



# 2019 PROPOSED STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

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Contra Costa County

January 22, 2019



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## 2019 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**

#### **1. Seniors/Persons with Disabilities Transportation Funding Program**

The “Seniors/Persons with Disabilities (SPD) Transportation Program” creates a mechanism to strategically increase funding for transportation programs serving the senior/disabled population. It is acknowledged at the local, regional, state and federal levels that transportation programs for this population are underfunded and underdeveloped. These deficiencies will increase as demographic and public health shifts amplify these issues.

#### **2. Sales Tax Exemption Proposal for On-Call Volunteer Fire Departments**

This proposal would remove a logistical barrier to the purchase of equipment used exclusively by volunteer, on call fire departments by exempting those purchases from applicable sales and use taxes. Such a change would be consistent with exemptions in other states and remove an artificial barrier that can delay the purchase of necessary firefighting equipment. Volunteer on-call fire departments provide the same service as full-time departments in areas that simply do not generate the tax revenue needed for 24-hour shift crews. For these departments, such as the Crockett-Carquinez Fire Department, the cost to replace an aging fire engine can represent between 80 and 110 percent of their total yearly budget. As a result, these small districts must continue to keep older engines in service well past their recommended replacement in order to amass sufficient funds to purchase a replacement. This results in higher maintenance costs, more down time, and most importantly, greater risk for our firefighters.

#### **3. Illegal Dumping**

Seek legislation, in conjunction with Alameda County and other partners, that specifically establishes statewide hauler permitting requirements and associated penalties as well as increasing penalties allowed by State law for illegal dumping.

### **LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY ADVOCACY PRIORITIES**

*Each year, issues emerge through the legislative process that are of importance to the County and require advocacy efforts. For 2019, it is anticipated that critical issues requiring legislative advocacy will include the following (in alphabetical order):*

**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.

**Homelessness** – With the growing numbers of homeless, the County will work on the implementation of the No Place Like Home program, the Homeless Emergency Aid Program, and the SB 2 funding program, to ensure that Contra Costa County receives its fair share of funding and that the guidelines work for implementation in the county. In addition, Contra Costa County will advocate for additional funding that reduces and prevents homelessness; expands the availability of permanent supportive housing; and provides counties with the ability to maximize and leverage available Federal, State and local funds to provide services for at-risk and homeless families and individuals.

**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 Budget** – The state's continuing economic recovery, prior budget cuts, and record returns have combined to bring the State Budget to "remarkably good shape," according to the Legislative Analyst's Office. Governor Newsom's January Budget Proposal outlined several ambitious proposals that will affect not only the state budget but county programs as well. The most notable elements of the Governor's proposed budget related directly to counties include: easing the funding burden on counties for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS); revamping regional housing goals and linking production to local transportation funding; building on the 2018 investments in housing and homeless programs; and providing funding and other resources for disaster response, recovery and prevention. However, of 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.

**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, now recast as the California WaterFix (CWF)-- 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 2019 include, but are not limited to: (1) the ongoing development of the California WaterFix (CWF) and whether the state water bond appropriates funds specific to the 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.

## 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 real property liens 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 in that county. This requires potentially recording the judgment in each of the 58 counties in order not to miss a property transaction. An electronic registry simplifies the creation of liens and the release or satisfaction of liens by creating a single statewide point of contact, and the entire process could be managed electronically by automated processes with our centralized child support case management system.*
13. SUPPORT amendment of current code to clarify that county recorders may not charge a fee or tax to record any child support agency document. *A new code section or amendment to Government Code §27383 which states “No fee shall be charged by the recorder for services rendered to the State, to any municipality, county in the State or other political subdivision thereof, except for making a copy of a paper or record,” can clarify that any document prepared by the local child support agency and then sent for recording is covered by the exemption, a technical point not currently acknowledged by all county recorder offices.*
14. SUPPORT efforts that require the Department of Child Support Services to provide documents, forms, and letters in digitized format and distribute by any means that the department determines is feasible, including email, website and SMS texting.
15. SUPPORT efforts that create new child support enforcement methods or enhance existing child support enforcement methods.
16. SUPPORT efforts to ensure that any reduction in funding for the department of Child Support Services at the State level is not passed down as a reduction to the local child support agency.
17. SUPPORT efforts to increase funding for the child support program. OPPOSE efforts to reduce funding for the child support program.
18. OPPOSE efforts that restrict the child support agency from having access to customer data.
19. OPPOSE efforts that eliminate or restrict existing child support enforcement methods.

## **Climate Change**

20. 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.*

21. 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.
22. 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 (**fee title and easement**) 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. The County also has several creek and wetland restoration projects with carbon sequestration capacity that would likely be eligible for such allocations. Similarly, the County supports land conservation projects that may occur as fee title or easement acquisitions, these also will likely be eligible.*
23. SUPPORT efforts to expand eligible expenditures of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction 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.
24. 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.*
25. 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.

26. 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.*
27. 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. *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.*

### **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.

### **Economic Development**

28. SUPPORT an amendment to the California Competes (State incentive program) guidelines to consider qualifying low-income census tracts within unincorporated areas of a county (that as a whole does not qualify as low-income) in the enhanced scoring category. *(This is a similar situation to that highlighted in AB 1804, where unincorporated areas were left out of an incentive program.)*
29. SUPPORT legislation to dedicate net proceeds from State Lands Commission lease revenues for public benefit in the County in which they are generated with a focus on increasing public access to and enjoyment of the waterfront.
30. SUPPORT the State layering existing State economic development programs and incentives with Federal Opportunity Zone tax credit incentives.

