

County of 2015
San Bernardino
Federal Legislative Platform





The largest of the over 3,000 counties in the U.S. by geographic area and the 12th largest by population, San Bernardino County enjoyed a robust economy prior to the collapse of the housing and financial markets. With the decline of traditional revenue streams such as property and sales tax, the County was forced to make difficult budget decisions. Even as the economy and the state's fiscal condition have slowly started to improve, major fiscal challenges to the County remain, as employment, assessed valuation, and revenues remain well below their pre-recession levels, while demand for services has increased.

In order for the County to continue to provide quality services, assistance from the state and continued partnership with the delegation is imperative. In this platform, you will find San Bernardino County's federal legislative priorities for 2015.

Based on principles of fiscal stability, preservation of local control, efficient service delivery and operations, and the promotion of inter-agency cooperation, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors provides specific direction and overall policy guidance by adopting a legislative platform annually.

The 2015 Federal Legislative Platform was developed in coordination with the Board of Supervisors, County departments, and regional stakeholders. The Legislative Platform is an expression of the Board's direction for comprehensive County legislative policy on a range of issues and needs facing the County. Legislative Priorities, Legislative Positions and Policy Statements are laid out in the platform. The Legislative Priorities section describes the County's legislative goals and outlines the legislative agenda for the current year, while the Legislative Positions and Policy Statements provide general policy direction when developing a position on pending legislation. This document is broken into areas including governance, finance and operations, health and human services, public safety and first responders, housing, land use and transportation, flood control, water resources and environmental quality, and cultural, educational and recreational services. Each item contains a brief background and legislative action.

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COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

Nearly one-quarter of San Bernardino County families with children under age 18 live in poverty. San Bernardino County is home to 4.8% of California's households, however, a disproportionate 7.4% of the 1.28 million California households receiving public cash assistance or food assistance reside in San Bernardino County. Initiatives such as Promise Zones, which are federal community revitalization programs created to help communities establish and implement plans to create jobs, leverage private investment, increase economic activity, expand educational opportunities and improve public safety, will assist with transitioning individuals to self-sufficiency and improve communities. Designated areas receive tax credits for businesses, preferred access to specified competitive federal investments, and technical assistance from federal agencies. In January 2014, five Promise Zones were selected by an interagency panel led by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The County will work with the Congressional delegation and local stakeholders to advocate for a Promise Zone designation within San Bernardino County.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The County is experiencing a slow but steady recovery from the nation's historic recession. Warehousing and logistics continue to maintain prominence in the County's economy with rail and major highway access to and from major airports, seaports, and markets. The revival of the industries that were most impacted during the economic downturn is important to sustained economic growth. Designations such as the Investment in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) provide the tools needed by the region to successfully navigate the challenging economic circumstances. The IMCP is an initiative to spur communities to develop integrated, long-term economic development strategies that strengthen their competitive edge in attracting global manufacturers and their supply chains to our local communities, thereby increasing investment and creating jobs. IMCP specifically brings together the resources of multiple federal departments and agencies to support strong local economic development plans.

The County will work with Congressional delegation and local stakeholders to advocate for a manufacturing designation in the Inland Empire.

LOCAL CONTROL OF ONTARIO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Inland Empire has taken a tremendous economic hit over the last several years as air service and passenger traffic at the Ontario International Airport has plummeted to levels not seen since the 1980s. Under absentee ownership, the severe decline in activity has cost our region \$400 million annually and 8,000 jobs. The County and the City of Ontario proposes to return the airport to the Airport Authority, thereby improving operations and protecting the local economy.

The County will work with the Congressional delegation and local stakeholders to aggressively advocate for legislation, budget or proposals that transfer Ontario International Airport to local control.

MOVING TO WORK

Moving to Work (MTW) is a demonstration program for public housing authorities (PHAs) that provide them the opportunity to design and test innovative, locally-designed strategies that use federal dollars more efficiently, help residents find employment and become self-sufficient, and increase housing choices for low-income families. Statewide, California's seven MTW agencies, including the San Bernardino County Housing Authority, are assisting more than 66,000 low-income

families, about 6,000 more families than baseline funding levels would provide, because of the flexibility that allows them to design more efficient programs that serve more households and at the same time reflect local priorities. The Department of Housing and Urban Development's contracts with MTW agencies are scheduled to expire in 2018.

The County will work with the Congressional delegation, other counties and regional stakeholders to extend the Moving to Work program.

MOVING AHEAD FOR PROGRESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY REAUTHORIZATION

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) was enacted on January 6, 2012, after ten short-term extensions of SAFETEA-LU. MAP-21 was a short-term transportation bill did not address the ability of the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) to keep pace with current outlays using incoming receipts from the federal gas tax alone.

The County will work with the Congressional delegation and regional stakeholders to advocate for: 1) extending and expanding the MAP-21; 2) adequate funding for the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) with reasonable offsets that do not directly impact the region; 2) a long-term solution for the HTF; 3) protection of the region's fair share of funding; and/or a 4) a dedicated funding authorization for national freight and goods movement.

PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES AND SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS EQUITY AND FULL FUNDING

In San Bernardino County, more than 80 percent of the County's land area is outside the governing control of local jurisdictions and managed by federal agencies. A major legislative challenge for San Bernardino County, as in other western counties, is the necessity for full funding of Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and equity in the formula allocation. PILT is federal payment to local governments to help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable federal lands within their boundaries. Full funding for the PILT program and Secure Rural Schools (known as "Forest payments") was authorized in the TARP legislation passed in 2008. That 5-year authorization expired with the FY 2012 payments, but was extended for one year in the FY 2013 Appropriations Act and later extended an additional year in the Agricultural Act of 2014. Both programs must be extended by specific legislation or they will return to standard appropriations, which, prior to FY 2008, ran at about 60% for PILT and 100% for SRS.

The County will work with the Congressional delegation, other counties and associations to: 1) support legislation that extends the full funding for the PILT and Secure Rural Schools programs; 2) amend the PILT formula to provide funding to offset property tax loss from federal acquisitions, treating BLM acquisitions the same as those made by the National Park Service; and/or 3) eliminate or decrease the effect of the capping of payments based on a maximum population factor of 50,000 which results in no payments for federal acreage in excess of approximately 1.3 million acres.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

The largest county by size in the contiguous United States, with large swaths of desert and public lands has made the County of San Bernardino the home to more than \$5 billion in planned or completed solar energy projects. Large utility-scale renewable energy projects on public lands provide numerous benefits; however, those projects remove thousands of acres of public land recreation, mining and other uses, and result in the loss of habitat, wildlife, and scenic vistas. The establishment of renewable energy projects also requires the dedication of additional public service resources, including fire protection, law enforcement and road maintenance. Additionally, federal acquisition of formerly taxable private land for habitat and species mitigation, in addition to previous and proposed wilderness designations and other restrictions have limited public access to vast areas in the County, while also reducing available property tax revenue. Solar projects are largely exempt from property or possessory interest taxes.

The County will work with the Congressional delegation, other counties, associations and regional stakeholders to support legislation or budget actions that: 1) require a portion of lease, royalty or other revenues generated by renewable energy projects on federal land to be directed to the local jurisdiction where projects are sited; 2) require species and habitat mitigation to be conducted largely on public land, including the retirement of grazing allotments; 3) protect areas with identified mineral resources from development or withdrawal; and/or 4) accommodate or mitigate for any loss of existing or permitted human activities on public land, including recreational and economic activities.

TAX EXEMPT STATUS OF MUNICIPAL BONDS

In San Bernardino County, municipal bonds have made possible the construction of major public facilities critical to the well-being and safety of our residents. The County takes a conservative approach to debt issuance and funds projects with cash where feasible, such as the state-of-the-art, LEED-Certified High Desert Government Center, which now houses the Public Safety Operations Center. There have been a number of substantial and critical projects where cash funding was not feasible due to the size and scope of the projects. Without tax-exempt financing, critical infrastructure projects such as the County's Arrowhead Regional Medical Center and West Valley Detention Center would have been delayed, reduced in scope or possibly eliminated altogether.

