

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As repercussions in the housing and financial markets continue to plague our region, the depth of the fiscal consequences for local government budgets and public finance will continue to be uncertain. With demand for services on the rise and multiple programs being administered on the local level, diversified and stable revenue streams (ranging from property taxes, fees, and State reimbursement) are critical to financing necessary services. In the context of this environment, San Bernardino County faces the headwinds of increased competition and public scrutiny for available limited resources. In order to maximize potential, the County is required to exercise continued strategic vigilance and its success will necessitate strong support for services and programs by its Legislative delegation. In this platform you will find our State legislative priorities for 2010, including funding requests and policy positions.

Based on the 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 provide specific direction and overall policy guidance to the Office of Legislative Affairs by adopting an annual platform for each legislative session. Effective partnerships between local and State agencies are pivotal to ensure that the County of San Bernardino fulfills its organizational mission to satisfy its customers by providing services that promote the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents.

In order to accomplish its vision of creating a safe, clean, and healthy environment that appeals to families and individuals, and attracts the best business and industry, the County of San Bernardino provides multiple services ranging from public safety, transportation, and land use to public works and code enforcement. In addition to providing direct constituent services, the County also serves as a conduit for the State by administering health and human programs. As the County experiences tremendous growth, the already two million residents located throughout its 20,000 square miles utilize a great deal of resources. In order for the County to continue to provide quality services, assistance from the State and continued partnership with the delegation is imperative to maintain success.

The 2010 State legislative platform assists the County in navigating through the various legislative components as well as communicating its State priorities. The platform has been compiled into various sections including government operations, human services, law & justice, transportation, housing and land use, flood control, and recreational services. Each legislative item contains a brief background, legislative position and a funding amount request when applicable.

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

HUMAN SERVICES FUNDING DEFICIT

Human Services

As the state continues to experience a budget crisis, local governments remain susceptible to rising cost despite the constitutional provision passed by voters in Proposition 1A. Although the Proposition was designed to protect existing revenues, it does not take into account the rising cost associated with providing programs, especially health and human services. The state has not provided funding to cover counties rising cost operating expenses for most programs since 2000-01. The cumulative impact is that County administrative allocations are woefully underfunded as compared to the actual cost of administering programs.

Despite inadequate funding, local governments are required to provide the same level of service. Counties are left with the option of reducing staffing and compromising service delivery, or filling the gap with local funds, which few counties have the ability to do. Multiple years of state funding reductions have undermined critical programs. As of the 2008-09 fiscal year, the state's failure to fund cost of doing business increases for counties resulted in an annual human services funding deficit of \$1.15 billion dollars when both state and federal funding losses are included. The state's share of this figure is \$681.5 million. The "cost of doing business" has exceeded over \$60 million in San Bernardino County.

Legislative Position:

- Support legislation or budget actions that increase, maintain, or fully fund the cost of doing business including cost associated with human and mental health services.
- Oppose legislation or budget action that will mandate services without adequate funding to administer the programs.
- Oppose legislation or budget actions that will shift cost to local governments.

PORTS/GOODS MOVEMENT LEGISLATION

Economic Development Agency

Logistics is a key factor to the development and growth of the County of San Bernardino. The County has three international airports including LA/Ontario International Airport. The International airport is home to UPS's West Coast Hub where goods are distributed in large sums daily. The County plays a crucial role in the movement of goods from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Everyday goods delivered to the ports come through the County either by rail or truck.

Legislative Position: Oppose legislation or budget actions that will negatively impact the movement of goods and services.

FIRST RESPONDER FUNDING

County Fire

The County of San Bernardino acts as a first responder to all terrorist or terror related attacks in most of the County. Many cities contract with the Sheriffs Department for police services in lieu of creating a citywide police service. In addition, many cities contract with San Bernardino County Fire Protection District (County Fire) for fire and paramedic related services.

Legislative Position: Support legislation or budget actions that will supplement the County General Fund and special district funding in protecting citizens against international and domestic terrorism.

COUNTY AND CITY EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTERS (EOC)

County Fire

The County of San Bernardino acts as a first responder to natural as well as man-made disasters. As evident from recent storms, there are no boundaries between incorporated and unincorporated areas. By working with cities, as well as with its own resources, the County of San Bernardino is more equipped to protect its citizens and provide rapid response to calamities.

Legislative Position: Support legislation or budget actions that fund city and County Emergency Operation Centers and adequately fund the centers to support state-of-the-art technology.

FUNDING FOR GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS WITHING COUNTY FIRE SURROUNDED BY PUBLIC LANDS

Funding Request: \$1.8 Million

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$1.8 Million

Northern and eastern portions of San Bernardino County that are surrounded by public owned lands are known as the “unfunded fire protection areas” since these are areas within the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District they do not contribute Fire Protection funds and are surrounded by public owned land. The majority of the area is land owned by the federal government and bisected divide by I-15 and Interstate 40. In addition, several state highways, including routes 58, 62, 95, 127, and 395 transect these public lands. Within the last couple of years, an additional 600,000 acres of private lands have been transferred to federal government ownership within San Bernardino County. Historically, and by direction of the Board of Supervisors, the San Bernardino County Fire Department (County Fire) provides fire and rescue services in this portion of the county.

In the 2006-07 fiscal year, County Fire, now San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, built a fire station in the community of Baker. \$2.1 million was funded by a one-time allocation from the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, as well as a one-time allocation from County Fire of \$1.42 million. The station serves the northerly portions of the unfunded fire protection area, specifically I-15 from Barstow to the Nevada Stateline. This station's first in service area is approximately 4,000 square miles of primarily public lands. The part-time paid-call firefighters and fire apparatus assigned to Baker are now housed at the station. County Fire also receives some assistance from a prison crew for additional staffing. The Baker personnel respond to approximately 950 incidents per year, primarily traffic accidents that occur over a hundred miles of I-15 and SH127.

Currently, funding sources are not available to properly staff the requirements of the Baker Fire Station. A four-person engine company is the desired staffing level to meet the 2-in-2-out rule regardless of the availability of the ambulance. A four-person engine company allows a rescue crew to operate safely as a single resource. This staffing level would maintain a Captain, Engineer, and 2 firefighters on duty each day. This staffing level is critical since the next closest fire station to support the Baker Fire Station personnel is the County Fire Station in Harvard, which is 46 miles away.

