

County of **2014**
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 2014.

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 2014 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.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Robert Lovingood
First District Supervisor

Janice Rutherford
Chair
Second District Supervisor

James Ramos
Third District Supervisor

Gary Ovitt
Vice Chair
Fourth District Supervisor

Josie Gonzales
Fifth District Supervisor

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Gregory C. Devereaux

County of San Bernardino
**Governmental and Legislative
Affairs**

385 North Arrowhead Ave., 5th Fl.
San Bernardino, CA 92415

(909) 387-4821 • Phone
(909) 387-5430 • Fax

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- Local Control of Ontario Airport 1
- Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Reauthorization..... 1
- Payment in Lieu of Taxes Equity and Full Funding 1
- Tax Exempt Status of Muncipal Bonds 1
- Water Resource Development Act Reauthorization 2
- Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization 2

LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS AND POLICY STATEMENTS FOR GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Economic Development Agency

- Buy America..... 3

LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS AND POLICY STATEMENTS FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- Health Care Administration.....4

Aging and Adult Services

- Long-Term Care Maintenance Needs 5
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program..... 5

Arrowhead Regional Medicial Center

- Disproportionate Share Hospital Funding..... 5

Behavioral Health

- Federal Funding for Integrated Treatment.....6
- Homeless Assistance Program.....6
- Institutions for Mental Disease Medicaid Reimbursement6
- Medical University Residencies.....7

Children and Family Services

- Extended Foster Care Services 7
- Foster Care Services 8
- Streamlining Child Welfare Services 8
- Supervision of Non-Minor-Dependents 8

Public Health

- Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentages..... 9
- Federally Qualified Health Centers..... 9
- Food Safety.....9
- Healthcare Disparities..... 10
- Health Professional Shortage in Medically Underserved Area/Population.....10
- Safe Drinking Water.....10
- Vector Control 10

Transitional Assistance

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Reauthorization 11

Veterans Affairs

- Disability Compensation Benefits.....11
- Prescriptions Written by Non-VA Physicians.....11
- Veterans Administration Information System..... 12
- Veterans Program.....12
- VA Medical Care: Means Testing.....13

LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS AND POLICY STATEMENTS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND FIRST RESPONDERS

County Fire

- Public Safety Regional Fire Training Center.....14
- Unfunded Fire Protection Areas.....14

Forest Care

- Healthy Forest.....15

Sheriff

- Cal-ID Automated Fingerprint Identification System..... 16
- Scientific Investigations Division Program Funding 18
- State Criminal Alien Assistance Program Funding 18

LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS AND POLICY STATEMENTS FOR HOUSING, LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION

Community Development and Housing

- Community Development Block Grant.....20
- HOME Investment Partnership Program.....21

Land Use

- California Desert and Recreation..... 22
- Management of Federally Designated Wild Lands..... 22
- Mining Law Reform..... 23
- Mitigation for Impacts Resulting from Renewable Energy Development Projects..... 25
- National Parks Service Advisory Commissions..... 25
- Right-of-Way Access To and Through Federal Land..... 25

LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS AND POLICY STATEMENTS FOR FLOOD CONTROL, WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Flood Control

- Clean Water Act Amendment..... 27
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Levee Vegetation Policy..... 28
- Waters of the United States Definition..... 28

Solid Waste

• Perchlorate Contamination..... 28

LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS AND POLICY STATEMENTS FOR CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES

Regional Parks

• Calico Ghost Town..... 29

APPENDIX A:

• Transportation Projects of Significant County and Regional Importance 30

APPENDIX B:

• Flood Control Projects of Significant County and Regional Importance 33

The legislative priorities section establishes the County's goals, and outlines the legislative agenda for the current year

LOCAL CONTROL OF ONTARIO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Inland Empire has taken a tremendous economic hit over the past five 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 AHEAD FOR PROGRESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY REAUTHORIZATION

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century, the federal transportation reauthorization bill, was signed into law on July 6, 2012, after several years of SAFETEA-LU continuing resolutions. The bill is a two-year \$105 billion surface transportation reauthorization.

