also, the federal government has occasionally provided “direct subsidy bonds” that further mitigate borrowing costs to local government.

- Preservation for the Tax-Exemption for Municipal Bonds: The County will support the continued exemption of municipal bond interest.
- Opposition to Repeal of the “Tower Amendment” to the Securities Acts Amendments of 1975: The Tower Amendment to the Securities Acts Amendments of 1975 has prohibited the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB) from directly or indirectly regulating state and local government issuers of municipal securities prior to the sale of those securities. The County will oppose any repeal of the Tower Amendment which would impose an additional federal regulatory oversight burden on local government issuers, in recognition that the states already have such authority.
- Private Activity Bonds for Government Buildings: The County will support legislation that would create a new category of private activity bonds for governments to join with private parties to help finance government buildings. The tax-exempt bonding mechanism would allow state and local governments to issue private activity bonds to finance the construction and upkeep of certain publically owned buildings. The County will support amending the federal tax code to provide another layer of tax-exempt financing that would encourage the use of public-private partnerships.

**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.

***Preservation of the federal deduction on State and Local Taxes (SALT)***--The County opposes repeal of the federal income tax deduction on State and Local Taxes (SALT). *Since 1913, the SALT deduction has been a deduction available to taxpayers in recognition that the portion of income deducted was spent on state and local public services such as public safety and transportation. In modern history, the SALT deduction has had a strong correlation to the mortgage interest deduction. This is because most homeowners pay property taxes on real property owned in their State, which are subsequently deducted using the SALT deduction on federal income taxes. For this reason, the SALT deduction can be viewed as a valuable financial benefit of homeownership. Repeal of the SALT deduction and the corresponding reduction in financial benefit of homeownership, could lead to a change in market prices of homes to "price in" the loss of the SALT deduction to homeowners. In California, ad valorem property taxes, which provide general purpose revenue to local governments, including cities and counties, is based on the assessed value of, among other things, residential homes. Should a repeal of the SALT deduction lead to a corresponding reduction in home values, local governments in California would be negatively impacted by reduced home values.*

***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 maintain and expand Affordable Housing Opportunities and combat homelessness:

- Fully fund the Home Investment Partnerships Program and HUD's homeless assistance programs, such as the Emergency Solutions Grant Program.
- Capitalize the Housing Trust Fund through a revenue-neutral approach.
- Preserve and strengthen the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program.
- Preserve the availability of tax-exempt Private Activity Bonds which are the most common form of financing of affordable multi-family housing projects.

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.

***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.

***Sexual Assault*** – Sexual violence affects millions of Americans – nearly every 2 minutes an American is sexually assaulted. The County will advocate for the federal actions to insure support for victims and survivors of sexual assault. The County will support providing funding to services for victims of sexual violence, and encourage systemic change to aid survivors and those who serve them. In the wake of the federal government rescinding Title IX sexual assault guidelines that provide the framework for school investigations on campus sexual misconduct we must look to provide alternative resources to ensure the safety of women and girls in the community.

***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.

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

- Increase SNAP benefit amounts to better meet recipients' nutritional needs and support local economies.
- Adjust SNAP eligibility requirements to a) include currently excluded populations with significant need b) remove time limits and work requirements for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDS) and full-time students. ABAWDS and pertains to adults receiving food stamps who are considered employable.
- OPPOSE funding cuts or block granting the SNAP program.
- Remove the current federal barriers that prevent some nutrition programs from employing EBT technology.
- **SUPPORT efforts that would allow people to apply for CalFresh while incarcerated.**

***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.
- SUPPORT policies that do not penalize work and movement towards financial stability. Families who are working and receiving modest cash assistance grants to supplement low earnings should not be subject to the federal time limit on assistance. Running the time limit clock while a parent is working and receiving such supplements means both that a family could lose assistance when it has exhausted its time-limited benefits and not be able to receive additional assistance if the parent loses his/her job. TANF should send a strong message to recipients that “work pays” – running the clock while a family is working undermines this message.
- Allow temporary exemptions from time limits and work requirements for families confronting severe employment barriers - including living in an area of high unemployment or are victims of abuse.
- 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.

- Reauthorize and increase the TANF Block Grant. The allocation of the block grant has not increased since 1997. Support funding TANF annually by an amount commensurate with the rate of inflation to ensure that the program's actual value does not decrease each year.

**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 its 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.

***Workforce Development*** – Contra Costa County supports policies that meet the needs of serving businesses, workers, job seekers, and youth. The County further supports policies under the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) that preserve local decision-making relative to spending, direction of work, and other functions of local workforce boards. The County also supports policies that promote equal employment opportunities for women and men in an effort to increase employment and the creation of jobs in both the public and private sector and that enhance business’ access to a qualified talent pool, and promote business growth through the development of a skilled workforce. The County also favors policies that provide increased funding to support job seeker services, as well as policies that make strategic investments to leverage existing funding in the workforce development arena. **The County will OPPOSE cuts to WIOA funding and programming.**