Project Description: Support legislation or budget actions to fund staffing, operations and maintenance of county fire department operations in non-revenue supported areas such as the I-15 and 40 corridors through Bureau of Land Management and National Park lands.

COUNTY EMS AUTHORITY FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES

ICEMA

In 1997 the California Supreme Court clarified the role of counties in overseeing emergency medical services. However, fire agencies and cities continue to challenge counties' roles, most recently with the distribution of California Fire Service Position on Emergency Medical Services Statutory Roles and Responsibilities. Fire agencies have threatened another legislative attempt to fragment a county's existing responsibility to oversee emergency medical services. In the most recent paper, they are challenging the establishment of exclusive operating areas (EOAs) and draw the conclusion that it is the intent of counties to meet their indigent care responsibilities through the EOAs. Counties maintain that ambulance service must be provided on a countywide basis to ensure that providing services even in remote areas of the county remains financially viable.

Legislative Position: Support legislation or budget actions that would enhance county authority and increase funding for such oversight.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FUNDING

ICEMA

California has 32 local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) systems that are providing emergency medical services for California's 58 counties. Seven regional EMS systems comprised of thirty-three counties and twenty-five single county agencies provide the services. California's Emergency Medical Services system is funded from penalty assessments on certain criminal and traffic violations, a portion of the fees from people attending traffic violator schools. Regional EMS agencies receive minimal State General funding through the State EMS Authority. In recent years, this funding has been cut and projections are that it will be less next fiscal year. None of these sources are particularly stable, and all fluctuate year by year.

Legislative Position: Support legislation or budget actions that would establish and enhance stable funding sources for local EMS agencies.

GOVERNMENTAL OVERSIGHT

Board of Supervisors

The grand jury is an investigative body created for the protection of society and the enforcement of the law, serving as the overseer of the public's interest. Civil grand jurors in San Bernardino County currently serve a 12-month term beginning on July 1 each year. Grand jurors devote an average of three full days a week to grand jury service. The grand jury examines all aspects of County and special districts governments to ensure the best interest of County citizens are being served. Single year terms do not afford grand juries, as they exist, sufficient time to properly fulfill the vital role assigned to protect the public interest through critical and scrupulous governmental oversight. Time dedicated to orientation, training and report writing dissipates limited, valuable time required and necessary for thorough investigations of increasingly complex government processes and issues.

Legislative Position: Support or sponsor legislation that will increase grand jury capability to conduct thorough investigations into County civil and criminal proceedings.

AIRPORT LAND USE COMMISSION

County Airport

During the past legislative session, a bill that would increase the level of oversight and/or create an Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) was defeated during the session. If approved, this bill would have increased the mandates for counties to enhance their ALUC's, resulting in additional cost to the County and reducing the level of planning approval by local cities and towns. The current method of ALUC's is adequate and provides a level of oversight in regards to land use planning surrounding airports. It allows for cities and towns to remain in a leadership role regarding airport planning, with input as needed from neighboring municipalities.

Legislative Position: The County of San Bernardino opposes efforts to revise the ALUC requirements that place undue and unfunded burden on local governments without providing documented improvement in airport land use planning.

STATE AERONAUTICS ACT

County Airport

As part of the latest budget adoption for the State, the State Aeronautics Act was amended to "transfer" \$4 million from the Aeronautics account to the General Fund. This action suspended the issuance of grants to airports within the State, which are utilized for capital development and/or funding. The Aeronautics account has been funded primarily from user fees by the aviation community, fuel sales, registration taxes, etc.

Legislative Position: Support legislation or budget actions to restore this funding transfer.

LOCAL PREFERENCE PROCUREMENT (Public Works)

Purchasing

In fiscal year 2008-09, the County funded \$65.5 million in capital improvement projects, \$24.8 million of which was locally funded. Currently, the County cannot implement a local cost preference for public works contracts. California Public Contracts Code (PCC) dictates that construction contracts, including erection, alteration, repair or improvement of any public structure, building or road, be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. This does not allow for flexibility in recognizing local bidders for contracts funded with local dollars (General Fund).

A consideration of implementing a local preference policy is the potential for increased costs if local vendors are not low bidders. Another consideration is that to create local jobs, legislation may need to stipulate that general contractors give preference to local sub-contractors.

Legislative Position: Support or sponsor legislation allowing local governments to implement local preference policies when using local dollars for public works contracts.

LOCAL PREFERENCE PROCUREMENT (Product and Services)

Purchasing

In June 2006, the County implemented a five percent local vendor preference (five percent cost preference in the bidding process) policy to support the utilization of vendors within the County, thus promoting job creation and maintenance of tax revenue in the County. This policy applies to product and services, excluding public works projects. In several local governments in California, questions have been raised as to the legality of applying local preference policies when awarding contracts.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that ensures the County of San Bernardino will continue to have the ability to support the local economy with the application of local preference policies.

PAPER BALLOT TRANSITION

Registrar of Voters

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) decertified punch card voting systems nationwide. In compliance with the new law, the County of San Bernardino purchased federal and state certified equipment, including touch screen voting units, optical scanners, card activators, veri-vote printers and other necessary components totaling approximately \$16.5 million.

The California Secretary of State's decision (August 3, 2007) to decertify electronic voting systems statewide for the Presidential Primary Election forced Elections Officials to conduct elections with a paper ballot system. Since funds available through HAVA are largely tied to costs associated with electronic voting equipment, remaining grant balances are all but inaccessible by counties throughout the State for reimbursement for the purchase of voting booths, paper ballot processing carts, ballot boxes and privacy sleeves as mandated by the Secretary of State.

Further, the need to process paper ballots at the Registrar of Voters headquarters place demand on existing warehouse limitations and requires the Registrar of Voters to secure additional storage space for the electronic voting units that cannot be deployed. These additional costs, as well as the inability to recover use fees from jurisdictions for which elections are conducted, create a funding deficit that could not have been anticipated before the Secretary of State's decertification ruling.