The County will work with the Congressional delegation and local stakeholders to advocate for: 1) dedicated funding authorization for national freight and goods movement; 2) the protection of current transportation revenues and accelerated national investment in transportation infrastructure; and 3) a dedicated funding stream for preventive maintenance on, and replacement of bridges.

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

In San Bernardino County, a significant amount of land is outside the governing control of local jurisdictions and managed by federal agencies. A major legislative challenge for San Bernardino County, as in all western counties, is the necessity for full funding of Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and equity in the formula allocation. PILT are federal payments to local governments that 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; 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; and 4) oppose legislation that would raise the PILT formula above 10,000 persons from the current 5,000 unless the population factor is completely removed.

TAX EXEMPT STATUS OF MUNICIPAL BONDS

In San Bernardino County, municipal bonds have made possible the construction of major 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 recently completed 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.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT REAUTHORIZATION

The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) authorizes water resources projects and policies for navigation, flood control, hydropower, recreation, water supply and emergency management for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. WRDA has been traditionally authorized every two years; however, it has not been enacted into law since 2007.

The County will work with the Congressional delegation and other local agencies to support legislation and budget actions that: 1) create a long-term investment for water resources navigation, flood control and environmental restoration; and 2) prioritize federal funding for counties that have dramatic flood control impacts from unmaintained federal lands.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT REAUTHORIZATION

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) was signed into law in 1998, and authorized for a five-year period to induce businesses to participate in the local delivery of workforce development services. WIA has not been reauthorized since 2003 and has been funded by continuing resolutions from Congress pending reauthorization. Last year, the County of San Bernardino Local Workforce Investment Board, which has a membership majority of private business representatives and public partners, worked to fill 4,500 job openings, provided 2,400 employers with essential services such as subsidized and on-the-job training programs, and business consulting, layoff aversion, employee recruitments and hiring assistance.

The County will work with the Congressional delegation, associations and local stakeholders to support the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act to include: 1) continued local control; 2) greater engagement with local area employers to provide business retention, on-the-job training, job placement services, and offset business closures through layoff prevention services; 3) continued funding of career centers and other programs such as Individual Training Accounts that provide customer choice for occupational training, career pathway programs to meet strategic planning goals, and build a workforce customized to meet local demand and emerging sectors; and 4) continued support of career growth and employment advancement opportunities to meet local economic development needs in accord with the Countywide Vision.

The County of San Bernardino’s mission is to provide services that promote the health, safety, well-being and quality of life for its residents. Effective partnerships between the County and federal agencies are essential to adequately finance these 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.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Health Care 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 by 2025 the United States will be	Support legislation and budget actions that will increase the number of qualified medical professionals, and protect and enhance funding to recruit medical professionals in underserved areas.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
		<p>short 35,000 to 44,000 adult care primary care physicians. In addition, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will bring many more individuals into the health care system in the next 2 years. It is imperative to have a sufficient number of primary care physicians available to provide care to this additional population.</p>	
Aging and Adult Services	Long-Term Care Maintenance Needs	<p>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.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that increase the long-term care monthly maintenance need level for Medicaid beneficiaries.</p>
Aging and Adult Services	Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program	<p>The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program provides advocacy services on behalf of residents residing in licensed long-term care facilities such as skilled nursing homes and residential care facilities. Ombudsmen provide a regular presence in all long-term care facilities for the elderly by monitoring and investigating quality of life and quality of care issues. The program is mandated in federal and state law. Despite budget cuts that have resulted in the removal of all state general fund money from the program; state mandates remain for the Ombudsman Program.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that will provide sustainable and non-prejudicial funding for the Ombudsman Program, while enhancing the rights, independence, and choice of long-term care residents.</p>
Arrowhead Regional Medical Center	Disproportionate Share Hospital Funding	<p>The Disproportionate Share Hospital (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</p>	<p>Oppose legislative or administrative actions that reduce the amount of DSH or Medicaid safety-net care pool funding.</p>