The County will work with the Congressional delegation, other counties and associations to support legislation or budget actions that maintain the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.

The County of San Bernardino is a regional government. We understand that every aspect of the quality of life in a community is part of an interrelated system. The County takes responsibility for ensuring that the community has determined how, when and by whom each element of that system is being addressed in pursuit of our shared Vision of the county and the future we desire. Our job is to create a county in which those who reside and invest can prosper and achieve well-being.. Effective partnerships between the County and federal agencies are essential to adequately finance services and responsibilities. Unfortunately, as a result of inadequate funding, local governments struggle to maintain service levels, with fewer resources. Counties are left with the option of reducing staffing and compromising service delivery, or filling gaps with local funds, which few counties have the ability to do. Multiple years of federal funding reductions have undermined critical programs. The following are priority County Governance, Finance and Operations legislative positions:

County Operations

- Support legislation and budget actions that provide: 1) flexibility to administer federal programs; 2) decision-making authority over the use of federal funds, including directing grants or mandatory pass-through allocations; 3) the utilization of technology and innovation to streamline County services; and/or 4) the elimination of unnecessary, redundant, or overlapping requirements or regulations for program eligibility, funding maintenance of efforts, monitoring, permitting or reporting.
- Oppose legislation and budget actions that will adversely impact County operations by: 1) eroding local control; 2) limiting the ability to operate in a reasonable and cost effective manner; and/or 3) exposing the County to unreasonable litigation.

County Finances

- Support legislation and budget actions that provide: 1) adequate funding for federal programs the County operates; and/or 2) increased share of total federal funding to local governments.
- Oppose legislation and budget actions that: 1) increase County responsibilities or expenses without a viable, adequate and dedicated source of revenue; and/or 2) reduce the County’s share of total funding through formula allocations or reductions.

Economic
Development
Agency

Buy America

The Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982 established the Buy America requirements that certain products used in federally funded transportation projects must be fabricated in the United States. While Buy America was intended to protect domestic industries, over the last 30 years since the program was enacted, companies supplying products for transportation projects have undergone significant changes. As a result, the existing Buy America definition has the unintended consequences of barring United State companies from participating in federally funded projects as well as increasing cost or delay to local transportation projects.

Support legislation or administrative actions that modify or waive the Buy America provisions to spur local economic development and ensure that local transportation projects are able to move forward without unreasonable delays.

San Bernardino County's Human Services Group administers aging and long term care services, mental health treatment, alcohol and drug treatment, public health services, healthcare for indigents, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, foster care, child welfare services, adult protective services, In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), the General Assistance (GA) program, homeless services and services to children aged five and younger.

San Bernardino County's public hospital, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC), is a state-of-the-art 456-bed facility, which hosts a 24-hour emergency room, a level-II trauma center, three family health centers. ARMC has the only burn center in the Inland Empire and serves as a teaching hospital with interns in most medical and administrative aspects of healthcare. The following are priority County Health and Human Services legislative positions:

Health and Human Services Funding and Operations

Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) fully fund the cost of federal and state mandated health and human services programs; 2) provide funding formulas for services that ensure an equitable allocation of federal and state funding and reflect complete, accurate and total caseload and administrative costs; 3) promote local control over health and human services programs; 4) provide greater flexibility to ensure programs are delivered efficiently and in a cost-effective manner; and/or 5) hold counties exempt from fiscal penalties when federal or state governments do not provide adequate funding.

- Oppose legislation and budget actions that: 1) transfer health and human service programs to counties unless program control and flexibility is also shifted and adequate federal and state funding to fully fund the costs of federal and state mandates is guaranteed; 2) propose funding formulas that adversely impact and impede the ability of the County to deliver federal and state mandated health and human services; and/or 3) erode local control of the administration of health and human services programs.

Health Care Reform

- Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) promote a seamless transition to federal health care reform implementation, ensuring that low income families are covered under the Affordable Care Act; 2) maintain and/or expand safety net provider funding; 3) provide adequate funding, rates and flexibility; 4) prioritize allocation and reimbursement to counties that have disproportionately high levels of poverty; 5) promote outreach, education and enrollment; 6) provide patient-centered, timely, integrated and effective physical and mental health and substance use disorder care; 7) maintain federal and state privacy and security standards while ensuring confidentiality and patient safety; 8) encourage healthy lifestyles and integration of mental health and substance use disorder treatment services with primary care; 9) fund technological advances to achieve health care reform, especially as it relates to Health Information Exchanges, Medicaid Expansion and County participation in state mandated demonstration projects; and/or 10) provide for partnerships between stakeholders to achieve desired outcomes.
- Oppose legislation and budget actions that: 1) increase uncompensated health care costs; and/or 2) propose funding reductions not based on actual experiences.

Medicaid Waiver

- Support a five-year Medicaid Waiver that provides adequate funding (at least at current levels), rates, reimbursements, flexibility and infrastructure to: 1) achieve Triple Aim measures; 2) support a public integrated safety net delivery system; 3) build on previous delivery system improvement efforts for public health care systems; 4) allow for the creation of a new county pilot effort to advance improvements through coordinated care, integrated physical and behavioral health services and provide robust coordination with social, housing and other services critical to improve care of targeted high-risk patients; 5) improve access to share and integrate health data and systems; 6) provide flexibility for counties to provide more coordinated care and