### **Elections**

31. 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.*

32. 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**

33. 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.
34. 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.
35. SUPPORT legislation that would require responses to future oil spills in a shorter timeframe, with a more regional approach.
36. 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.
37. 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.
38. SUPPORT legislation that expands school safety improvement programs such as education regarding and placement of automated external defibrillator(s) (AED(s)) in schools.
39. SUPPORT legislation that would require cleanup of clandestine drug labs and other areas where illicit drugs are manufactured or handled and where there is a threat to the health and safety of the public and emergency responders, and would make the costs of cleanup recoverable from the responsible party and liens on property. *The existing legislation is narrowly focused on the manufacturing of methamphetamine. Fentanyl use, storage, and production are growing throughout the state. Properties may be contaminated by hazardous chemicals used or produced in the manufacture of or the handling Fentanyl and Carfentanyl where those chemicals, remain and where the contamination has not been remediated.*

40. SUPPORT legislation that will strengthen the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) by expanding the local CUPA's statutory authority to close a business, or portion of a business, whose processes or air emissions are causing an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health and safety or the environment, as determined by CUPA. Support amendments that add the condition of "withholding" a permit if the permittee does not make the permit payment and clearly define the conditions which can lead to the immediate discontinuation of operation of the facility or function of the facility. *In the County, Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) is administered by the Health Services Hazardous Materials Programs that regulates businesses that handle hazardous materials or generate hazardous waste. Such businesses must obtain a CUPA permit. CUPA routinely inspects these businesses. The Hazardous Materials Programs also responds to incidents where there is a release of hazardous substances. Health and Safety Code, Section 25404.1.1. Business facilities that fail to renew or pay their unified program permits pose a danger to public safety and the protection of the environment. Without strong enforcement actions and penalties against businesses that have not complied with the permitting requirements, the public health and safety will be in grave danger of being violated. This amendment will discourage businesses to operate without a valid permit since the consequences are costlier penalties and could lead to closure of their business. This enforcement action will prevent an unfair business advantage for those operating without a valid permit.*

### **Eminent Domain**

41. 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.
42. 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**

43. 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.*
44. 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.*

45. 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.*
46. 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.*
47. 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.*

48. 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.
49. 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.)*
50. OPPOSE efforts to limit local authority over transient occupancy taxes (TOT).
51. 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.
52. 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.*

53. 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.
54. 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.
55. SUPPORT efforts to relieve California of the federal Child Support penalties without shifting the cost of the penalties to the counties.
56. 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.
57. 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.*
58. 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.
59. 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.*
60. SUPPORT state actions that maximize Federal and State revenues for county-run services and programs.
61. SUPPORT legislative compliance with both the intent and language of Proposition 1A.
62. 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.



63. SUPPORT full State funding of all statewide special elections, including recall elections.
64. 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.*
65. 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.*
66. 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.*
67. 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.*
68. SUPPORT legislation that provides constitutional protections and guaranteed funding to counties under Realignment.
69. 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.

### **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.*

70. 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.*

71. SUPPORT Medi-Cal reimbursement rate increases to incentivize providers to participate in the program.
72. SUPPORT Medi-Cal reimbursement rate increases through Proposition 56 funding to provide quality reproductive health care services.
73. SUPPORT reimbursement for a maximum of 2 visits taking place on the same day at one location if the patient suffers illness/ injury requiring additional diagnosis/ treatment, or if the patient has a medical visit and mental health or dental visit. *Requires an FQHC or RHC that currently includes the cost of encounters with more than one health professional that take place on the same day at a single location as a single visit for purposes of establishing the FQHC's or RHC's rate, to apply for an adjustment to its per-visit rate by 2020; after the department has approved that adjustment, requires a medical visit and another health visit that take place on the same day at a single location to be billed as separate visits.*
74. 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).
75. 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.*
76. SUPPORT efforts that provide sufficient time for detailed data gathering of current safety net 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.*
77. 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.
78. SUPPORT efforts to clearly define and adequately fund remaining county responsibilities.
79. 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.
80. SUPPORT efforts to provide adequate financing for health care reforms to succeed.
  81. SUPPORT measures that maximize federal reimbursement from Medicaid and S-CHIP.
  82. 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.
  83. 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.
  84. 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.
  85. SUPPORT efforts to increase revenues and to contain mandated costs in the County's hospital and clinics system.
  86. SUPPORT efforts to obtain a fair-share of any state funds in a distribution of funding for the integration of IHSS and managed care.
  87. SUPPORT efforts to increase the availability of health care (including alcohol and other drugs recovery) to the uninsured in California, whether employed or not.
  88. 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.
  89. 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.
  90. 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.
  91. SUPPORT efforts to give incentives to providers to establish more youth substance use disorder residential treatment facilities within the county.