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Behavioral Health	Federal Funding for Integrated Treatment	<p>generally lower than the rates paid by Medicare and private insurance. The Affordable Care Act included a provision to make aggregate reductions in federal Medicaid DSH allotments.</p> <p>There is a great need for integrated funding to treat 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 a one-time physical exam.</p>	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	Homeless Assistance Program	<p>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.</p>	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	Institutions for Mental Disease Medicaid Reimbursement	<p>Medicaid will not cover individuals between the ages of twenty-one (21) and sixty-five (65) who have a brain disease and needs care in a psychiatric hospital. The Federal government’s Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) Exclusion prohibits Medicaid from covering any treatment (even non-psychiatric) in State and private</p>	Support legislation that provides Medicaid reimbursement for patients in Institutions for Mental Disease and in free-standing settings.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Behavioral Health	Medical University Residencies	<p>psychiatric hospitals and other IMDs. Medicaid’s denial of IMD coverage results in homelessness, incarceration, victimization and even death for many people who are so ill they are unable to care for themselves.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Support legislation, budget actions and regulatory efforts that increase the number of Medicare-supported residency positions in teaching hospitals.</p>
Children and Family Services	Extended Foster Care Services	<p>The Federal Fostering Connections Act of 2008 allow for the continuation of payment for foster care placement until age 21 and provision of services to facilitate successful emancipation. Many older foster youth that receive aid through the Adoption Assistance Program or Federally-Funded KinGap have unequal access to this continued placement and support. In addition, youth adopted or placed in guardianships prior to age 16 are ineligible which creates a disincentive to adopt.</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>

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Children and Family Services	Foster Care Services	Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), now CalWORKs, rules from 1996, are 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 of removing children from unsafe homes, regardless of the family's income.	Support legislation and budget actions that will de-link Title IV-E, Foster Care, eligibility from the 1996 AFDC income and assets standards.
Children and Family Services	Streamlining Child Welfare	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 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.	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.
Children and Family Services	Supervision of Non-Minor-Dependents	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 placements to 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	Support legislation and regulatory efforts that align the provisions of Extended Foster Care to the adult status of the non-minor-dependent.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
		<p>mandates concerning supervision of placements to ensure safety of children 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>	
Public Health	Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentages	<p>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's FMAP returned to the statutory minimum of 50% in July 2011. Historically, California has had among the lowest Federal Medicaid assistance funding per recipient of any state.</p>	<p>Support legislation, budget actions and regulatory efforts that will raise California's base FMAP.</p>
Public Health	Federally Qualified Health Centers	<p>Twenty-one percent of the County's population is uninsured, and more than 62% of the population (1,261,700 residents) 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.</p>	<p>Support legislation, budget actions and regulatory efforts that will increase funding for new and existing FQHCs.</p>
Public Health	Food Safety	<p>The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that foodborne illnesses in the United States will cause 3,037 deaths, 127,839 hospitalizations and 48 million illnesses this year, 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.</p>	<p>Support legislation, budget actions and regulatory efforts that protect and ensure national food safety.</p>