effectively serve individuals who will remain uninsured and decrease uncompensated care; 7) ensure that California receives necessary federal approvals to expand the continuum of substance use disorder treatment services that are eligible for Medicaid funding, including residential treatment, detoxification services and care coordination; and/or 8) reinvest savings to further improve the system of care, including early intervention and prevention.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Administration	Medical Professional Workforce	An adequate supply of well-prepared health professionals is essential to an effective health care system in America. A survey by the University of Missouri-Columbia and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services predicts that the United States will be short 35,000 to 44,000 adult care primary care physicians by 2025. In addition, the Affordable Care Act will continue to bring many more individuals into the health care system, necessitating a sufficient number of primary care physicians are available to provide care to this additional population.	Support legislation, budget actions and regulatory efforts that will increase and retain qualified medical and behavioral health professionals; protect and enhance funding to provide incentives for medical professionals to serve in underserved areas; and provide for education and technological advances to support the medical professional workforce.
Administration	Medical University Residencies	The number of federally funded residency slots in teaching hospitals has remained relatively stable at about 100,000 per year. Teaching hospitals must work with their medical school partners to balance these available positions and help train new generations of physicians. As long as the number of federally funded residency slots remains frozen, new medical education efforts such as that recently launched at the University of California, Riverside School of Medicine will be unable to place as many residents dependent on federal funding as are needed to meet the growing needs of the aging population and increases anticipated by the Affordable Care Act.	Support legislation, budget actions and regulatory efforts that increase the number of Medicare-supported residency positions in teaching hospitals.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Aging and Adult Services	Elder Justice Act	The Elder Justice Act (EJA) was enacted in 2010. The Act requires that the Department of Health and Human Services, among other things, provide funding to State and local Adult Protective Service offices and administer grants for Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs. To date, Congress has not appropriated any money for implementation of the Elder Justice Act.	Support legislation and budget actions that fully fund the Elder Justice Act and increase elder abuse protections.
Aging and Adult Services	Long-Term Care Maintenance Needs	The maintenance allowance for personal and incidental needs for institutionalized Medicaid beneficiaries has remained at \$35 since 1985. This allowance is intended to cover incidentals such as clothing, shoes, socks, undergarments, haircuts, snacks or entertainment needs.	Support legislation and budget actions that increase the long-term care monthly maintenance need level for Medicaid beneficiaries.
Arrowhead Regional Medical Center	Disproportionate Share Hospital Funding	The Disproportionate Share Hospitals (DSH) program was intended to recognize the disadvantaged financial situation of hospitals serving low-income patients. Twenty percent of County of San Bernardino residents live below the federal poverty level. Low-income patients are more likely to be uninsured or Medicaid enrollees. Hospitals often do not receive payment for services rendered to uninsured patients, and Medicaid provider payment rates are generally lower than the rates paid by Medicare and private insurance. The Affordable Care Act provides for aggregate reductions in federal Medicaid DSH allotments.	Oppose legislative or administrative actions that reduce the amount of DSH or Medicaid safety-net care pool funding.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Behavioral Health	Homeless Assistance Program	Homelessness is a persistent national problem that impacts cities and communities throughout San Bernardino County. Despite a 19% decline of the homeless population in San Bernardino County in 2013, additional housing assistance programs are still needed. More than 20% of the homeless population of the County consists of children and youth, and 16% are homeless veterans. An additional 20% (primarily women and children) of the County population are under the poverty line. This “at-risk” population in the County of San Bernardino poses serious societal and economic implications.	Support legislative, budget and regulatory efforts that will provide a more focused approach to the issues of homelessness and provide a system of care that is inclusive, well planned, coordinated, evaluated and accessible to all who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless.
Behavioral Health	Integrated Treatment	There is a great need to integrate treatment for mental health conditions and substance use disorders (SUD) with that of primary and specialty care. There is limited integration of primary care services and SUD specialty care settings. When present, primary care services provided in SUD settings extend beyond medication management and create opportunities for holistic treatment plans.	Support legislation and budget actions that fund the integration of treatment for mental health, substance use disorders, primary and specialty care and funding to recruit qualified primary care professionals to serve in integrated settings.
Behavioral Health	Institutions for Mental Disease Medicaid Reimbursement	Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) Exclusion prohibits Medicaid from covering treatment (even non-psychiatric) in state and private psychiatric hospitals and other IMDs. Medicaid’s denial of psychiatric coverage can have serious consequences, including homelessness, incarceration, victimization and even death for many people who are too ill to care for themselves.	Support legislation, budget and regulatory actions that provide Medicaid reimbursement for patients in Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) or free-standing settings, and amend the IMD exclusion statute to draw down funding for services provided in IMDs.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Children and Family Services	Extended Foster Care Services	<p>The Federal Fostering Connections Act of 2008 extends Adoption Assistance Payments (AAP) and Federally-Funded KinGAP benefits for foster children up until age 21. However, the Act fails, with some exceptions, to extend payments beyond age 18 to families that became eligible before the child turned 16. This disparity in treatment disadvantages certain former foster youth and discourages families to adopt or become legal guardians to children nearing the age of 16.</p>	<p>Support legislation and regulatory efforts that align eligibility requirements between federal programs that serve older foster youth and remove disincentives to adopt or commit to guardianships.</p>
Children and Family Services	Foster Care Services	<p>Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), CalWORKs in California, rules from 1996, are currently used to determine a state's eligibility to claim federal funds for foster care services. Since income and assets are frozen at 1996 levels, the rate of reimbursement is decreasing over time, as families with income over the 1996 AFDC limits preclude states from submitting claims for federal funds. This results in loss of funds for federally mandated services. Removing the link will allow states to submit claims for the federally mandated services regardless of the family's income.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that will de-link Title IV-E, Foster Care eligibility from the 1996 AFDC income and assets standards.</p>
Children and Family Services	Streamlining Child Welfare	<p>Federal child welfare financing is disproportionately directed toward funding out-of-home foster care. Only 10% of federal funds are available to provide cost effective front-end prevention and post-permanency services to keep children safely at home with their families. Current funding structures consist of multiple and complex funding streams - each</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that create a single, dedicated and flexible funding stream for child welfare that promotes local control to direct resources based on need and adequately funds cost effective prevention services.</p>

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Children and Family Services	Supervision of Non-Minor-Dependents	<p>with their own audit, review and data reporting systems - governing separate sets of requirements. Administration of these separate programs is costly in terms of staff time and resources. Additionally, the current Children and Families Services Review has poorly designed and conflicting measures that create unattainable measures.</p> <p>The Extended Foster Care program allows foster youth to remain in Foster Care and receive benefits and services until age 21. Currently, many of the same mandates concerning supervision of children under 18 are applied to these adults, such as monthly visits to the place of residence. Conducting these visits when the residence is a dormitory or other communal living situation can create barriers to successful transition to adulthood and the maintenance of confidentiality.</p>	Support legislation and regulatory efforts that align the provisions of Extended Foster Care to the adult status of the non-minor dependent.
Preschool Services	Early Child Development Funding	<p>High-quality early childhood programs are essential to a child’s cognitive, academic, and social development. The current appropriation for the Early Head Start program in the County of San Bernardino funds enrollment for 358 infants and toddlers, however actual program enrollment was 37% higher than funded in 2013-14. Sufficient funding is necessary to provide superior early childhood education to low-income children birth to three years of age.</p>	Support legislation and budget actions that maintain or increase Federal funding of early child development programs.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Preschool Services	Head Start Designation Renewal System	<p>The Designated Renewal System (DRS) is designed to determine whether Head Start and Early Head Start grantees are providing high quality comprehensive services to the children and families in their communities. Where they are not, grantees are denied automatic renewal of their grant and must apply for funding renewal through an open competition process. The DRS needs to be integrated into the Head Start's ongoing monitoring systems for program improvement and a clear threshold to determine which grantees need to re-compete needs to be established.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that ensure that DRS measures capture both quantitative and qualitative data in order to address re-competition issues thoroughly.</p>
Preschool Services	Head Start Reauthorization	<p>The authorization for the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 expired in 2012. The administration has continued to implement the 2007 Act, but has yet to release Performance Standards that correspond to it and is still in the process of improving the Designation Renewal System. The Head Start program provides low-income families with services that improve the well-being of children in the areas of academic enrichment, social services, health and nutritional enrichment, and offer a safe classroom environment that enhances the diversity of its children. Much of the success of the children hinges on the ability to attract and maintain quality teachers. While Head Start continues to mandate that all teachers have a BA degree, we find out that the majority of Head Start teachers are paid less than half the salary of a public school kindergarten teacher. As teacher qualifications are being raised, so should teacher compensation be raised, with gradual increases over time to grantees to allow them to continue to recruit and retain qualified teachers.</p>	<p>Support legislation that reauthorizes the Head Start program and maintains Head Start's distinct role in improving early learning opportunities for low-income children birth to age five through and provides opportunities to attract and maintain qualified teachers.</p>