92. 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.*
93. 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.
94. 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.
95. 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.
96. 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.
97. OPPOSE legislation and state regulation that seeks to weaken or eliminate local control over the commercial cannabis industry. *Currently, and until the proposed Bureau of Cannabis Control regulations take effect, local government retains control over allowing or prohibiting the operations of mobile cannabis delivery in their jurisdictions.*
98. SUPPORT funding and policy changes to support population-based chronic disease prevention efforts such as the creation and funding of a State Wellness Trust with allocations to counties and other key partners to implement programs, policies and strategies to prevent chronic disease. 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.

99. SUPPORT funding and policy changes to support developing a workforce with gerontological expertise to manage the exponential growth in the chronically ill aging population.
100. 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.
101. SUPPORT ongoing study of the health impacts of global and regional climate change and ongoing countywide mitigation and adaptation efforts.
102. 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.
103. SUPPORT efforts that promote aging in place through the utilization of long-term supports and services and caregiver support services.
104. 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.
105. 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.
106. 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.*
107. 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.

108. 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.
109. SUPPORT the reversal of the pre-emption language regarding local Menu-Labeling that is included the Affordable Care Act.
110. 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.
111. 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.
112. SUPPORT legislative efforts to reduce or eliminate lead and toxic substances in consumer products, particularly those used by infants and children.
113. SUPPORT legislative efforts to reduce exposure to toxic air pollutants and the reduction of greenhouse gases.
114. 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.

115. 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.
116. SUPPORT necessary County infrastructure and adequate funding related to education, regulatory, testing and enforcement functions associated with the State Medical Marijuana regulatory controls.
117. 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.
118. SUPPORT legislation and efforts that support healthy meals, adequate meal time, and increased physical activity/education for school-age children.
119. 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.
120. 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.
121. 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.
122. 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.



## **Human Services**

Over the past year, we have seen a renewed legislative interest in safety-net programs. At the state level, these laws have focused on improving care and encouraging county agencies to take a more holistic view of clients' lives. At the federal level, there have been numerous attempts at safety net reforms that would limit services. Both approaches are not without challenges. Many state bills, while well intentioned, could shift new costs to counties without increasing revenues. Federal laws that limit county's ability to provide services would not only result in a decrease in revenue, but would likely reduce the number and quality of available services. This could lead to vulnerable families not receiving basic needs such as food, shelter, and access to healthcare. Efforts should be made to preserve current funding streams, and enhance funding for new, innovative approaches to service delivery in human services.

### **Creating Economic Security and Improving Safety-Net Programs**

California has the highest poverty rate in the country, an issue that touches every county in the state. In 2016, 10.2 percent of Contra Costa County residents (approximately 120,000 individuals) lived below the federal poverty line. This includes nearly 34,000 children. However, the official poverty line does not capture the true cost of living in the county. The Center for Community and Economic Development estimates that for a single adult living in Contra Costa County to be self-sufficient, they would need to earn about \$28,000 a year—more than double the income of the official poverty threshold. Nearly 19 percent of children in Contra Costa County live in food insecure households. This means that their family can only provide limited access to meals without assistance. According to a recent study by the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, one in eight residents of the two counties rely on the Food Bank every month. Most of their clients had a child or dependent senior in their household and were either working or actively looking for work.

Safety net benefits such as CalFresh (SNAP), CalWORKs (TANF), and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) keep over three million Californians out of poverty every year. Nationally, low- and middle-income families are increasingly accessing the safety net, as the cost of living has outpaced wage increases. In Contra Costa County, nearly one in four residents are enrolled in Medi-Cal, despite our county having a lower unemployment rate than the national average. These policy positions will support legislation and initiatives that remove barriers to self-sufficiency and create economic inclusion for low-income residents of Contra Costa County.

123. OPPOSE legislative and budgetary actions that result in reduced level of services to families, children, adults and seniors, or that lead to preemption of local control. *These actions may adversely impact EHSD's ability to provide services to vulnerable residents.*
124. SUPPORT continuous investment in the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) and efforts to increase access to California Earned Income Tax Credit, including increases in tax credits and expanding eligibility to all ages. *The CalEITC does not reach all workers who are eligible for the federal EITC and California should help reduce tax burdens on the working poor.*

125. 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/or reinstate the annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). *SSI/SSP has not kept pace with the cost-of-living and many elderly and disabled Contra Costa residents cannot afford necessities.*
126. SUPPORT efforts to improve and expand emergency food assistance networks' (e.g. local food banks, and food pantries) ability to procure, store, and distribute nutritious food to those in need.
127. 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 similar. This would decrease food insecurity for the unemployed in a way that streamlines applications and demands fewer internal resources.*
128. 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.
129. SUPPORT efforts for a more flexible framework that allows the state to supplement CalFresh benefits if federal assistance is insufficient or unavailable and streamline enrollment. *Recent natural disasters have underscored the need for greater flexibility for the state.*
130. SUPPORT legislation that would create access to community-supported agriculture through CalFresh. *Contra Costa County has many food deserts, and these programs could be leveraged to help residents get access to fresh, healthy food.*
131. SUPPORT efforts that would ease data sharing across safety-net programs, including those administered by the Health Department, such as WIC. *These programs allow data sharing at the state level, but not at the county level. Identifying eligible, but not enrolled, clients would allow for targeted outreach to improve the lives of children and families.*
132. SUPPORT efforts to allow reverse direct certification between CalFresh and children on free and reduced lunch. *While families on CalFresh are considered eligible for free and reduced lunch, there are more families who have free and reduced lunch status but are not enrolled in CalFresh. Current outreach and data sharing guidelines are confusing for families and have resulted in under-utilization of CalFresh.*
133. SUPPORT a 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. *This would allow these applicants to more quickly access resources when released and reduce duplicative administrative work for the county.*