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Public Health	Healthcare Disparities	According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, disparities are also observed in most aspects of disease prevention and treatment, including care for mental health disorders and substance use, HIV/AIDS, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, oral health conditions, maternal and child health, respiratory disease and end stage renal disease.	Support legislative, budget actions and regulatory efforts that address healthcare disparities.
Public Health	Health Professional Shortage in Medically Underserved Area/ Population	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.	Support legislative and regulatory efforts that increase MUA/MUPs designations in the County.
Public Health	Safe Drinking Water	Providing and ensuring the availability of safe drinking water is essential. Ground and surface water sources are increasingly exposed to contaminants.	Support legislation, budget actions and regulatory efforts that protect and ensure the safety of local water resources.
Public Health	Vector Control	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 need to utilize their financial resources to control and eradicate these threats rather than perform what we believe is redundant and unnecessary monitoring.	Support legislation and budget actions that protect against invasive and harmful vectors.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
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. The County is supportive of the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) reauthorization proposals which include flexibility.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that strengthen the TANF program, including provisions for increased local flexibility and decreased federal penalties.</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 to a veteran as a result of a service-connected disability, or 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>	<p>Support legislation and regulatory efforts that will oppose changes to 38 U.S.C., that adversely impact disability compensation benefits.</p>
Veterans	Prescriptions Written by Non-VA Physicians	<p>Currently the Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare system is only authorized to fill prescriptions written by authorized VA physicians. Many veterans do not live in close proximity to a VA facility and/or lack access to public or private transportation that would allow them to</p>	<p>Support legislation and regulatory efforts that will authorize VA pharmacies to honor prescriptions written by non-VA physicians.</p>

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
		<p>travel to a VA facility at a reasonable cost, within a reasonable timeframe. This hardship is especially pronounced in certain geographic areas where the veteran population is spread out over sparsely populated areas. Allowing veterans to submit prescriptions, written by their local physician, to the VA pharmacy via mail would be a cost savings to the veteran, as it would eliminate the need for a veteran to travel to see a VA physician for the sole purpose of receiving authorization for medication that has already been prescribed by the Veteran's physician.</p>	
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 Veterans Affairs (VA) 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.</p>	<p>access to VA information systems would provide veterans with timelier access to federal benefits, thereby reducing workload at VA call centers.</p>
Veterans	Veterans Programs	<p>The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) administers programs in areas such as health care, financial assistance and burial benefits to assist veterans who have sacrificed so much 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, and are often faced with the difficulty arising from the increasing needs of aging veterans and the timely receipt of benefits and services.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that will fully fund the federal responsibility to provide comprehensive veterans services.</p>

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Veterans	VA Medical Care: Means Testing	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.	Support legislation that would eliminate the Means Test for veterans to qualify for VA medical care.

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, and no guaranteed funding mechanism, 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 recent 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 public, 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; and/or 3) 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 emergency disasters; and/or 2) provide continued and increased available 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	Public Safety Regional Fire Training Center	San Bernardino County’s Fire Department 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 enforcement personnel from many other agencies throughout Southern California receive training at RSTC. The lease for the facility at Norton Air Base 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	Support legislation and budget actions to fund the acquisition of a state of the art public safety regional training center facility to accommodate the didactic

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
		<p>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>	<p>and manipulative fire training needs of the region.</p>
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 Interstates 15 and 40, with other highways, including 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 as part of acquisitions 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.</p>	<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 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.</p>
Forest Care	Healthy Forest	<p>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,</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that restore funding for the Forest Care program, or any program that provides similar support.</p>

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Sheriff	Cal-ID AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System)	<p>remains critical. Forest Care is a program developed and implemented by the National Forest Association and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, working under a grant from the U.S. Forest Service, to help residents in the San Bernardino mountain communities with removing trees and vegetation from around their homes to create defensible space. Funding for the program terminated December 31, 2013.</p> <p>The Automated Fingerprint Identification System, commonly referred to as AFIS, is a biometric identification methodology that uses digital imaging technology to obtain, store, and analyze fingerprint data. Fingerprints are compared using mathematical algorithms; the amount of identifiable points on a fingerprint (minutia) are taken and compared against the minutia of a known fingerprint. The comparison is then given a mathematical rating, which a fingerprint examiner then compares for positive verification.</p> <p>The Riverside/San Bernardino County AFIS first went operational in 1986 when the CAL-ID network was incepted. Riverside and San Bernardino counties combined to create a regional program because by themselves, each county did not meet population requirements set forth by the state of California. Since that time, Riverside and San Bernardino counties have adopted over 50 member agencies. These agencies pay an annual fee per resident for the use of CAL-ID programs, which revolve around the AFIS.</p>	Support legislation or budget actions to enhance the Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