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Public Health	Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentages	The Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentages (FMAP), which is the federal match rate for Medicaid assistance costs, is determined based on per capita state income with higher match rates provided to states with lower per capita income relative to the national average. Despite the recent increase, California has remained at the statutory minimum of 50% since July 2011. California is one of sixteen states at this minimum funding level.	Support legislation, budget actions and regulatory efforts that will raise California's base FMAP.
Public Health	Federally Qualified Health Centers	More than 40% of the County's population lives below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) act as a "safety net" by providing primary care, mental health and dental services to low-income and uninsured residents. There are only 13 FQHCs or 1% of the State's 1,204 FQHCs operating in the County.	Support legislation, budget actions and regulatory efforts that will increase funding for new and existing FQHCs.
Public Health	Food Safety	The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that foodborne illness in the United States cause 3,000 deaths, 128,000 hospitalizations and 48 million illnesses annually, at a cost of billions of dollars. Significant numbers of outbreaks and recalled food products have shown that our food systems are fragile and that impurities at any step of production can have far reaching public health impacts.	Support legislation, budget actions and regulatory efforts that protect and ensure national food safety.
Public Health	Healthcare Disparities	According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, disparities are observed in most aspects of disease prevention and treatment, including care for mental health disorders and substance use,	Support legislation, budget actions and regulatory efforts that address equitable access to disease prevention, healthcare, safe communities, and education.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
		<p>HIV/AIDS, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, oral health conditions, maternal and child health, respiratory disease and end stage renal disease.</p>	
Public Health	<p>Medically Underserved Area/Populations</p>	<p>Medically Underserved Area/Populations (MUAs/MUPs) are generally defined by the federal government to include areas or population groups with a demonstrated shortage of personal health care services. This designation process was originally established to assist the federal government in allocating community health center grant funds to areas of greatest need.</p>	<p>Support legislative and regulatory efforts that increase MUA/MUPs designations in the County and redefining formulas that equitably distribute federal assistance and incentives to attract health care providers.</p>
Public Health	<p>Safe Drinking Water</p>	<p>Providing and ensuring an adequate supply of safe drinking water is essential. Ground and surface water sources are increasingly exposed to climatic conditions and environmental contaminants.</p>	<p>Support legislation, budget actions and regulatory efforts that protect and ensure the safety and adequacy of local water resources.</p>
Public Health	<p>Vector Control</p>	<p>With the constant threat of West Nile virus and the recent upsurge of invasive species in California such as <i>Aedes aegypti</i> (Yellow Fever mosquito) and <i>Aedes albopictus</i> (Asian Tiger mosquito), vector control agencies are increasingly called upon to use their financial resources to control and eradicate these threats.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that protect against invasive and harmful vectors.</p>
Transitional Assistance	<p>Federally Matched Data Sharing</p>	<p>Currently there is a restriction on sharing verified client information across programs. For instance, information necessary for Affordable Care Act (ACA) program eligibility, such as income and citizenship status that has been verified via the federal electronic verification system, cannot be used as verified information for Transitional</p>	<p>Support legislation that allows the use of federally matched program eligibility data to be used across federally funded programs.</p>

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
		<p>Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility determinations. The sharing of federally matched data could expedite application processing.</p>	
Transitional Assistance	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Reauthorization	<p>The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program expired on September 30, 2010. The program has received several extensions since then, but has yet to be reauthorized. The TANF program should be reauthorized with adequate funding, additional flexibility for states, and a continued emphasis on preparing clients for work, moving clients into employment and providing necessary supportive services to sustain employment. The original TANF block grant provided states the ability to develop programs to address the individual needs of their specific populations.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that strengthen the TANF program, including provisions for increased local flexibility and decreased federal penalties.</p>
Transitional Assistance	Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Welfare-to-Work (WtW)	<p>Federal regulations require states to provide services and activities to TANF WtW work eligible individuals (WEIs) needed to obtain employment, achieve family stability and reach self-sufficiency. Many critical services and activities approved by the State, such as mental health, GED and vocational education are not allowed to meet federal Work Participation Rates (WPR) or are allowed on a time-limited basis.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that allow state-approved WtW activities to count toward the federal WPR, and remove restrictive activity time limits.</p>
Veterans	Disability Compensation Benefits	<p>Under Section 101(13) of title 38, United States Code, disability “compensation” is a monthly payment made by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to a veteran as a result of a service-connected disability, or</p>	<p>Support legislation and regulatory efforts that will oppose changes to 38 U.S.C., that adversely impact disability compensation benefits.</p>

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Veterans	Prescriptions Written by Non-VA Physicians	<p>to a surviving spouse, child, or parent of a veteran because of the service-connected death of the veteran. The Individual Unemployability compensation benefit is based on the veteran's inability to maintain gainful employment due to service-connected disabilities. This benefit is intended to compensate veterans solely for the effects of a service-connected disability, and should not be modified to include age, retirement, or socioeconomic status as eligibility criteria.</p>	Support legislation and regulatory efforts that will authorize VA pharmacies to honor prescriptions written by non-VA physicians.
Veterans	Veterans Administration Information Systems	<p>County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs) are the first and most frequently utilized point of contact for veterans and their families. Currently CVSOs have limited access to information contained in the VA</p>	Support legislation and budget actions that will provide increased access for CVSOs to Veterans Affairs information systems for use in developing and monitoring claims submitted on behalf of veterans.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
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information systems. Allowing CVSOs access to the VA information systems would increase efficiencies as well as reduce the current and increasing backlog of claims. Additionally, allowing CVSOs unrestricted access to VA information systems would provide veterans with timelier access to federal benefits, thereby reducing workload at VA call centers.

Veterans	Veterans Medical Care: Means Testing	<p>The VA uses Means Tests as one of the factors in determining a veteran's eligibility for VA medical care. These income limitations have excluded some veterans, who would otherwise qualify for enrollment, from obtaining their primary healthcare through the VA. In light of the Affordable Care Act, veterans should be allowed to enroll and obtain their healthcare through the VA if they so choose.</p>	<p>Support legislation that would eliminate the Means Test for veterans to qualify for VA medical care.</p>
Veterans	Veterans Programs	<p>The VA administers programs in areas such as health care, financial assistance, housing and burial benefits to assist veterans who have sacrificed to serve their country. At the local level, County Veterans Service Offices strive to assist veterans as they navigate the often-frustrating process of securing claims and benefits to which they are entitled.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that will fully fund the federal responsibility to provide comprehensive veterans services.</p>

The overall safety and security of residents of the County remains a top priority. With California’s recent shifting of responsibility for the incarceration, supervision and monitoring of low-level offenders to counties, the County will continue to monitor its capacity to adequately transition inmates back into an already overburdened county rehabilitative system within given funding constraints. In addition, in light of historic fire devastation, comprehensive fire protection and emergency response is imperative for the safety of the residents and property of the County. Regional Public Safety communications interoperability is essential to responding effectively to emergencies occurring in and around the County of San Bernardino. The following are priority County Public Safety and First Responders legislative positions:

Public Safety and First Responder Funding and Operations

- Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) ensure the safety of the lives and property of County residents, law enforcement and first responders personnel; 2) provide adequate resources to deliver services; and/or 3) provide funding for information technology initiatives that improve coordination between multiple agencies at all levels of government.
- Oppose legislation and budget actions that: 1) reduce federal funding for public safety and first responders; 2) compromise the safety of the public, local law enforcement or first responder personnel; 3) prohibit law enforcement from receiving military surplus; and/or 4) impede the local law enforcement or first responders’ ability to deliver services.