Legislation Position: Support legislation or budget actions that provide reimbursement for costs associated with the mandated transition to a voting system other than electronic systems. Support legislation that promotes public confidence, increase voter participation, and strengthens the democratic process of County residents.

SPECIAL ELECTIONS

Registrar of Voters

In addition to federal, state, and local elections conducted in accordance with California Elections Code, an increasing number of special elections are called by the legislature and governor at periods in the election cycle that cause them to be conducted as stand alone elections. All state elections are paid for with County general funds and the costs associated with these elections, scheduled or special, are not reimbursable by state government. Fiscal uncertainty is a reality for government agencies and these unplanned and unfunded elections are an immense burden on the budgeting process.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that will require the state legislature to call elections in conjunction with regularly scheduled elections, or agree to pay the full cost of a stand alone election, if so called.

FEES CHARGED OR COLLECTED BY A COUNTY

Agriculture Weights and Measures

Although legislators have deregulated many of the fees that can be charged by Counties, state law currently limits several fees that can be charged by Counties for mandated and necessary services. Statutory caps on amounts that can be charged creates program costs that exceed revenues, thus, San Bernardino County general funds subsidize the difference.

Legislative Position: Support legislation or budget actions that fully fund the cost of providing services in accordance with Business and Professions Code 12240 and Government Code 54985.

PUBLIC ENTITY PARALEGALS

County Counsel

In 2000, the Legislature amended the law, Business & Professions Code 6450, regarding the qualifications to become a paralegal. Prior to that amendment, a person with a high school diploma or GED who had worked three years for an attorney with three years of experience, could become a paralegal upon certification by that attorney that he/she could perform paralegal tasks. The 2000 amendment greatly restricted this manner of becoming a paralegal by providing that the three years of experience must have been completed prior to December 31, 2003.

Legislative Position: Support or sponsor legislation that restores the original manner of becoming a paralegal for persons working in the public entity offices of district attorney, County counsel and public defender, without limitation as to when the three years of experience had been completed. Amend B&P 6450 to reinstate the original manner of becoming a paralegal for persons working in the specified public entity offices.

The following proposed new additional section, B&P 6450(c)(5), would accomplish the desired purpose: B&P 6450(c)(5) A high school diploma or general equivalency diploma, a minimum of three years of law-related experience in the office of a district attorney, County counsel, or public defender under the supervision of an attorney who has been an active member of the State Bar of California for at least the preceding three years or who has practiced in the Federal courts of this State for at least the preceding three years, and a written declaration from this attorney stating that the person is qualified to perform paralegal tasks.

FIRST FIVE FUNDING

First Five

The Children and Families Commission for San Bernardino County (First 5 San Bernardino) was created in December 1998 in order to realize the benefits of Proposition 10 (California Children and Families Act) for the County's youngest residents and their families. The Act created a system of programs for the purpose of promoting, supporting, and improving the early development of children from the prenatal stage to five years of age. First 5 San Bernardino supports programs, activities, and services that assist children in establishing a strong foundation for success in school and throughout their lives.

Legislative Position: Oppose legislation that would eliminate First 5 San Bernardino and/or compromise local control over Proposition 10 money.

HUMAN SERVICES

AGING AND ADULT SERVICES

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES FUNDING

County Adult Protective Services (APS) agencies face an ever-increasing population of the elderly due to the addition of the baby-boomer generation to the 65+-age bracket. Social work staff is faced with responding to an increasing number of reports while providing quality social work. The local APS agency is tasked with maximizing the protection of elders and dependent adults within existing funding sources.

In 2007 the Governor vetoed an additional \$12 million budget augmentation appropriation for APS services, which would have been the first funding increase for the program since 2000. In the 2008-09 budget, the Governor cut an additional \$11.4 million from the program. This is despite increased reports of elder and dependent adult abuse and despite steadily increasing caseloads in APS. The 2009-10 budget did not make additional cuts to the program, which remains frozen at the 2008 level. Rampant growth in the APS caseload within a capped allocation has resulted in fewer services to abused and neglected elders and dependent adults.

Legislative Position: Support legislation or budget actions that would protect or enhance APS funding.

AREA AGENCIES ON AGING (AAAS) AND INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTERS

California has 33 AAAs which provide services that are vital to the well-being of older adults such as basic nutrition, transportation, in-home assistance, and caregiver support. AAAs in communities across the state plan, coordinate and offer services that help older adults remain in their home. Funds for these programs come from the federal Older Americans Act, the state level Older Californians Act, and County, city, and grant sources. Approximately 80% of the money for AAA programs is from federal sources.

California also has 29 Independent Living Centers (ILCs), which provide services to people with disabilities enabling them to remain in their own homes and communities. An ILC is a consumer-centered, community-based, non-residential, private non-profit entity that is designed and operated within a local community by individuals with disabilities. One hundred percent of the funding for ILCs is from federal sources. The stream of funds to both AAAs and ILCs is dependent upon the passage of the state budget. When the state budget is late all funds are frozen - including the federal funds.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that would require the pass through of funds for both AAAs and ILCs in the event of a budget delay.

ELDERLY SERVICE CONTINUANCE DURING STATE BUDGET DELAYS

Currently there is no provision for continued appropriations for elder programs in the event of state budget delays. Existing law provides for the administration of local Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) through the California Department on Aging. Funding for the 33 AAAs is 90% federal and 10% state general fund. Federal funds are appropriated through the Older Americans Act. Local AAAs contract with local agencies to provide services to seniors, including home-delivered and congregate meals, supportive services, and community-based services. Should a state budget be delayed, the Department of Aging cannot allocate the federal funds to the AAAs so that services are continued. San Bernardino County has been faced with

continuing these contracts with local funds when there is a state budget delay, as seems usually the case.

Legislative Position: Support legislation to ensure continued state pass-through of Federal funding of Older Americans Act programs in the absence of a state budget by July 1.

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FUNDING

The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program provides services to clients who are aged and/or disabled, and requires assistance with activities of daily living to safely remain in their home. By keeping clients in their home and out of expensive nursing facilities, IHSS saves the state millions of dollars annually.