DEPARTMENT

ISSUE

SUMMARY

ACTION

The Riverside/San Bernardino AFIS contains approximately 1.45 million fingerprint records. It is designed to hold about 1.75 million fingerprint records and is estimated to provide storage through the year 2016. The AFIS has been upgraded several times, the most recent being a complete overhaul in 2007, which cost about \$2.6 million. The Riverside/San Bernardino AFIS includes the access to several other AFIS databases. Because we share the same vendor, we're able to access AFIS' from the California Department of Justice (CAL-DOJ) and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. This interoperability is critical because Riverside/San Bernardino counties can search palm prints, where other counties with different brands of AFIS cannot. In total, we can search over 50 million fingerprint records.

Technology since 2007 has improved tenfold and the Riverside/San Bernardino CAL-ID AFIS is in need of upgrading again. An upgrade goes beyond simply expanding storage capacity for fingerprint records and new hardware. It includes functionality that allows fingerprint examiners to search several databases at once, using multiple algorithms, saving valuable time. This upgrade is considered an "active-active" system, designed for redundancy that will be housed in both counties. Redundancy is important for system malfunction and disaster recovery. If the system in Riverside malfunctions, both counties can rely on San Bernardino's system until the Riverside system recovers. Since planning, building, customization, and installation of a system of our size can take up to two years, the time has come to begin the upgrade. The current

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
		<p>cost of the upgrade is \$3.7 million and 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>	
Sheriff	Scientific Investigations Division Program	<p>The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department's Scientific Investigations Division (SID) is the workplace of 100 law enforcement, scientific, technical and support personnel. SID's mission is to provide forensic support (criminalistics, identification and crime scene investigation) to Sheriff's stations and divisions, as well as outside agencies. SID is also home to Sheriff's Central Property/Evidence Unit and the Photography Laboratory.</p>	Support legislation or budget actions for the Scientific Investigations Division Program.
Sheriff	State Criminal Alien Assistance Program	<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. SCAAP is administered through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), in conjunction with the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security (DHS).</p>	Support legislation and budget actions to protect and increase funding available to counties to mitigate costs associated with the incarceration of undocumented aliens.

DEPARTMENT

ISSUE

SUMMARY

ACTION

In 2012, San Bernardino County housed 2,592 immigration offenders at a cost of \$11,599,942. Federal reimbursement was \$875,360. SCAAP funding is critical to cost mitigation related to the housing 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 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 Project Delivery, Funding and Financing

- Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) improve project delivery and provide administrative flexibility; 2) protect new or designated local transportation funding; and/or 3) promote or expand alternative financing programs.
- Oppose legislation and budget actions that: 1) require additional federal review of projects that are predominately of regional or local significance; and/or 2) preempt local control of projects.

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 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-	Support legislation and budget actions to restore, enhance and protect CDBG funding.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Community Development and Housing	HOME Investment Partnership Program	<p>income persons in the County of San Bernardino. The County experienced a reduction in funding of 21% from FY 10/11 to FY 13/14. Prior year reductions of CDBG funding levels have been a detriment to the residents in the County of San Bernardino who have been impacted through the reduction of much needed services 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 of 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 45% from FY 10/11 to FY 13/14. 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.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions to restore, enhance and protect HOME funding.</p>

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Land Use	California Desert and Recreation	<p>During the 112th Congress, California Desert Protection Act (CDPA) legislation was introduced which would establish two National Monuments within San Bernardino County, and add to existing Congressionally dedicated wilderness areas within the County. It is anticipated that similar legislation will be introduced in the 113th Congress. The legislation was praised for its efforts to establish public activities and outdoor recreational use as priorities. Specifically it provided for formal designation and legislative protection for the open Off-Highway Vehicle areas within the County, with the exception of Johnson Valley. Johnson Valley was excluded pending a final decision on the expansion of the US Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms. Congressional action was taken with Presidential approval in late 2013 to transfer a significant part of the Johnson Valley OHV area to the Marine Corps, clearing the way for expanded training opportunities for the Marines. 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 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.</p>	<p>Support legislative efforts that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designate permanent off-highway vehicle recreational areas. -Seek funding support to upgrade the National Trails Highway (Old Route 66) which would assure maintenance of its historical integrity, and seek regulatory relief to streamline replacement of aging bridges along the Route. -Oppose creation of National Monuments by Executive Order under the Antiquities Act, assuring establishment under a public process of Congressional (and public) consideration and creation. -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.
Land Use	Management of Federally Designated Wild Lands	<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</p>	<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</p>