Disaster Preparedness

- Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) enable the County to adequately plan for, respond to and receive reimbursement for disasters; and/or 2) provide continued and increased funding to counties and local governments to mitigate costs associated with helping communities prepare, respond and recover from all facets of disaster, acts of terrorism, and other catastrophic events.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
County Fire	Healthy Forest	With California experiencing a record-breaking drought, the potential for catastrophic wildfires remains high, and support for residents to protect life and property, while also enhancing forest health through fuel reduction.	Support legislation and budget actions that restore funding for the Forest Care program, or any program that provides similar support.
County Fire	Public Safety Regional Fire Training Center	The San Bernardino County Fire Protection District currently operates the Richard Sewell Training Center (RSTC) at the former Norton Air Force Base. The Training Division is responsible for supervising the training and education for all suppression firefighting personnel and is a California State Fire Training Certified Regional Training Center. Additionally, Fire Department and law	Support legislation and budget actions that fund the acquisition of a state-of-the-art public safety regional training center facility to accommodate the didactic and manipulative fire training needs of the region.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
		<p>enforcement personnel from many other agencies throughout Southern California receive training at RSTC. The lease for the facility at San Bernardino International Airport is set to expire in 2016. Consequently, plans for a new facility need to be considered. The acquisition of a state of the art facility that can accommodate multiple classrooms, fleet maintenance and services, material management, outdoor training activities to include training towers, live-fire simulators with a water recovery system and related rescue props with a large area suitable for ladder, ventilation and hose evolutions is required. This area would also include sufficient parking, essential to ensure the long-term viability of the program. The estimated cost of this project is \$18 million.</p>	
County Fire	Railroad Safety	<p>Shipments of crude oil by rail have increased substantially, due to the advancement of technologies that have opened up productive areas of the United States where there is little or inadequate pipeline infrastructure. The oil being pumped from certain formations is known to be more volatile than other forms of crude oil, posing a significant safety hazard. San Bernardino County is a major hub for rail traffic, and there have been significant rail accidents in the past.</p>	Support legislation and administrative actions that improve the safety of the rail system, especially the safety of transporting crude oil by rail.
County Fire	Unfunded Fire Protection Areas	<p>More than 80 percent of the County's land area is part of the federal estate, and as such, does not contribute to the tax base, while the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District provides services to these "unfunded fire protection areas," including expansive areas of the Mojave Desert. Major highways across these lands include</p>	Support legislation and budget actions that fund staffing, operations and maintenance of County fire department operations within federally owned areas such as the Interstate 15 and 40 corridors through Bureau of Land

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
		Interstates 15 and 40, with other highways, including State Routes 58, 62, 95, 127 and 395, all traversing public lands and requiring public services across long distances for major traffic accidents, medical aids, fires and other emergencies. Over recent decades, hundreds of thousands of acres of private lands have been turned over to the federal government for conservation and as mitigation for impacts to species and habitats required as a result of development, further eroding the County's tax base even as the demand for services has increased.	Management and National Park lands. Funding for this need and activity is additional justification for removing funding caps from the PILT program. If caps were removed, funds would be available to the County without separate legislative authorization or appropriation.
Sheriff	Active Shooter/Mass Casualty Training	Since 2004, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department (SBCSD), Rancho Cucamonga Station and Rancho Cucamonga Fire District (RCFD) have been working together to create innovative methods to improve our response to mass casualty events. The teams have spent hundreds of hours developing and refining their organization's tactical response and Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) in an active shooter /mass casualty environment in order to treat victims in a timely manner. SBCSD has begun working with the San Bernardino County Fire Department to take this training program county-wide. This endeavor will require dedicated staffing and specialized equipment, both of which are beyond current budget constraints.	Support legislation and budget actions that support active shooter/mass casualty training.
Sheriff	Cal-ID AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System)	The Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) is a biometric identification methodology that uses digital imaging technology to obtain, store, and analyze fingerprint data. The Riverside/San Bernardino County AFIS first went operational in 1986 when the CAL-ID network was inceptioned.	Support legislation or budget actions to support the Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Sheriff	State Criminal Alien Assistance Program	<p>Riverside and San Bernardino counties combined to create a regional program, which now has more than 50 member agencies and access to several other AFIS databases, allowing the system to search more than 50 million fingerprint records.</p> <p>Since the last full overhaul in 2007, technology has improved tenfold and the Riverside/San Bernardino CAL-ID AFIS is in need of upgrading again. Planning, building, customization, and installation of a system of this size can take up to two years. The estimated cost is \$3.7 million, which exceeds current CAL-ID revenue streams. Tentative plans are to house the system at the Riverside County Dispatch Center in downtown Riverside and the High Desert Government Center in Hesperia. Plans have also been incorporated into the sales agreement to upgrade hardware as technology advances.</p> <p>The State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) provides federal payments to states and localities that incur correctional officer salary costs for incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens with at least one felony or two misdemeanor convictions for violations of state or local law for at least four consecutive days during the reporting period. In San Bernardino County, the 2014 SCAAP award was 3% of actual costs spent to house immigration offenders, federal reimbursement was \$478,472 and actual County costs were \$15.2 million.</p>	Support continuance and increase of funding available to counties to mitigate costs associated with the incarceration of undocumented aliens.

With over two million residents located throughout the 20,000 square miles of San Bernardino County, housing, land use and transportation are vital to the safety of the public, the region’s economic development and the movement of goods and services. Areas of policy development included in this section consist of housing, community development, regional planning, land use, environmental impacts, renewable energy development and transportation. The various departments in this section provide services ranging from housing, planning, and environmental impact mitigation to transportation. For a listing of transportation projects of significant County and regional importance please see Appendix A. The following are priority County Housing, Land Use and Transportation legislative positions:

Housing

- Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) restore, protect, and increase funding to provide affordable housing; 2) create economic initiatives; 3) provide adequate funding to counties to address housing and community development needs; and/or 4) provide for local control and increased flexibility in program administration.

Land Use

- Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) promote local authority to adopt or plan for orderly growth and development; 2) increase local control and regulatory authority over land use, zoning, renewable energy, subdivisions and annexations; 3) make the preservation of farmland and land suitable for farming economically feasible for property owners and local government; and/or 4) makes amendments to streamline the NEPA process.
- Oppose legislation that: 1) erodes local land use authority; 2) uses climate change policy as a vehicle to restrict or remove local land use authority; and/or 3) imposes unfunded land use and general plan related mandates.

Transportation Operations and Infrastructure

- Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) mitigate the impacts of freight and congestion on the County’s residents; and/or 2) improve the County’s ability to expand, improve and maintain its infrastructure.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Community Development and Housing	Community Development Block Grant	Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money provides decent housing, suitable living environments, homelessness prevention, expanded economic opportunities, quality public services, and public facilities that principally serve low and moderate-income persons in the County of San Bernardino. The County experienced a reduction in funding of 22% from FY 10/11 to FY 14/15. Prior year reductions of CDBG funding levels have been a detriment to the residents in the County who have been impacted through the reduction of much needed services	Support legislation and budget actions that restore, enhance and protect CDBG funding.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Community Development and Housing	HOME Investment Partnership Program	<p>and programs. This program, along with the HOME Program, serves as the nation’s primary vehicle through which local governments address housing and community development needs.</p> <p>The HOME Investment Partnership Program serves individuals and households earning 80% or less than the area median income established by HUD, who reside within the County of San Bernardino HOME Consortium area. Funding is used to provide affordable housing to low-moderate income households by creating housing for seniors, improving the housing stock, and removing impediments to housing. The County experienced a reduction in funding of 42% from FY 10/11 to FY 14/15. Prior year reductions have been a detriment to the residents of the County’s HOME Consortium area, including the unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County and the cooperating cities of Adelanto, Barstow, Big Bear Lake, Chino Hills, Colton, Grand Terrace, Highland, Loma Linda, Montclair, Needles, Rancho Cucamonga, Rialto, Twentynine Palms, Yucaipa, and the Town of Yucca Valley. This program, along with the CDBG Program, serves as the nation’s primary vehicle through which local governments address housing and community development needs.</p>	Support legislation and budget actions that restore, enhance and protect HOME funding.
Land Use	California Desert and Recreation	<p>Legislation is expected in the 114th Congress which would establish two National Monuments within San Bernardino County, and add to existing Congressionally dedicated wilderness areas within the County. Versions of the bill introduced in previous sessions of Congress were praised for their efforts to establish public activities and outdoor recreational use as priorities. Specifically</p>	<p>Support legislative efforts that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designate permanent off-highway vehicle recreational areas, including Dumont Dunes. -Seek funding support to upgrade the National Trails Highway which would assure maintenance of its