On top of substantial cuts to the program in the February 2009 Budget, the July 2009 Budget and the Governor's line-item vetoes cut an additional \$81 million from IHSS, and also reduced the IHSS administrative funding by \$13 million. As a result, the program has been severely curtailed and vulnerable seniors and the disabled are doing without the services necessary to keep them out of expensive nursing homes.

Legislative Position: Support legislation and budget actions that would protect or restore funding for IHSS.

LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

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. The local Long Term Care Ombudsman Programs have received the same base funding since 1986. This amount was intended to be the base operating budget for the cost of maintenance of operation and supportive resources for investigative fieldwork. The 2007-08 budget appropriated \$3.9 million General Fund in local assistance funding for the Ombudsman Program and for Elder Abuse Prevention. Governor Schwarzenegger line-item vetoed all General Fund spending in 2008-09, and there is no General Fund funding for local assistance in 2009-10. Total funding for the local ombudsman programs in 2009-10 is \$4.2 million, all of it federal funds. There is no State General Fund monies allocated.

AB 392 (2009) made a one-time appropriation to the program of \$1.6 million from the Federal Health Facilities Citation Penalties Account for fiscal year 2009-10. When that money runs out, the program will be back to subsisting on the federal money only. The San Bernardino County Ombudsman program received only \$68,000 for AB 392. While all State General Fund money has now been removed from the program, state mandates remain for the Ombudsman program under the Older Californians Act, the Welfare and Institutions Code, and the California Probate Code.

Legislative Position: Support adequate funding for Ombudsman. In the absence of additional funding for the program, support legislation or actions that would suspend the state ombudsman mandates.

OLDER CALIFORNIANS ACT

The Older Californians Act (OCA) specifies most of the programs that provide services for senior citizens. It also is the method by which the Older Americans Act (OAA) is administered in California. The OCA provides state-funded programs and services for older adults and people with disabilities. The 33 Area Agencies on Aging are the entities that provide for and/or deliver services under the OAA, the OCA, and other funding sources at the local level. California's population over age 60 is expected to double by the year 2020 as the post-World War II baby

boom generation reaches retirement age. The state needs to be ready to take care of this silver tsunami. But as the number of older Californians continues to grow, OCA funding continues to decline.

Legislative Position: Protect state funding for the Older Californians Act. Support legislation and budget actions that would increase funding for the Act.

PUBLIC GUARDIANS TO PHOTOGRAPH CONSERVATEES

County Public Guardians ensure the safety, both financially and physically, of incompetent and mentally disabled persons who meet the criteria for conservatorship, as required by law, when there are no viable alternatives to public conservatorship. The Public Guardian-Conservator administers two types of conservatorship after appointment by the Superior Court: probate and Lanterman Petris Short (LPS) conservatorship. To qualify for an LPS conservatorship, an individual must be gravely disabled. Grave disability is defined as the inability to provide for his or her basic personal needs for food, clothing or shelter as a result of a mental disorder. To qualify for probate conservatorship an individual must be unable to provide for his or her personal needs for physical health, food, clothing or shelter; unable to manage his or her own financial resources or resist fraud or undue influence. Elopement, or wandering, is a common problem for probate conservatees. Probate conservatees, often confused and suffering from dementia, will elope from their psychiatric facility and disappear into the adjacent community or even into other counties. County public guardians will file missing persons report when this happens, but usually do not have photographs of the conservatee to post with the report.

A recent case in San Bernardino County illustrates the difficulty in identifying elopers. The local police picked up an elderly man with obvious psychological problems. The individual had no identification, was unable to identify himself and could not be identified with fingerprints. County Adult Protective Services (APS) workers had extreme difficulty identifying this person. Several weeks later he was finally identified as an eloper from another County. Had a photograph been available from the public guardian of the County this individual had eloped from, San Bernardino County Adult Protective Services would have been able to identify the individual quickly.

Legislative Position: Sponsor legislation that would require County public guardians to photograph all conservatees.

SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Nutritional well-being is an integral part of the overall health, independence, and quality of life for older persons. Senior nutrition programs are a key component of the service networks that provide elders with a continuum of home and community-based care, thus avoiding unnecessary and costly institutionalization. State senior nutrition programs provide surplus vegetables and other unsold food products to low-income seniors. The program assist seniors maintain independence, healthy diets, supplements their food budgets, and reduces food waste.

About nine percent of the senior population in San Bernardino County lives below the Federal poverty level. By 2020, the County's senior population will double, leading to an increased demand for senior nutrition services. However, funding for these services has not kept up with the increasing costs, and in some cases has been completely eliminated. In the 2009-10 budget, the Governor vetoed all funding for the Brown Bag Program, which was a state-funded program that provided surplus and donated edible fruits, vegetables and other food products to low income individuals 60 years of age and older.

Legislative Position: Support legislation or budget actions that will protect or increase funding for state senior nutrition programs.

ARROWHEAD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGED HEALTH CARE BALANCE BILLING REGULATIONS

The Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) has proposed new regulations in the agency's third attempt in two years to prohibit so-called balance billing, requiring hospitals and physicians that are not contracted with Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) patients for emergency care services to accept an arbitrarily-set payment rate based on 150% of Medicare and then pursue HMO insurance plans for full payment through an untested dispute resolution process. These are services that public hospital systems and their physicians must provide under force and penalty of existing federal and state law require emergency care providers to provide emergency care without regard to a patient's ability to pay. The proposed regulations would exacerbate an already under-funded emergency medical care delivery system and threaten patient care and access. The interim payment of 150% of Medicare will become the de-facto payment rate paid by commercial HMOs. Interim payments at this rate are far less than many existing contract rates and will severely discourage future voluntary contracting. HMOs that pay more in contract rates will have no reason to continue contracting with providers and instead terminate their contracts and pay at 150% of Medicare. This would transfer millions of dollars from emergency rooms and into the pockets of HMOs.