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
		<p>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>with full Congressional oversight.</p>
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 can ill-afford any attempts that would curtail those operations from continuing at their current levels. The mining of locatable minerals has basically ceased within the County since the passage of the California Desert Protection Act, but many important mines do exist. To date, a majority of rare earth mining comes from sources outside the United States. While Congress did not enact any major mining reform legislation during the last Congressional session, successful efforts were made to require environmental considerations and reclamation, essentially duplicating current State mining laws and regulations. Further efforts could decrease current and future operations crucial to domestic security and the economy.</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	Mitigation for Impacts Resulting From Renewable Energy Development Projects	<p>Renewable energy projects, particularly large-scale solar development, often transfer large blocks of federal land to private use. This leads to the elimination of current multiple use activities including dispersed recreation, livestock</p>	<p>Support legislative and regulatory efforts that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimize and mitigate local government impacts from the loss of taxable and developable land; - Require a portion of

DEPARTMENT

ISSUE

SUMMARY

ACTION

grazing and general public access. Impacts to wildlife from these large-scale developments are mitigated by a variety of measures, including the acquisition of private land and the transfer of these lands to governmental agencies. Cultural resources are mitigated through avoidance or salvage of the particular resource. In one typical example, approval of a large-scale solar project in California contained a stipulation for 2-for-1 mitigation where concurrently, a development in Nevada was approved with no similar mitigation requirement for compensation. This “compensation” is required as mitigation for the loss of desert tortoise habitat, a concept based on an attempt to prevent development of other acreage in lieu of an approval to develop a federal site. It serves to increase the federal estate within the County, which already has over 8 million acres of federal land, not counting military bases. Of critical concern to the County is further erosion of the tax base. Because of the ceiling contained in the Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Act, the County receives no offsetting PILT payment for this loss of private land.

lease, royalty or other revenues generated by renewable energy projects to be directed to the local jurisdictions where projects are sited;

- Minimize impacts from the loss of historic land uses, to include the dedication or acquisition of other areas of public land to such activities;
- Ensure that permits and leases for solar or any other kind of renewable energy development are made consistent across state lines when the areas are of similar character and habitat value;
- Ensure that land acquisition requirements are made consistent between states and when areas are of similar character and habitat value;
- Amend Section 6904 of the PILT Act and provide that when private land is acquired and donated to the administering federal agency, e.g. BLM, that property taxes continue to be paid to the County as is currently done for acquisitions in National Park units; and
- Allow retirement of grazing allotments on public lands as mitigation for renewable energy projects and other potential development.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
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 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 with 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 all kinds of 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>
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</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

DEPARTMENT

ISSUE

SUMMARY

ACTION

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.

function of recording such rights-of-way for existing routes when asserted, in which they would simply determine validity under the 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.

San Bernardino County is responsible for the development and management of an extensive system of regional flood control and water conservation facilities, consisting of over 1,100 facilities including dams, channels, storm drains, debris, detention and water conservation basins. The purpose of these facilities is to intercept and convey flood flows through and away from the major developed areas of the County. The County provides emergency services during storm events, reviews Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Maps and provides support to Zone Advisory Committees. It is a priority of the County to increase groundwater recharge services at flood control district 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 County Flood Control, Water Resources and Environmental Quality legislative positions:

Environmental Quality

- Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) promote environmentally and economically sound management of solid waste; 2) protect its citizens, local industry and environment from the introduction of foreign species of pests and diseases; and/or 3) assist the County 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 or flood control projects; 2) promote environmentally-friendly flood control improvements; and/or 3) mitigate storm water and urban runoff, including runoff from unmaintained federal lands, into the flood control system.
- Oppose legislation and budget actions that diminish the performance or funding of flood control systems.