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Land Use	Management of Federally Designated Wild Lands	<p>they provided for formal designation and legislative protection for the open Off-Highway Vehicle areas within the County, with the notable exception of Dumont Dunes. However, concerns were also raised regarding the potential locking up of areas that may have potential for mining, energy production or other economic or recreational uses. In addition, creation of a National Monument with National Trails Highway (Old Route 66) as its centerpiece could lead to increased traffic, which would accelerate the deterioration of more than 100 timber trestle bridges, most of which were built approximately 80 years ago. The County in 2014 reduced the weight limit for a number of bridges on National Trails Highway due to safety concerns. Separately, there is a proposal by some members of Congress who request that the President designate a National Monument by executive order in the San Gabriel Mountains, including the portion within San Bernardino County.</p> <p>The Secretary of the Interior issued Secretarial Order 3310, which created a new category of land management on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered public lands to be designated "Wild Lands." In essence, the order creates a new round of wilderness inventory and creates a category of wilderness management by administrative designation absent Congressional direction, oversight or enactment. Extending wilderness management to lands that have not been placed in the National Wilderness System by Congress will further limit development and outdoor recreation opportunities without public input or Congressional oversight and enactment.</p>	<p>historical integrity, and seek regulatory relief to streamline replacement of aging bridges along the Highway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Any proposal for designation of a national monument within the County must include a robust public outreach and consider input from all affected stakeholders. -In any potential change of designation on Federal lands, support continued access such that the County or the State may explore for deposits of mineral materials necessary for present and future maintenance of infrastructure, including roads that traverse public lands, subject to applicable regulations. <p>Support legislative efforts that rescind Secretarial Order 3310, and assure that if additional public lands are placed in the National Wilderness System that it is done with direct input from affected local governments with full Congressional oversight.</p>

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Land Use	Mining Law Reform	<p>Mining activities under current law remain an important source of employment and investment within San Bernardino County. The County regulates approximately 100 mines, which produce a wide variety of materials from aggregates necessary for construction, to rare earth elements (found only in this County and a few other places on the planet) which are essential for many of the high-tech products that are now indispensable to modern life. The mining industry also supports high-paying jobs, which are critical in a County with continuing high unemployment and underemployment, and a largely blue-collar workforce. Local production of materials such as aggregates, cement and iron are necessary to support economic growth, expansion of infrastructure and to limit costs and minimize greenhouse gas emissions. The County can ill-afford any attempts that would curtail those operations from continuing at their current levels.</p>	<p>Oppose legislation changing the current Mining Law of 1872 as amended and legislation that provides for withdrawal of public land areas from the operation of current mining laws.</p>
Land Use	National Park Service Advisory Commissions	<p>There is no formal forum for citizen input to National Park Service (NPS) programs. National Park units operate autonomously and independently and there is currently little official contact among NPS leadership and management personnel and County officials. Further, there is no regular contact between the public and National Park Service leadership. Reauthorization of the Commissions and broadening of the charters would serve as a springboard for increased communication and partnership on the many activities about which there are common interests, such as recreation access, the County transportation system, economic promotion, fire management, and the County's continuing interest in its infrastructure within the three Park Service Units.</p>	<p>Support legislation and regulatory actions that re-activate the Advisory Commissions for Death Valley National Park, Mojave National Preserve and Joshua Tree National Park, and broaden the charters of each to provide for Commission input on planning and resource management proposals and actions, to serve as a forum for citizen input on NPS programs and management and as an advisory body to seek resolution of conflicts within the NPS units.</p>

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Land Use	Right-of-Way Access to and Through Federal Land	<p>Virtually all public access to and through public lands within the desert and mountain regions of San Bernardino County was developed and authorized under the provisions of R.S. 2477, a component of the Mining Law of 1866 that provided access across public lands to promote development of the West. There was no specific legislative authorization per se; construction of the “highway” created the right-of-way. Unfortunately, there has never been an adjudication of qualifying routes, nor recordation on the official title plats maintained by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for all federal lands nationally. Over the past decade, there has been an ongoing policy vacuum regarding the recognition of such rights-of-way. This is particularly the case with respect to the more remote and smaller access routes leading to mines, wildlife waters and guzzlers that require periodic maintenance, livestock facilities, and informal recreation sites. Congress repealed R.S. 2477 in 1976 as part of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). However, they left in place all rights-of-way that had been created and recognized (and, in effect, granted) under the provisions of the repealed legislation. San Bernardino County has historically supported the retention of rights-of-way under R.S. 2477 for existing routes to assure non-closure by federal land management agencies.</p>	<p>Support legislation and regulatory efforts that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retain rights-of-way under R.S. 2477 for existing routes, and provide for assertions under its provisions to assure non-closure by federal land management agencies. - Adopt and implement regulations clarifying its policies regarding valid existing rights under R.S. 2477 in which BLM, the Forest Service, and Park Service would recognize such routes when asserted by local governments for all such access routes. - Limit the federal land management agencies to the exercise of ministerial function of recording such rights-of-way for existing routes when asserted, in which they would simply determine validity under R.S. 2477 provisions for routes constructed prior to 1976, and recording such on the official records of the United States. The County recognizes that new or re-aligned routes must be covered under current Title V right-of-way authorizing procedures

The San Bernardino County Flood Control District is responsible for the development, management of a complex system of flood control facilities consisting of 151 miles of levees, 226 miles of flood control channels, 40 miles of storm drains and 120 debris, detention and percolation basins. The purpose of these facilities is to intercept, attenuate and/or convey flood flows through and away from the major developed areas of the County. Many of these sites also provide habitat for wildlife and open space for recreational use. The District provides emergency services during storm events, reviews Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps and provides flood plain management. It is a part of the District’s mission to promote groundwater recharge in its facilities in support of maintaining adequate water supplies for the people of San Bernardino County. For a listing of flood control projects of significant County and regional importance please see Appendix B. The following are priority San Bernardino County Flood Control District legislative positions:

Environmental Quality

- Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) promote environmentally and economically sound management of solid waste; and/or 2) assist the County and local jurisdictions by removing unnecessary barriers and costs associated with compliance for environmental regulations.

Environmental Permit Streamlining

- Support legislation to assist County Flood Control District and local jurisdictions by removing unnecessary barriers and costs associated with compliance for environmental regulations.

Flood Control Funding and Operations

- Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) fund the planning, construction, operation and maintenance of watershed management or flood control projects; 2) promote environmentally-friendly flood control improvements; 3) promote the use of low impact development to mitigate storm water and urban runoff; and/or 4) provide funding or services to mitigate the impact of run-off and debris flows from unmaintained federal lands into both private property and the flood control system.

Water Quality

- Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) maintain or improve upon the supply of adequate potable water; 2) fund treatment or removal of pollutants of concern; and/or 3) ensure national water safety.

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Flood Control	Clean Water Act Amendment	The Clean Water Act was enacted to prevent and reduce the contamination of water. The resource agencies’ interpretations of Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act have limited the ability of local agencies to maintain their facilities. Flood control districts have been impacted the most by this narrow interpretation, since they have not been allowed to implement routine maintenance or clean out flood control and water spreading facilities. These	Support legislative and regulatory efforts that: -Exempt regular maintenance of existing flood control, water spreading and other public facilities from the Clean Water Act. -Waive mitigation requirements for maintenance of existing flood control facilities. Impose action timeframes

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facilities must be cleared and repaired before the start of the normal storm season, which begins October 15th. The consequences of not having these facilities ready for the storm season can result in unnecessary risk to life and property.

on the USACOE for the 404 permitting process and allow for an automatic approval under the terms of the application should the response timeframe not be met.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires prior authorization from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACOE) for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U. S., including wetlands. The term “discharge of dredged material” means any addition of dredged material into, including redeposit of dredged material other than incidental fall back within, the waters of the United States. We must apply for a ‘404 permit’ for most of the District’s capital improvement projects. Currently there is no mandated timeframe for action on the permit request by the USACOE that would result in an automatic approval if no action is taken. This causes extreme delays in project implementation.