134. SUPPORT efforts to allow currently detained inmates to pre-enroll for benefits when they are scheduled to be released. *This would ensure more immediate access to support and resources as formerly incarcerated individuals re-enter society. Research has shown that access to benefit programs may help reduce recidivism and keep our community safer.*
135. SUPPORT efforts to expand CalFresh benefits for SSI recipients and their families. This includes increasing the state supplement and allotting permanent funding streams to “hold harmless” family members of SSI recipients who may be negatively impacted by the SSI cash out. *Families receiving CalFresh who are caring for a parent or disabled child on SSI may be pushed deeper into poverty if the hold harmless waivers are not extended.*
136. SUPPORT exemptions to the “able-bodied adults without dependents” (ABAWD) CalFresh work requirements. *This population faces many barriers to employment, including caring for disabled parents, housing insecurity, and interpersonal violence.*
137. 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.*
138. SUPPORT efforts to allow applicants for Medi-Cal and CalFresh to have the same appointment and enrollment process. *The eligibility guidelines for both programs are very similar. Requiring separate enrollment processes creates additional administrative work for the county and may delay needed support for vulnerable residents.*
139. SUPPORT efforts to extend eligibility to zero share of Medi-Cal cost when recipients report new earned income. *Scheduled increases to state and local minimum wage may impact eligibility to free health care.*
140. SUPPORT fully funding administrative costs for Medi-Cal eligibility and renewal. *Despite a strong economy, Medi-Cal enrollment has not dropped significantly over the last three years and high numbers of applications and renewals still come into the county every year.*
141. SUPPORT allowing clinics to collect Medi-Cal payment for same-day mental health visits. *Current legislation covers same-day dental referrals, but not mental health. Improving mental health may help ease homelessness and increase self-sufficiency.*
142. SUPPORT allowing clinics to be reimbursed from Medi-Cal for telephonic and online visits during emergencies and disasters. *During emergency events patients may not be able to easily come to a clinic office, but technology can allow providers to treat these patients. Recent fires have underscored the need to allow greater flexibility when responding to emergency events.*

143. 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.*
144. SUPPORT efforts to provide additional funds for family stabilization services for mental health and substance abuse support to include all family members. *Taking a holistic approach to creating healthy families increases opportunities for healing and self-sufficiency.*
145. SUPPORT efforts to ensure that no CalWORKs grant falls below 50% of the federal poverty line. This could include an increase to the CalWORKs Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) and the annual funding of a CalWORKs cost of living adjustment (COLA). *MAP has not increased in ten years despite a rapidly rising cost of living in the Bay Area. This would help prevent families from falling into deep poverty, which can cause toxic stress on children and impede their ability to lead self-sufficient lives as adults.*
146. 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. Legislative changes to support these initiatives could include the following:
- a. **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 and eliminating the 24-month "time clock". *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. 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 to 60 months would help. We should allow participants to engage in activities according to their family needs rather than add additional restrictions on the Welfare-to-Work program.*
  - b. **Diversión:** 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. *This includes efforts to increase the amount of the diversion payment and allowing families to reapply for CalWORKs during their diversion period without penalty.*
  - c. Exempting job retention services from the time clock. *These services help those who obtain employment while on CalWORKs stay employed. Exempting these services, while still needed, from the 24-month time clock would decrease the likelihood of families losing income and returning to cash assistance.*

- d. 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) 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.*

- 147. SUPPORT establishing a General Assistance Program with a state share of funding. *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.*
- 148. SUPPORT efforts to create whole family care through a more comprehensive safety net of services that enable families to be stable and have economic opportunities. *Healthy infant and toddler brain development is dependent on the health and security of their family.*

#### Increasing Access to Housing and Ending Homelessness

According to the Self-Sufficiency Standard, a family of four in Contra Costa County would need to earn \$71,700 annually to cover basic costs for housing, food, health care, transportation, childcare, and taxes. This is equivalent to more than three full-time jobs at the California minimum wage. The cost of living in Contra Costa County has increased exponentially. Fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment is now \$2,173 a month, a 74 percent increase from 2007. Further, Contra Costa County is home to over 2,200 homeless individuals, many of whom are minors and transition age youth. Human Services has partnered with the Health Department to develop more robust services for the homeless, however, most of these programs are contingent on grant funding rather than permanent investments. These policy positions support legislation and initiatives that strengthen housing justice to ensure all Contra Costa residents have access to safe shelter.

- 149. 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 or are temporarily staying in someone else’s home, 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.*
- 150. SUPPORT increase of daily rate available under Temporary Homeless Assistance for CalWORKs families. *Current rates do not reflect the cost of shelter in California.*
- 151. SUPPORT efforts to secure permanent housing assistance for CalWORKs participants, including initiatives to create support for shared housing. *Permanent housing is key to improving the overall health and wellbeing of vulnerable populations.*

152. SUPPORT efforts that would create state grants and/or navigation services to establish or expand programs that provide specified housing assistance and supportive services to homeless youth. *California has the highest rate of youth homelessness in the country.*
153. SUPPORT efforts that would help to stabilize and provide housing supports for at-risk Adult Protective Services clients. Homeless among seniors is increasing in the Bay Area, and affordable housing that is also accessible to seniors' needs is in increasingly short supply.
154. 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.