Medicare is a faulty payment mechanism that can arbitrarily punish hospitals and physicians if it is used as the payment rate for commercial insurers. Hospitals and physicians that provide emergency services accept Medicare and Medi-Cal rates for the elderly, disabled and poor, but not with respect to for-profit, corporate HMOs and/or their risk-bearing organizations (RBOs). Medicare payments for anesthesia services, for instance, represent only one-fourth to one-third the average payment from contractual agreements with HMOs and RBOs.

If the interim payment of 150% of Medicare is enacted, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center Hospital would lose \$7.5 to \$10 million annually based on full charges for emergency services it provides to patients covered under HMOs.

Legislative Position: Oppose legislation and regulations that prohibit balance billing.

PUBLIC HOSPITAL FUNDING

Public hospitals represent the core of the health care safety net in California, with significant experience in treating Medi-Cal recipients and uninsured patients. Representing six percent of all hospitals statewide, public hospitals provide roughly half of the hospital care to the states 6.5 million uninsured. Public hospitals operate 57 percent of all top-level trauma centers and nearly 43 percent of all burn units. Public hospitals also deliver nearly 10 million outpatient visits a years, in clinics both within and outside the hospital setting. Their medical education programs train nearly half of all the new doctors in the state.

In this recession, the safety net provided by public hospitals is needed more than ever. Newly unemployed and uninsured people rely on the services provided by public hospitals. At the same time that demand for public hospitals is increasing, local resources are dwindling. For example, the foreclosure crisis has reduced County revenues, forcing some counties to make significant cuts to their public hospitals. The state's February Budget deleted 10 percent for public hospitals, and additional cuts were proposed for the 2009-10 budget. Although these cuts were not put into effect, funding for public hospitals remains at risk because the state's budget problems persist into 2011 and beyond.

Legislative Position: Support legislation and budget actions that protect funding for the state's public hospitals.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

DELAYED REIMBURSEMENT

In 1984, the California Legislature passed AB 3632, landmark legislation that assigned and parceled out responsibility to state agencies and departments in meeting the goals and objectives of the federal Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA). In broad terms, this legislation assigned schools the responsibility to educate special education students, County mental health agencies the responsibility to provide them with mental health services and County social services departments the duty to arrange and pay for placement. Delays in reimbursing counties for treatment costs for Seriously Emotionally Disturbed (SED) children, and chronically insufficient State General Fund appropriations for the program, leaves counties, largely on their own, to pay much of the treatment costs in recent years. The total amount of statewide, un-reimbursed County costs is now estimated to have grown to nearly \$500 million. San Bernardino County is owed \$6 million. Given that the AB 3632 program is a mandate, and that the delayed reimbursements to counties is an ongoing problem, the state should speed up the reimbursements or relieve the counties of the AB 3632 mandates.

Legislative Position: Support full retroactive and prospective reimbursement of costs incurred by county mental health departments for providing eligible mental health treatment services under the AB 3632 program. If full funding is not realized, relieve counties of the AB 3632 mandate.

FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS (FQHC) LOCKOUT ELIMINATION

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are non-profit community clinics or government entities. They are open door providers treating patients on a sliding fee scale basis, and making their services available regardless of patients' ability to pay. There are currently 600 FQHCs in California. Current state law prohibits FQHCs from seeking Medi-Cal reimbursement for a single patient who receives more than one service on the same day at a single location. This is known as the FQHC lockout. For example, a patient may see a physician at an FQHC for a physical problem, but because of the lockout would not be allowed to see a mental health professional on the same day. This requires the patient to return on another day, which can be a difficult proposition for someone with limited or no transportation.

Eliminating the lockout will save the state money in the long run because more patients would receive early, preventive care, rather than returning much later with more advanced conditions requiring more expensive care, and at times incarceration. Eliminating the lockout would also make this system consistent with current Medicare law, which contains no lockout provision. Eliminating the lockout is permissible under federal law, but would require the state to file a State Medicaid plan amendment. Additionally, County-operated integrated clinics, such as we have in San Bernardino County, will inevitably face Medi-Cal billing complications as they treat behavioral and physical health problems for patients at the integrated clinics.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that would require the state to submit a Medicaid plan amendment to eliminate the FQHC lockout and legislation to clarify Medi-Cal billing rules for non-FQHC County integrated services clinics.

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Homelessness is a persistent national problem that impacts cities and communities throughout San Bernardino County. In 2007, the San Bernardino County Homeless Census identified a 39% increase of people either living on the streets or in facilities that serve the homeless over the past few years. In addition, with roughly 25% (primarily women and children) living under the

poverty line, the “at-risk” population in the County of San Bernardino also pose serious societal and economic implications.

There is a growing sense of awareness of substantial public and private "hidden" costs associated with homelessness. For example, homeless persons become frequent and lengthy users of hospital emergency services, emergency shelters, emergency assistance centers, and correctional facilities because they lack a permanent housing environment which would help them better care for their daily needs.

By discouraging "managing" homelessness through emergency resources and encouraging "ending" homelessness by providing the resources necessary for persons to obtain and maintain affordable housing, the overall quality of life for all residents of San Bernardino County can be significantly improved as the negative impacts of individuals living and sleeping on the streets are reduced.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that will provide a more focused approach to the issues of homelessness and provide a system of care that is inclusive, well planned, coordinated and evaluated and is accessible to all who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless.

INMATES MENTAL HEALTH MEDICATION

County jails have become the de-facto mental health hospitals. In fact, up to 20% of all jail inmates are mentally ill and in need of intensive treatment and/or medication. The Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) provides psychotropic medications to an average of over 800 inmates housed in county correctional facilities and some Patton State Hospital inmates awaiting trial in county courts. In addition, Behavioral Health also provides these medications to some wards in juvenile hall. These medications require extensive record keeping, and constitute a large budget item. During fiscal year 2007-08, the department paid \$1,061,053 for psychotropic medications for prisoners in county jails, \$115,000 for Patton patients awaiting trial, and \$340,000 for juvenile hall wards.

As county correctional facilities house more mentally ill inmates and the cost of providing the more effective psychiatric medications to these inmates has increased, an increasing percentage of the Department of Behavioral Health’s medication budget must now be devoted to psychiatric medications.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that would provide financial assistance to County behavioral health departments to allow the purchase of newer and more effective mental health medications for jail inmates with mental illness.