Flood Control

Endangered Species Act Amendment

The purpose of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is to provide a means for conserving the ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened species depend and a program for the conservation of such species. The ESA directs all Federal agencies to participate in conserving these species. Specifically, section 7 (a)(1) of the ESA charges Federal agencies to aid in the conservation of listed species, and section 7 (a)(2) requires the agencies, through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), to ensure that their activities are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitats.

Support Legislation that would impose action timeframes on USFWS to complete the ESA Section 10 consultation process similar to what is used for the section 7 consultation and allow for an automatic approval under the terms of the application should the response timeframe not be met.

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		<p>Everyone has to comply with Section 7 Consultation when a federal nexus on a project exists. A section 7 consultation with the USFWS has a 90-day timeframe with an additional 45 days allowed for the USFWS to write a Biological Opinion. Without a federal nexus, the District must comply with ESA Section 10 permitting requirements which do not mandate a response timeframe from USFWS to respond to the request. This causes severe delays in our ability to implement projects which do not utilize federal funding or have some other federal nexus.</p>	<p>Support legislation that addresses revising the USACOE vegetation policy for levees in arid regions.</p>
Flood Control	FEMA Levee Certification Program	<p>The underlying issue is that FEMA uses a one size fits all approach for evaluating the stability of levees without regard to the configuration and makeup of the levee and the climate and topography where it exist. We don't have the extended periods of inundation against our levees that you see in the Sacramento Delta area or in New Orleans, yet our levees our held to the same design standard which results in an unnecessary expense to local jurisdictions.</p>	<p>Support legislation and/or policy changes that recognize the climatic differences in the hydrology and develop a set of design criteria based on the type of storm events that occur in a region and provide funding for the reconstruction of levees that cannot be certified under current FEMA regulations.</p>
Flood Control	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Levee Vegetation Policy	<p>The USACOE vegetation policy allows no trees or shrubs on levees, some of which were included in the original construction. This policy may make sense in areas of prolonged flows against the levee, but makes no sense in the arid west due to the flashy nature of our storm events. Resource agencies are opposed to the removal of vegetation and local jurisdictions are caught in the middle.</p>	<p>Support legislation that addresses revising the USACOE vegetation policy for levees in arid regions.</p>
Flood Control	Upper Santa Ana River Wash	<p>The County and County Flood Control District are members of the Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management and Habitat Conservation Plan Task Force. The Task Force, made up of cities, mining interests, state and federal resource agencies and local</p>	<p>Support legislative or administrative actions to facilitate the land exchange between BLM and the Water Conservation District, and any legislative, administrative</p>

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		<p>water agencies, is developing a comprehensive management plan and Habitat Conservation Plan covering approximately 4,500 acres of the Upper Santa Ana River Wash. The plan will accommodate the mining of aggregate, water conservation and flood control, habitat for threatened and endangered species, transportation and utility corridors, and trails for recreation. A land exchange between the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District is an additional component of the HCP. It is anticipated that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the HCP and land exchange could be complete in 2015.</p>	<p>or budget actions that support completion of the Wash Plan.</p>
Flood Control	Waters of the United States Definition	<p>The U.S. EPA and Army Corps of Engineers have undertaken a rulemaking process that may lead to a greatly expanded definition of “waters of the United States,” which in turn could put many projects, now regulated under state and local laws, under jurisdiction of the federal Clean Water Act.</p>	<p>Oppose any regulatory or legislative actions that would expand federal jurisdiction into areas of water quality and supply already effectively regulated under state and local laws.</p>
Solid Waste	Perchlorate Clean Up	<p>Groundwater in the Rialto Colton Basin is contaminated with perchlorate and other chemicals. There are multiple alleged source areas for this contamination, including the Rockets, Fireworks, and Flares (RFF) Site on the east side of the Basin and the County’s Mid-Valley Sanitary Landfill Unit 5 Expansion Property and Stonehurst Site on the west side of the Basin. These source areas have created two separate and distinct perchlorate plumes in the basin, known as the Eastern Plume and Western Plume. Under state regulatory agency oversight, the County has taken the lead with respect to addressing the Western Plume. The U.S. EPA has taken the lead with respect to the Eastern Plume. The County supports the EPA listing of the RFF Site and its efforts to address the contamination in the Eastern Plume area.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that will assist the public entities’ efforts to clean up impacts created by the existence of perchlorate contamination to soil and groundwater.</p>

San Bernardino County’s large geographical area covers nearly every recreational niche, from desert landscape to alpine lakes. The County also contains many institutions of higher education and exhibits a unique cultural and historical background that enriches residents and visitors alike. Areas of policy development include museums, libraries, parks and recreation. The following are priority County Cultural, Educational and Recreational legislative positions:

Quality of Life

- Support legislation, proposals and budget actions that: 1) provide residents with access to County facilities that promote knowledge, education, lifelong learning, recreation/leisure and cultural enrichments; 2) preserve, protect and conserve the County’s natural and historical land resources and infrastructure; 3) provide funding and increased grant opportunities for services that enhance the quality of life for County residents; and/or 4) balance economic development and environmental stewardship.
- Oppose legislation, proposals and budget actions that require the provision of services without adequate funding.

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Regional Parks	Calico Ghost Town	Calico Ghost Town and former mining town is a globally recognized historical and educational site set in the heart of San Bernardino County. Located in the Mojave Desert near Barstow and Yermo, Calico was designated the official California State Silver Rush Ghost town in 2005, and prior to its present status had been designated a State Historic Landmark. The park draws a substantial number of worldwide visitors year-round, and continually has a significantly positive economic impact on local communities and the County. With aging infrastructure, however, renovations are needed to preserve critical facilities and maintain the economic, educational, recreational, and historical value of this international treasure.	Support legislation and budget actions that will provide funding for the Calico facility, infrastructure, maintenance, replacement, and improvements.

Alabama Street/Interstate 10 Interchange	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist in funding the widening and interchange improvement at Alabama Street. This project is estimated to cost \$42 million.
Arrowbear Drive Realignment and Widening	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to remove and replace the bridge/spillway, realign and widen the road to improve traffic safety and provide easier access in an emergency. This project is estimated to cost \$3 million.
Cedar Avenue/I-10 Interchange	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist in funding the widening and interchange improvement of Cedar Avenue. This project is estimated to cost \$61 million.
Glen Helen Parkway Bridge Over the Cajon Wash	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to construct an all-weather crossing of the Cajon Wash. This project is estimated to cost \$19.85 million.
Grove Avenue/I-10 Interchange	Support legislation and budget actions that fund the construction of the Grove Avenue/I-10 Interchange. This project is estimated to cost \$130 million.
Helendale Road Paving Project	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to pave Helendale Road, currently a dirt road with one lane in each direction within existing right-of-way from Colusa Road within the City of Victorville north to Silver Lakes Road. This project is estimated to cost \$14 million.
High Desert Corridor	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority's governance and oversight of a Public Private Partnership for the planning, programming, design, construction, maintenance and operation of a multi-jurisdictional corridor connecting inland ports in Victorville and Palmdale and costs associated with project development. This project is estimated to cost \$3.5 billion.
Institution Road: Glen Helen Rehabilitation Facility to Cajon Boulevard	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to create an all-weather access road for the Glen Helen Rehabilitation Facility, by constructing pipes, arch culverts or other bridge structures acceptable to U.S. Fish and Wildlife, CA Department of Fish & Wildlife and USACOE. This project is estimated to cost \$20 million.
LA Mesa/Nisqualli Yucca Loma Corridor	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to construct a four-lane Yucca Loma Bridge over the Mojave River in the Town of Apple Valley, widen Yates Road to four lanes in the County area, and construct the Green Tree Boulevard in Victorville. This project is estimated to cost \$101 million.
National Trails Highway Bridge Replacement Project	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist in 100% funding of the design and replacement of 129 trestle bridges on National Trails Highway with AASHTO approved timber trestle bridges. This project is estimated to cost \$52 million.