*Creating Quality Early Care and Education*

Care for a preschool age child in Contra Costa now tops over \$10,000 a year. Access to quality early care and education is critical for children's development and allows parents to work and attend school. Community Services currently serves over 2,000 children and their families each year, providing high quality childcare and early education. Though we have been successful in obtaining grant funds to offer care to more children, this is still woefully short of demand. Our county would need to triple available childcare openings to meet the needs of Contra Costa families. These policy positions support legislation and initiatives that promote healthy child development and the financial security of working families.

155. 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. *This gives First 5 Commissions greater spending flexibility to respond to the unique needs of every community.*
156. 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).
157. SUPPORT efforts by the Contra Costa County's executive directors and program administrators of all Child Care and Development Programs to advocate for funding adequate to maintain quality standards and ensure staff retention. *Budgets in these programs have stagnated or reduced. An increase would greatly help low-income people find work and stay in jobs.*
158. SUPPORT efforts to increase the number of subsidized childcare 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 childcare is key to low-income workers remaining employed and there is a significant*



*dearth of subsidized childcare slots. Increasing quality of early learning is important to developing skills in the next generation.*

159. SUPPORT legislation to expand early childcare and education and increase funding for preschool and early learning, including the restoration of State Quality Childcare Funds. *Contra Costa County is experiencing a severe shortage of childcare availability, and quality childcare is a foundation for success and stability as children develop.*
160. SUPPORT the funding for Facility Restoration and Repair (FRR) through the California Department of Education. *Increasing the funding amounts for facility restoration of early childhood education would allow for improved facilities at Head Start sites. Contra Costa County has several childcare facilities in modular buildings not meant for long-term use and other facilities in need of repairs.*
161. SUPPORT alignment of family eligibility for subsidized childcare with cost of living adjustments and higher minimum wage rates. *The cost of childcare has risen substantially in the Bay Area and is an obstacle for families to continue to work or attend school.*
162. SUPPORT efforts that encourage access to early education home visiting programming. *This will support families in providing an environment that promotes healthy growth and development of their young children.*
163. 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. *On average, high school graduates earn more than \$10,000 more than those without a diploma. Supporting education is a sustainable pathway to self-sufficiency.*
164. SUPPORT efforts to continue subsidized childcare for CalWORKs recipients who time out while enrolled in a job training or education program. *This will allow families to complete job training and education programs, improving their chances of being self-sufficient in the future.*
165. SUPPORT legislation to continue subsidized childcare for CalWORKs recipients who find become employed and are above the income threshold. *Once employed, families may need additional time to find new childcare arrangements. Stopping subsidized childcare may jeopardize family's ability to remain employed.*
166. SUPPORT efforts to ensure funding of childcare for CalWORKs and former CalWORKs families at levels sufficient to meet demand. *The State of California has not fully funded the cost of childcare for the "working poor." Additional funding would allow more CalWORKs and post-CalWORKs families to become and/or stay employed.*



Protecting Aging Adults and Individuals with Disabilities

Contra Costa County has one of the highest concentrations of older adults in the country. Our dependency ratio (the number of working adults to those under 18 and over 65-years-old), will rise to a nearly one to one ratio by 2060. According to the California Elder Economic Security Index (a county-specific measure of the minimum income necessary to cover basic needs for retired older adults), the average senior in our county would need over double their Social Security payment in order to be self-sufficient. Over one in ten Contra Costa residents has a disability, many of whom live in poverty. Although in-home support services for these populations are among the fastest growing within Human Services, state funding for aging adults and individuals with disabilities was severely cut during the recession and continues to impact our ability to recruit and retain social workers and home care workers. These policy positions support legislation and initiatives that invest in services and supports for our rapidly growing elder population.

167. 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. *Recent changes in the administrative budget and database system have created unfunded mandates within IHSS.*
168. SUPPORT efforts to allow counties to use alternative reassessment approaches including, but not limited to, telephonic reassessments. *IHSS serves many people with disabilities that do not change year over year (e.g., quadriplegics) and an in-person visit is not necessary to reauthorize their eligibility. An increased aging population in Contra Costa County has resulted in unprecedented numbers of IHSS applications, making timely year-over-year in-person assessments more difficult.*
169. SUPPORT legislative efforts that allow for coordination of services and data, across state and county departments that support aging and elder populations. *Elders often are served in multiple county systems, and increased coordination would support the holistic care of our aging population.*
170. SUPPORT creation of funding opportunities and policies which promote the development of aging-friendly communities. *Rising costs of living create barriers to aging in place, potentially displacing seniors from their support systems and care providers. While housing is an issue for many in Contra Costa County, there is an even greater shortage of ADA accessible and senior-friendly affordable housing.*
171. 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.
172. 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. *Accessible housing is in increasingly short supply throughout the Bay Area.*

173. 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. *Contra Costa County has one of the largest populations of seniors in the United States and more assessment is needed to understand the best practices for how to support this community.*
174. 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.
175. 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*).
176. SUPPORT legislation that would reduce Medi-Cal share of cost for adults 65 and older, as well as disabled individuals. *Current guidelines for the aged and disabled population burdens them with a higher share of cost than those who are not elderly or disabled.*