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.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
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 facilities must be cleared and repaired before the start of the normal storm season, which begins October 15th. The consequences of not	Support legislative and regulatory efforts that exempt regular maintenance of existing flood control, water spreading and other public facilities from the Clean Water Act.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
		having these facilities ready for the storm season can result in unnecessary risk to life and property.	
Flood Control	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Levee Vegetation Policy	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.	Support legislation that addresses revising the USACOE vegetation policy for levees in arid regions.
Flood Control	Waters of the United States Definition	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.	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.
Solid Waste	Perchlorate Clean Up	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.	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.

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 and protect the conservation of 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 provisions of services without adequate funding.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
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 \$32 million.
Arrowbear Drive Realignment and Widening	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to remove and replace 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.
Cumberland Drive: State Highway 18-Bald Eagle Ridge	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to, at minimum, pave a traffic lane in each direction between State Highway 18 to an existing paved cul-de-sac road within Bald Eagle Ridge. This project is estimated to cost \$6 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 or budget actions that will assist with the funding to pave Helendale Road, which is currently a dirt road and one lane in each direction within an existing right-of-way from Colusa Road. The 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 oversight and advocacy of a Public Private Partnership for the planning, programming, design, construction, maintenance and operation of a multi-purpose corridor, connecting Victorville and Palmdale, to include a freeway/expressway for goods movement, recreational and general traffic; right of way, design, construction and maintenance for high speed rail; planning, programming, design, construction, maintenance and operation of a bikeway; and planning for renewable energy generation and transmission to reduce cost of maintenance and operation of all infrastructure, and provide project revenue from transmission lines connecting to the grid, and alternative energy fueling. This project is estimated to cost \$ 5 billion, largely financed by the private sector, including \$500 million over six years needed for the I-15 interchange.

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 Fish & Wildlife and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 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.
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.

Amethyst Basin Flood Protection, Water Quality and Water Conservation Project

Support legislation and budget actions to develop a more adequate capacity in the basin that provides reduced flows and flood protection. This project is estimated to cost 8.77 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.

Cactus Basins Flood Protection, Water Quality and Water Recharge Project

Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding the most important elements of the Rialto Channel system, Cactus Basins 3, 4 and 5. These basins are crucial due to the increased run off concentrated into the system from the Interstate 210 Freeway and the related Cactus Channel project. This project is estimated to cost \$33.5 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.
San Sevaine Basins and Spreading Grounds Flood Protection, Water Quality and Water Conservation Study	Support legislation and budget actions to provide for a study to address potential debris flows that could come out of the San Sevaine canyon and enter the San Sevaine Spreading Grounds and San Sevaine Basins 1-4. This project is estimated to cost \$4 million.

San Timoteo Creek Basins Flood Protection and Water Quality Study	Support legislation and budget actions to conduct the needed study to find solutions to the actual amount of debris produced by the recent storms. This project is estimated to cost \$4 million.
San Timoteo Creek Basins Flood Protection Project	Support legislation and budget actions to assist in maintaining the basins of San Timoteo. The recent minor storms have completely filled all 18 basins and the exacerbated maintenance and operations cost cannot be sustained by the County Flood Control District. This project is estimated to cost \$6 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 in 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) recreation 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 \$22 million.
Seven Oaks Dam Water Quality Special Study	Support legislation and budget actions to fund a feasibility level study to investigate water quality issues related to Seven Oaks Dam and Reservoir. This project is estimated to cost \$8.7 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.

Wilson Creek Flood Protection
Project

Support legislation and budget actions to improve a break out point for flooding along the system. This project is estimated to cost \$700,000.