Needles Highway (Project 1)	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to realign and construct Needles Highway, within the City of Needles, between Interstate 40 and the northern city limit. This project is estimated to cost \$80 million.
Needles Highway (Project 2)	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to realign and construct Needles Highway, within the City of Needles, between Interstate 40 and the northern city limit (which adjoins the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation boundary) to a two-lane road minimizing horizontal curves and vertical dips, provide drainage improvements and add turn pockets at intersections. This project is estimated to cost \$15 million.
Oro Grande Overpass	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to improve the existing grade separation for National Trails Highway under the BNSF and Union Pacific rail tracks at Oro Grande. This project is estimated to cost \$29 million.
Phelan Road	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to construct a four-lane road on existing alignment of a two-lane paved road between Mesa Linda Street and State Highway 138. This project is estimated to cost \$35 million.
Piute Wash Bridge Project	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to construct a four-lane road on existing alignment of a two-lane paved road between Mesa Linda Street and State Highway 138. This project is estimated to cost \$35 million.
Rock Springs Road Bridge Project	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to construct a four-lane road bridge across the Mojave River on the Rock Springs Road alignment. This project is estimated to cost \$30 million.
Shadow Mountain Road	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to construct a four-lane road from National Trails Highway west to Helendale Road, including a grade separation at the BNSF railroad tracks and a four-lane bridge over the Mojave River to complete the logical connection to Shadow Mountain Road. This project is estimated to cost \$50 million.
State Street/State Route 210 to Cajon Boulevard	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to construct a four-lane road on existing alignment between State Route 210 and grade separation at Cajon Boulevard. This project is estimated to cost \$20 million.
Wild Wash Road	Support legislation and budget actions that assist with funding to construct a two-lane paved road from I-15 west to Helendale on an alignment currently served by an unpaved road. This project is estimated to cost \$25 million.

Bandicoot Basin Flood Protection, Water Quality and Water Recharge Project	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to mitigate the additional flows generated by upstream development and safely convey flows to the existing aqueduct over-crossings. This project would be a three- stage phasing project with the intent to attenuate the flows upstream and minimize the impact to the Department of Water Resources' California Aqueduct. This project is estimated to cost \$18.5 million.
Cable Creek Flood Protection Project	Support legislation and budget actions that will provide improvements to the levee system at Cable Creek. In 2008, it was found to not meet the freeboard and erosion requirements to obtain FEMA certification. This project is estimated to cost \$20 million.
Comprehensive Storm Drain 3-5/3-8 Flood Protection Project	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding the flood protection project. This system protects residences, commercial properties and major transportation corridors including Interstate Highway 10. The County Flood Control District is coordinating with the City of Colton on this project. This project is estimated to cost \$21 million.
Deer Creek Basin Flood Protection Project	Support legislation and budget actions to expand the basin to 310 acre-feet, standard capacity for USACOE facilities. This project is estimated to cost \$6.2 million.
Desert Knolls Wash Flood Protection and Water Quality Project	Support legislation and budget actions for improvements to Desert Knolls that will provide flood protection and water quality needed in the area. This project is estimated to cost \$30 million.
Elder Creek Flood Protection Project	Support legislation and budget actions to reduce future flood events in Elder Creek. This project is estimated to cost \$5.7 million.
Lytle-Cajon Basin Flood Protection, Water Quality and Water Conservation Study	Support legislation and budget actions to study the use and function of the inlet gate on the Lytle-Cajon Channel and the potential for a debris basin upstream to help reduce future damage and maintenance needs. The study will find a long term solution to the channel's maintenance needs. This project is estimated to cost \$4 million.
Lytle-Cajon Channel Flood Protection Project	Support legislation and budget action for the repair of the wear and tear along the channel. This project is estimated to cost \$6 million.
Mission Zanja Flood Protection, Water Quality and Water Conservation Project	Support legislation and budget actions to develop a project along the Mission Zanja system. The project will provide flood protection, water quality improvement, and will allow for water recharge. The Mission Zanja system has been studied by the USACOE. This project is estimated to cost \$6 million.
Mojave Forks Dam Flood Protection and Water Conservation Project	Support legislation and budget actions for the engineering and construction of gates at the dam outlet and dam modification to increase storage capacity of the existing dam. This project is estimated to cost \$50 million.

Mojave Levee Phase II Flood Protection Project	Support legislation and budget actions to extend the Mojave River Levee Phase I up to the Oro Grande Wash Box in the High Desert area. The project will reduce flood potential in the area. This project is estimated to cost \$1.3 million.
Mojave River Floodplain Study	Support legislation and budget actions to identify the extent of the floodplain for the Mojave River. This study is especially needed due to changing conditions in the river and recent flooding events. The Mojave River flooding can affect major rail road lines going out of state, Interstate 15 Freeway and various utility lines. This project is estimated to cost \$4 million.
Mojave River Fluvial Geomorphologic Study	Support legislation and budget actions to provide for a fluvial geomorphologic study of the Mojave River that identifies what the hydrology and sediment transport processes is needed to update the current Mojave River Floodplain to maintain and, when needed, improve portions of the Mojave River. Maintenance Plan. This project is estimated to cost \$2 million.
Ranchero Basin Flood Protection, Water Quality and Water Conservation Project	Support legislation and budget actions to provide increased flood protection to the developing High Desert. The priority facility for flood protection is along Antelope Wash. This project is estimated to cost \$23.7 million.
Rialto Channel Flood Protection Project	Support legislation and budget actions to reduce the potential for major flooding along the project site and preserve the safety and well-being of both life and structures. This project is estimated to cost \$30 million.
Sand and Warm Creeks Flood Protection Project	Support legislation and budget actions that will provide for improvements that will reduce the potential for major flooding along the project site and preserve the safety and well-being of both life and structures. This project is estimated to cost \$3.23 million.
Santa Ana River Mainstem Flood Protection Project	Support legislation and budget actions that will provide subvention funds to assist with completing the Santa Ana River Mainstem Flood Protection Project, in conjunction with the USACOE to provide valuable flood control features for over 3 million people living within the Santa Ana River watershed and floodplain. Completion of all of the features will provide (a) necessary flood protection within Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties; (b) enhancement and preservation of marshlands and wetlands for endangered waterfowl, fish and wildlife species; (c) recreational amenities; and (d) floodplain management of the 30 miles of Santa Ana River between Seven Oaks Dam and Prado Dam. This project is estimated to cost \$48 million.
Twin Creek Levee Flood Protection Project	Support legislation and budget actions to improve the levee system at Twin Creek so the facility may be certified but it would also take a number of commercial and residential areas out of a floodplain. This project is estimated to cost \$2.7 million.

U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers
- San Timoteo Loan

Support legislation and budget actions to forgive the San Timoteo loan in order to provide for the completion of additional important flood protection projects. This project is estimated to cost \$6 million.

West Fontana Channel Flood
Protection, Water Quality and
Water Recharge Project

Support legislation and budget actions that will provide flood protection to the Fontana area and to the adjacent railroad lines with the West Fontana Channel Flood Protection, Water Quality and Water Conservation Project. This is a joint project between the County Flood Control District and the City of Fontana. The Chino Basin Watermaster and the Inland Empire Utility Agency will also benefit from this project. This project is estimated to cost \$25 million.

West State Street Storm Drain
Flood Protection Project

Support legislation and budget actions to provide flood protection to a system that connects to the USACOE's San Antonio Channel. This project is estimated to cost \$12.3 million.

Wildwood Creek Flood Protec-
tion and Water Quality Project

Support legislation and budget actions to reduce the potential flood hazard along the system between the basins and Interstate Highway 10. This project is estimated to cost \$6 million.