INSTITUTIONS FOR MENTAL DISEASE ANCILLARY PAYMENTS

The State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) recently issued a notice informing counties that they are responsible for paying the costs of medical ancillary services for individuals who are in Institutions for Mental Disease (IMDs). Ancillary services include tests, x-rays and psychotropic medications.

The State bases its conclusion that counties are responsible for all medical ancillaries on Welfare and Institutions Code Section 14053.3, which was added by AB 1183, Chapter 758, and Statutes of 2007. The state also reportedly argues that W & I Code Section 14053.1, which permits Medi-Cal billing for ancillary services, is no longer in effect. The County Mental Health Directors Association, the County Health Executives Association and the State Association of Counties believe that both of these conclusions are erroneous and are inconsistent with the

basis for the funding that was transferred to counties for IMD residents when certain community mental health programs were transferred from the state to counties, through realignment.

If this rule is not overturned, the Department of Behavioral Health estimates that the potential cost to the County could be as high as \$828,000 yearly to cover the ancillary medical costs for residents of IMDs.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that would permit counties to be reimbursed by Medi-Cal for ancillary medical costs for residents of Institutions of Mental Disease.

MENTAL HEALTH AND ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUG (AOD) FUNDING

Recent state legislation and budget actions has devastated funding for a variety of mental health programs. These include the Mental Health Services Act, the Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment program, the Short-Doyle Medi-Cal program, Early Mental Health Services Act, the Substance Abuse and Crime Protection Act and the AB 3632 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. County mental health departments rely on these funding sources to meet state mandates to provide these services, and declining funding has meant that the services are either not provided or counties have to dig into their General Funds to pay for them.

Legislative Position: Support legislation or budget acts that would protect or increase these funds. Oppose legislation or budget actions that would reduce mental health and substance abuse funding.

MENTAL HEALTH AND DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT FUNDING FLEXIBILITY

Current funding for Mental Health (MH) and Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) treatment can best be described as the silo approach. Most of the funds are allocated for specific populations. These funds are commonly referred to as set-asides, or categorical funding. Federal and state MH and AOD funding sources are replete with these set-asides.

While this silo funding has the advantage of ensuring that money is available to address the needs of certain groups, too often the money is insufficient to meet all of the needs of that group. In addition, sometimes too much money has been allocated, but those funds cannot be used for other groups. Funds not designated for specific populations are usually available to treat the general population. However, this general population funding for both MH and AOD is usually a small percentage of the funds available, as the majority of funding sources are categorical in nature.

Categorical funding streams limit the ability of County mental health departments to direct the funds to areas of most concern. While money from one pot may sit unused, a critical need with a different funding source may go unfilled. For example, while money may be available to treat the mental health problems of an individual, there may be no funding available to treat this persons co-occurring substance abuse problems. Since those with mental illnesses frequently have substance abuse problems, this is a major problem for the County mental health agencies.

Managing treatment programs at the County level requires navigating a labyrinth of restrictions on how and for whom federal and state funding may be used. These restrictions limit access to treatment by large numbers of Californians.

In addition, the various funding streams make it extremely difficult to share information about an individual's treatment. These barriers hamper effective treatment and should be reduced, while protecting legitimate privacy rights.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that would give counties the flexibility to blend mental health and AOD treatment funding from various sources and to direct it to the areas of most need. Support legislation that would reduce communication barriers between the different funding streams.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PARITY

Patients seeking mental health and substance abuse care (MH/SA) are often discriminated against by their employer-based health insurance providers by having to pay more for services or getting fewer doctor visits or days in the hospital than that for other medical illnesses. This disparity has not been addressed adequately, and the financial and human costs of untreated mental illness and substance abuse far exceed the costs of requiring parity. In 1999, the U.S. Surgeon General estimated that the direct cost of lack of mental health parity was at least \$70 billion per year. A 2004 California Legislative Analyst's Office report found that substance abuse costs California \$33.7 billion dollars annually, and in the workplace it continues to be a serious problem for many employers. California's present Mental Health selective parity law forces patients to develop serious mental disorders before health insurers are required to provide treatment services. Similarly, although the state has mandated that health insurers provide substance abuse treatment, California's laws permit insurers to time-limit outpatient and inpatient services, unlike treatment for physical diseases or injuries. When hospital and surgical coverage was expanded in California to cover general medical care, there was never an attempt to cover only selected medical conditions, nor was there an attempt to time limit these services.

The federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, enacted in October 2008, requires group health insurance plans to cover mental illness and substance abuse disorders for employers that have 50 or more employees on the same terms and conditions as other illnesses. MHPA does not mandate that group health plans provide any mental health coverage.

In general, health care plans impose much stricter limits on MH/SA care than on other medical care. Individuals struggling with mental illness or substance abuse can quickly deplete limited coverage and personal savings and become dependent on cash starved County mental health agencies, which become the treatment providers of last resort.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that would require health insurers to provide MH/SA treatment services to their subscribers to the same extent that they do for general medical disorders.

PAROLEE AFTERCARE PROGRAM FUNDING

AB 900, the prison reform bill signed into law in 2007, requires post-release aftercare treatment for parolees. This care will include both behavioral and public health services, and will be provided, for the most part, by county behavioral and public health departments. However, there was no funding in the bill to assist counties in providing these services, the demand for which will increase sharply in the next few years as more parolees are released into the community.

County public health departments are uniquely positioned to provide aftercare services, and have a wealth of experience providing treatment services under clinical supervision and oversight. Unless counties receive additional funding for these services, they will have to divert money intended for other purposes to provide post-release aftercare services for parolees. As such, these services will be an unfunded mandate.

Legislative Position: Support legislation or budget actions that would provide additional funding for county public health departments to provide post-release aftercare services for treatment for parolees.

PAROLEE MENTAL HEALTH, ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT

Alcohol and other drug (AOD) abuse is an insidious problem in the California correctional system; at least one-third of state and local prisoners are alcohol and other drug offenders. On average, more than 60% of inmates involved in drug and alcohol abuse return to prison within 3 years of being released. Recognizing this problem, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has created a variety of programs to help prisoners and those individuals released from CDCR facilities to seek and complete AOD treatment to reduce recidivism. Likewise, it is estimated that up to 20% of all prison inmates are mentally ill and in need of intensive treatment and/or medication.