#### Investing in Violence Prevention

We aim to prevent, interrupt and end child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse and human trafficking in Contra Costa County. From August 2017 to August 2018, Employment & Human Services received approximately 8,500 reports of child abuse and over 600 reports of elder abuse. In 2017 over 600 child abuse cases were investigated. Through a federal grant administered through the Alliance to End Abuse, we know that around 200 survivors of human trafficking are identified and receive services in our County annually. Between July 2016 and June 2017 our local Domestic Violence agency (STAND! for Families Free of Violence) received over 14,000 crisis calls and provided case management services to over 1,000 adults and 40 children. We recognize the interconnectedness of all forms of violence and seek to address the root causes and underlying cultural norms that contribute to violence. We seek to prevent all forms of violence; support whole-person services for victims, offenders and their families; and differentiate responses for individuals based on risk assessment. We value respect and dignity for all. These policy positions support legislation and initiatives that create a safer and more just community.

177. SUPPORT efforts that seek to address the impact of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, elder abuse and child abuse; implement culturally relevant, trauma-informed responses; connect victims to services; and prevent interpersonal violence.
178. SUPPORT efforts that differentiate risk and provide differential response based on risk and needs for individuals affected by interpersonal violence. *Differentiating risk and needs allows for more appropriate, individual and realistic responses to individuals navigating the systems. Differentiating risk and needs based off assessments decreases the chance of further violence.*

179. SUPPORT efforts to increase cross-agency and cross-system collaboration on interpersonal violence cases including the sharing of confidential or protected information in multidisciplinary team settings in order to increase support for survivors.
180. SUPPORT efforts that foster collaboration across protective and criminal systems, which allow for facilitation of cross reporting of interpersonal violence.
181. SUPPORT efforts to increase language access and cultural responsive services for survivors of interpersonal violence. *We know that victims and offenders are more likely to seek support if services are culturally responsive, language appropriate and trauma informed.*
182. SUPPORT efforts to address and prevent the underlying causes, stressors and triggers that lead to violence.
183. SUPPORT efforts that ensure all survivors of interpersonal violence, and their families, feel safe to access services. *We value wrap-around supportive services for victims, offenders and their families.*
184. SUPPPORT efforts that seek to provide support and services for individuals who experience secondary or vicarious trauma. We support efforts that seek to change the cultural norms that do not permit, encourage, or openly engage staff to seek services. *We believe that staff who are exposed to secondary trauma deserve to receive the same whole person care we advocate for on behalf of survivors.*
185. 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.*
186. 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.*
187. SUPPORT efforts to establish an “umbrella code” or other efficient data-sharing systems 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.*

- 188. SUPPORT efforts that focus on dependent adult and elder abuse prevention including, but not limited to, providing respite for caregivers.
- 189. 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. *Lethality risk assessments have been found to increase awareness for law enforcement officers and service providers; increase awareness for victims and the likelihood of victims engaging in formal services; force professionals to look more closely at domestic violence cases and; create shared language among providers and professionals.*
- 190. SUPPORT efforts to increase understanding of the lethality risks of strangulation and to document incidences of strangulation.

#### Ensuring Equity for Immigrant Communities

Contra Costa County is extremely diverse. Nearly one in four Contra Costa residents is an immigrant. Immigrants contribute to our local economy as employees, homeowners, business owners, and consumers. Recent federal policies have aimed to decrease immigrant's access to the safety net. Research has shown that fear of immigration enforcement can increase immigrants' vulnerability to crime and decrease their utilization of health care and other services, straining emergency systems when care can no longer be delayed. These policy positions support legislation and initiatives to create a more welcoming county and defend the rights of all immigrants in our community.

- 191. SUPPORT the expansion of benefits and services for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. *Nearly one-quarter of Contra Costa residents are immigrants. These residents contribute to our communities and need access to vital services to ensure the health and well-being of all.*
- 192. 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.
- 193. SUPPORT efforts to increase language access and cultural responsive services for survivors of interpersonal violence.
- 194. 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 threshold languages. *Contra Costa is a diverse county and having materials that include the languages spoken by many county residents may increase access to these vital programs.*

195. OPPOSE any changes to “public charge” rules that may penalize immigrants for using vital services they are legally allowed to access. *The County has reaffirmed our commitment to providing a safe, welcoming atmosphere for immigrants. Additional changes in public charge regulations would further jeopardize the health and well-being of our county.*

### Investing in Healthy Families

The majority of households in Contra Costa County are families. Nearly 15% of children in our county have experienced two or more adverse or traumatic events, including bullying and abuse by a family member. County services help ensure the safety of children, as well as provide support for parents to give their children more stable homes. These policy positions support legislation and initiatives that promote stability for children who have experienced abuse and trauma, as well as enhance family supports to reunify.