AB 900, the prison reform bill signed into law in 2007, among other things, requires implementation of new dedicated substance abuse and mental health treatment beds in CDCR facilities, with post-release aftercare treatment for parolees. However, there was no funding in the bill for aftercare, a service typically provided by County behavioral health departments. As such, County provision of services to this group is an unfunded mandate.

County behavioral health departments are uniquely positioned to provide aftercare services, and have a wealth of experience providing AOD treatment services under clinical supervision and oversight. Unless counties receive additional funding for these services, they will have to divert money intended for other purposes to provide post-release aftercare services.

Legislative Position: Support legislation or budget actions that would provide additional funding for County behavioral health departments to provide post-release aftercare services for mental health and AOD treatment for parolees.

SERIOUSLY EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED CHILDREN: OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT

In 1992, the federal government prohibited counties from placing special education pupils out of state in for-profit facilities. The 1992 statutory change prohibited any use of public funds for residential placement into for-profit facilities, both in California and throughout the country. As a result, in California virtually all placement agencies converted to not-for-profit status or ceased working with publicly funded children. California law was subsequently changed to conform.

In 1997, the federal government reversed itself and authorized out of state placements in for-profit facilities. However, California did not change its own laws to conform. Absent a change in the state law to conform to federal law, counties have been forced to find alternative arrangements for hundreds of special education students with mental health needs. Also, counties that have placed and paid for such placements in the past believing them to be compliant with both state and federal law are at risk of losing a significant amount of reimbursement for these state and federally mandated services unless California law is changed retroactively. In San Bernardino County the Behavioral Health Department has spent \$280,000 over the last 5 years in unreimbursed placement costs for seriously emotionally disturbed children placed in these facilities, money that could be used to support other services.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that would amend state law to allow state reimbursement for a special education pupil placed in either a group home or a for-profit facility that otherwise meets the requirements of the law.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND CRIME PREVENTION ACT

The Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (Prop 36), enacted by initiative statute, appropriated \$120 million for the first five years of the program. After the 2005-06 budget year, legislative appropriations were needed to fund Prop 36. State funding declined through the 2008-09 budget year, and was completely eliminated in the 2009-10 budget.

Prop 36 mandates treatment instead of incarceration for most nonviolent drug offenders. This mandate continues, even without program funding. As a result, the State Department of Mental Health continues to try and meet this mandate with various stop gap funding measures, using money that could be used for other behavioral health or substance abuse purposes, absent the mandate. In the absence of proper funding, the state should be relieved from the Proposition 36 mandates.

Legislative Position: Support legislation or budget actions that would fully fund Prop 36. If full funding is not realized, relieve the state from the Prop 36 mandates.

SUSPEND MEDI-CAL FOR COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY INMATES

State law provides that Medi-Cal benefits generally cannot be paid for incarcerated adults except when the inmate is a patient in a medical institution. The State Department of Health Services has interpreted this law to mean that Medi-Cal benefits should be discontinued when an adult is incarcerated. However, federal law does not require states to terminate adult inmates' eligibility. Under federal law, adult inmates may remain enrolled in Medicaid even though services received while in jail are not covered. The lack of access to medical care is an especially acute problem for those adults with mental health and/or substance abuse problems in need of psychotropic medicine or other medical care necessary to treat severe mental health and/or substance abuse conditions exiting County detention facilities. Any delays in securing treatment can have devastating effects, and may contribute to the adult being quickly re-incarcerated.

If state law for adults mirrored federal law and California juvenile law, an incarcerated adult's Medi-Cal benefits could be suspended, not discontinued, and quickly reactivated upon the release from a detention facility. This would permit the released adult inmate to quickly obtain needed psychiatric and substance abuse treatment, and would help break the expensive cycle of incarceration and reincarceration.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that would suspend, rather than discontinue, an adult's Medi-Cal coverage during incarceration.

YOUTH ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT FUNDING

The State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (DADP) states that an estimated 14.6 million Californians aged 12 years old and over use alcohol and 6.2 million are binge drinkers (drinking five or more drinks on one occasion during the past month), and an estimated 2.6 million Californians, 12 years of age and over are currently using illicit drugs. Despite these depressing statistics, very limited treatment services currently exist for youth with substance abuse disorders. Treatment services available through Proposition 36 were also limited to adults only. According to the Youth Treatment Annual Report, there are currently 220,000-320,000 youth in need of drug and alcohol treatment.

Legislative Position: Support increased funding for youth alcohol and drug treatment programs.

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

CHILD SUPPORT EFFICIENCIES

The child support program places a priority on operating efficiently, including the use of automated tools and sharing of best practices between local child support agencies. The California Department of Child Support Services (CDCSS) has made the identification of new program efficiencies in 2010 a priority. Areas that have been discussed as candidates for improvement include streamlining interactions with external partners such as employers and other governmental agencies, and more effective use of automation as a means of reducing costs and improving outcomes. As CDCSS identifies opportunities for new efficiencies, proposals for legislative and/or regulatory changes are expected to be made. Improved efficiencies at the statewide level will support San Bernardino County's efforts to maximize the efficient use of its resources while continuing to improve performance, increase collections and provide excellent customer service.

Legislative Position: Support legislation or regulatory actions, which will promote new efficiencies in the child support program.

CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM FUNDING

Child support is a critical part of moving families toward and maintaining self-sufficiency. The success of the child support program relies heavily on funding which is received from the state. The County of San Bernardino Department of Child Support Services is California's second largest child support agency serving approximately 129,000 cases. Over the last seven years, program funding has not kept pace with increases in operating costs, which has impacted the department's ability to increase collections, improve performance and provide quality customer service.