196. SUPPORT continued and improved funding for substance abuse treatment and mental health services including those that provide alternatives to incarceration and Laura’s Law.
197. SUPPORT increased funding for Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention. *Under the Continuum of Care reform, more children need to be placed in home-based foster care rather than congregate group homes. Recruiting and retaining quality foster parents is critically important to maintain stability for children who have experienced abuse and trauma.*
198. SUPPORT efforts to limit hospital discharges for children under the care of CFS when there is no safe and sustainable placement for the child secured. *This may help increase placement stability for children and reduce homelessness for youth. Homeless youth are more likely to be victimized than children who have home placements.*
199. SUPPORT improved and complete funding to implement the Continuum of Care Reform. *This is the largest reform to Children and Family services in recent history and has created a greater need for more home-based placement options, especially for children with severe mental health or behavioral issues. It has also created greater demand for support services, such as trauma-informed behavioral supports, and shifted costs to counties for group home placements when a home placement cannot be secured. In order to provide stability for these children, more funding is needed to support case management and secure quality foster parents.*
200. SUPPORT reforms to the Private Adoption Agency Reimbursement Program (PAARP) that will reduce counties’ financial liability when claims exceed funding from the state. *In fiscal year 2017-18, counties were required to cover nearly \$7 million in overages.*
201. 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.

202. SUPPORT efforts to allow Title IVE-E foster care payments to family-based treatment facilities in California, as permitted by the federal Families First Act, for children who are in living with their parents in such facilities, therefore preventing family separation. *These facilities allow parents seeking mental health and substance abuse treatment to live with their children, which disqualifies the family from maintenance services. However, research generally shows improved outcomes for both children and parents when they are allowed to stay together during treatment.*
203. SUPPORT 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.*

#### Developing Contra Costa County’s Workforce

Contra Costa County is home to nearly 600,000 workers. Jobs here are growing, and our employment rate is dropping. Still, the economic recovery varies here by region and there are significant barriers to employment for many of our residents. Services targeted to those most in need are essential to ensure that everyone has access to the education, training, and employment support services necessary to gain meaningful and life-supporting employment. This includes taking steps to ensure that the County is appropriately staffed and trained for future needs. The policy positions support legislation and initiatives that enhance economic development programs that promote shared economic prosperity and access to jobs.

204. SUPPORT efforts to increase coordination between WIOA and title 5 (APS) to support senior employment. *Many seniors are seeking employment to make ends meet. Coordination between existing funding streams would create more support for older workers to enter the workforce, gain new skills, and live independently.*
205. SUPPORT initiatives to support social work education for APS, similar to the Title IV-E MSW program for Child Welfare Agencies. *APS is also experiencing a social worker shortage and as the population continues to age it is critically important that we have staff able to support the unique needs of elder adults.*
206. Support efforts to increase the flexibility of Workforce Development Board spending to increase supportive services and respond to local workforce needs.
207. SUPPORT efforts to expand the Workforce Development Board’s ability to partner with local community colleges in offer more training and education options with viable career pathways that provide income mobility and livable wages.
208. SUPPORT efforts to Integrate Workforce Development Board services into the CalWORKs program to create robust job training and support services within the county.



209. SUPPORT efforts for continuing training and education for social workers. *Social workers serve our community and should have access to the most up-to-date methods to provide quality services.*
210. SUPPORT efforts to raise wages for the early care and education workforce (such as childcare workers, preschool/infant-toddler teachers). *The wages for these positions have not kept pace with other employment opportunities and makes it difficult to recruit and retain quality teachers.*
211. SUPPORT bills to increase teacher training and education, including funding to support current county employees to obtain a teaching credential. *There is currently a shortage of quality, credentialed teachers in the county.*
212. SUPPORT funding for statewide Adult Protective Services training. *Law enforcement, first responders, and other government workers respond to APS calls but do not necessarily have training on the issues facing indigent adults and elders.*
213. SUPPORT investments in continuous training and coordination of training for all law enforcement officers, District Attorneys, Public Defenders, Probation Officers, Judges and other court staff on issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, elder abuse, child abuse, and trauma informed approaches.
214. 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.
215. SUPPORT efforts to increase training on human trafficking (with a specific focus on labor trafficking) for law enforcement, prosecutors and others involved in criminal investigations.
216. 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.
217. SUPPORT efforts to increase funding for the 2020 Census. *Contra Costa has been designated as a “hard to count” county by the federal government, and current funding levels may not be adequate to hire the staff needed for an accurate count of our residents.*
218. SUPPORT efforts to protect the visual images of people seeking assistance in public social services facilities. *Recently there have been incidences of public filming in social service lobbies across the state, with customers risking being publicly associated with services and becoming vulnerable to exploitation.*



## **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.*

- 219. SUPPORT efforts to ensure that counties who have existing or proposed Class II Indian gaming facilities receive the Special Distribution Funds.
- 220. 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.
- 221. 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.
- 222. SUPPORT State authority to tighten up the definition of a Class II machine.
- 223. 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**

- 224. 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.*
- 225. 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.*
- 226. 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.*

227. 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.*
228. 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.
229. OPPOSE efforts to limit the County's ability to exercise local land use authority.
230. 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.*
231. 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.
232. SUPPORT the granting of approximately \$24 million to the East Contra Costa County NCCP from the \$90 million allocation for NCCPs in Proposition 84.
233. SUPPORT the continued inclusion of NCCPs for funding in allocations from Propositions 1 and 64. *Proposition 68 was passed in 2018; programs that support NCCPs were subsequently allocated funding. In addition to the programs that are identified in Prop 68, NCCPs are eligible to receive other funds, and the County should continue to support these funding allocations. In 2018 the East County NCCP successfully increased CDFW's Local Assistance Program from \$600,000 to \$2.6M with funds from Prop 68. Continuing that level of funding requires ongoing support from local agencies including Contra Costa County.*

234. 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.
235. 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.
236. 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.
237. 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.
238. 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.
239. 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.
240. 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.*
241. 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.

- 242. OPPOSE CEQA reform efforts that reduce environmental protections for projects that cross county or city boundaries.
- 243. SUPPORT efforts to improve or streamline CEQA for efficiency without losing sight of its ultimate goal to thoroughly identify environmental impacts and mitigations.
- 244. OPPOSE efforts to change CEQA solely to accommodate one particular infrastructure project or set of projects.
- 245. 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.
- 246. 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**

- 247. 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.
- 248. 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.*

- 249. SUPPORT legislation that requires boater's insurance. *Currently, boaters are not required to carry insurance in California.*
- 250. SUPPORT legislation that provides better funding for local agencies forced to deal with abandoned and sunken vessels and their environmental impacts.
- 251. OPPOSE legislative proposals to realign additional program responsibility to counties without adequate funding and protections.
- 252. OPPOSE legislation that would shift the responsibility of parolees from the state to the counties without adequate notification, documentation and funding.
- 253. 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.
- 254. 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.
- 255. SUPPORT 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.*
- 256. 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.*

257. SUPPORT legislation that would clarify that information under Penal Code section 13202 is local summary criminal history information, and support legislation that would add a section to Penal Code section 13100 that states that access to Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) for a criminal justice agency to understand the impact of policies and the effectiveness of programs is essential for the effective administration of criminal justice and that this section seeks to encourage and improve access to CORI amount criminal justice agencies for research and evaluation purposes.

### **Levees**

258. SUPPORT 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.*
259. 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.
260. 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.
261. SUPPORT 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.
262. 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.*

263. 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**

264. SUPPORT State financial assistance in the operation of public libraries, including full funding of the Public Library Fund (PLF), and the California Research and Education Network (CalREN), an advanced network-services fabric serving the vast majority of research and education institutions in the state.
265. 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.
266. 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**

267. 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.*
268. 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**

269. 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.*
270. 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.*
271. 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**

272. SUPPORT increased flexibility in the use of transportation funds.
273. 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. Support for consistent, coordinated deployment of advanced transportation/mobility technology such as connected vehicles and automated vehicles, and advanced wireless is also in the public interest. 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. Such relief could be provided through administrative action or County sponsored legislation.*
274. 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.*
275. 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.*
276. 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.*
  277. 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.*
  278. 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." The County will also urge DOE's current Title 5 update effort to apply the requirements of Title 5, as they pertain to evaluating the risks from hazardous materials, to schools being rebuilt on the site of existing schools and to charter schools, and to include the evaluation of risks from hazardous materials potentially released from nearby industrial facilities due to fire, explosions or accidental releases to school siting criteria. Related to this, the County supports the development of guidelines for assessing and mitigating the risks of siting new schools near industrial facilities and rail lines due to potential explosions and fires from the use, storage, manufacture and transportation of hazardous materials, similar to the*

*guidelines they have established for assessing and mitigating the risks from the transportation of hazardous materials through pipelines. State financial and/or technical support to offset the cost of adhering to new guidelines or requirements should be provided.*

- 279. 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.
- 280. 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).*
- 281. 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.
- 282. 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.*
- 283. 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).
- 284. 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**

- 285. 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.*

286. 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.*
287. 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**

288. SUPPORT legislation that establishes producer responsibility for management at the end of their useful life of products, including pharmaceuticals, batteries, sharps and veterinary medicine.
289. SUPPORT efforts to increase the development of markets for recycled materials.
290. SUPPORT legislative and regulatory efforts to allow third parties, under specific circumstances and conditions, to collect and transport household hazardous waste to collection facilities.
291. 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.
292. SUPPORT legislation that does not require increased diversion from landfills without an adequate funding mechanism.



293. 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.*
294. 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.*
295. 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.
296. 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.*
297. 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.*

- 298. OPPOSE legislative and regulatory efforts that require more of counties related to diverting waste from landfills without concurrently establishing an adequate funding mechanism.
- 299. SUPPORT efforts that will help counties more effectively combat illegal dumping, including but not limited to establishing a more reasonable burden of proof standard, changing any remaining infractions to misdemeanors and increasing penalty amounts or options (e.g. vehicle seizure).
- 300. OPPOSE legislative or regulatory efforts to eliminate any existing waste diversion credits or disposal reduction credits.
- 301. SUPPORT legislative or regulatory efforts to reduce what counties are required to recycle or divert from landfills if and when there is not an adequate market for materials which had previously been recycled.
- 302. OPPOSE legislative or regulatory efforts that require counties to site, fund, approve, build and/or operate organic processing facilities, including composting operations.
- 303. OPPOSE regulatory efforts related to solid waste management that impose requirements on counties that directly conflict with or exceed the scope of authority of the enabling legislation.

### **Workforce Development**

- 304. 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.*
- 305. SUPPORT efforts to include marginally attached workers, including discouraged workers, and involuntary part-time workers more formally in the California Workforce Investment Act. *(Marginally attached workers are persons not in the labor force who want and are available for work, and who have looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months (or since the end of their last job if they held one within the past 12 months), but were not counted as unemployed because they had not searched for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey. Discouraged workers are a subset of the marginally attached.)*