In fiscal year 2008-09, the State provided \$18.7 million in Revenue Stabilization funding to be used by local child support agencies to carry out early intervention activities. Early intervention focuses on engaging customers early in the case management process to encourage their participation in their case and achieve improved outcomes. San Bernardino County is utilizing its share of this funding to implement a variety of early intervention activities. During state budgetary process, the Legislature will consider continuing its support of local early intervention activities. The State is currently updating its child support strategic plan, which will include goals for improved performance and collections. In order to achieve these goals, it is necessary to provide adequate funding to local child support programs.

Legislative Position: Support increased funding to local child support agencies in order to achieve the statewide strategic plan program goals.

CHILDRENS SERVICES

FEDERAL FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS ACT

Congress passed and the President signed a major federal Child Welfare reform law, H.R. 6893. The bill has a variety of mandates that will require statutory conformance and a variety of state options to access Title IV-E. States may use IV-E for kin guardianship programs, if the child is otherwise federally eligible and has lived with the relative six consecutive months. The rate payable must be no more than what would be paid if the child remained in a foster family home.

Children who enter kin guardianship after age 16 will remain eligible for Chafee Independent Living Program (ILP) services and vouchers. This provision will allow IV-E funding for many Kin-

GAP cases, freeing up some State General Fund. Since the California Kin-GAP program is broader (for example: program includes non-federally eligible CalWORKs dependents) a state Kin-GAP program would need to continue.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that would move toward state conformance to federal requirements and would provide fiscal opportunities, such as federal participation in Kin-GAP.

FEDERAL MANDATE CONFORMITY

Child Welfare Services is a program authorized, regulated, and funded chiefly by the Federal IV-B and IV-E programs. States may add further conditions or program enhancements that are not federally funded. As state budgets shrink, the ability to sustain inadequately funded state mandates declines. State mandates have been added back to statute and regulation, adding workload complexities that are not required by Federal law.

Legislative Position: Support legislation to eliminate any State Child Welfare Services mandates not required by Federal IV-B or IV-E programs.

FOSTER CHILD ORGAN DONATION

When a foster child is under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court as a dependent child, the court has the authority to make a range of decisions involving the medical care and treatment of the foster child if the parent is unavailable, unwilling or incapable of making appropriate medical care decisions for their child. Rarely, a foster child who has serious medical problems or special health care needs may be hospitalized and treatment fails, resulting in brain death and reliance on life support for viability. In these rare circumstances, the juvenile court has authority under current law to order the removal of the life supports, based on medical advice and the best interests of the child. Juvenile court has no such statutory authority to make orders concerning organ donation on behalf of the foster child. When a family faces this tragic situation of having to agree to removal of life supports on their child, the parents can receive counseling and advice on consenting to allow organ donation. Such a decision for a family is highly personal and would be made in the context of that family's beliefs, culture and values. Some families may find organ donation a way to honor the life of their child and provide some comfort in knowing that other lives were saved by this difficult decision. If the child is a dependent of juvenile court and parental rights have been terminated, the child becomes a legal orphan for purposes of any authority to make the decision on organ donation. Neither the parent whose rights were terminated nor the court can act in this capacity should these tragic circumstances arise.

Legislative Position: Support legislation to permit the juvenile court, under these limited conditions, to consider and, as appropriate, make order concerning organ donation of a foster child, when removal of life supports is otherwise ordered and the child's parents' rights have been terminated

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT NOTICE MAIL REQUIREMENTS

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) noticing requirements are becoming more and more complicated and costly for counties to complete and mail. ICWA and multiple California Appellate decisions require noticing to each possible tribe and its bands as well as the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). As an example, noticing to the Pomo tribe, which has multiple bands, requires 35 notices for one hearing. As these notices must be sent by certified mail, return receipt, the mailing costs for this one hearing can exceed \$200. Federal Indian Child Welfare Act law requires notice to the tribe by registered mail with return receipt requested. State law adds that notice must be by registered or certified mail with return receipt requested. However, alternative and more efficient means of notice might better serve the intent of Inland Child Welfare Act.

Currently the certified mail process is manual and requires a wait for the return of the signed receipt as proof that service was complete. Waiting for the receipt to submit to court frequently results in continuances of court hearings. The U.S. Postal Services has a new process that the mail carrier can obtain delivery confirmation and an electronic signature using a handheld device. The sender can obtain a copy of the signature, and the name of the recipient, date, time and location of the delivery, either by fax or e-mail. Use of this electronic signature verification will expedite the proof of service process and reduce continuances and/or appeals based on questionable receipt of the notices.

Another process the Judicial Council is exploring with the California tribes is a pilot program that uses an e-mail delivery of the Indian Child Welfare Act notices, tribes would have to volunteer and have the capacity to receive e-mail with numerous attachments. Electronic noticing would greatly reduce paper handling and mail costs for counties, reduce time to receipt of notice, and provide a documentation trail that adequate, timely and complete notice was sent and received by tribes.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that would permit the U.S. Postal Delivery Confirmation process as acceptable proof of service, and permit a pilot with volunteer tribes to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiencies in using e-mail to effect delivery of Inland Child Welfare Act notices to tribes and BIA.

REGIONAL CENTER SERVICES

The Lanterman Mental Retardation Act (now called the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act) established the regional center system for providing services to people with a developmental disability in 1969. The Lanterman Act, and related statutes, can be found in the Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code, Divisions 4.1, 4.5, and 4.7 and Title 14 of the Government Code. Section 4621 of Division 4.1 of the W&I Code states that the California Department of Developmental Services, within the limitations of funds appropriated, shall contract with appropriate private nonprofit corporations for the establishment of regional centers.

Regional centers provide diagnosis and assessment of eligibility. It is their responsibility to help plan, access, coordinate and monitor the services and supports that are needed because of a developmental disability. Once eligibility is established a case manager or service coordinator is assigned to help develop a plan for services, tell clients where services are available, and help clients get the services. There are 21 regional centers in California.

Occasionally foster children with serious developmental delays are placed in out-of-state group homes in order to secure specialized residential services that are not available in state. When these disabled youth become 18 or 19, they usually need to be returned to California and transitioned to the local Regional Center for the adult system of care and housing as they remain residents of the county of jurisdiction. However, Regional Centers tend not to recognize an out-of-state foster child as a California resident eligible for services and insist that until the young adult is physically returned to the County, an assessment for adult services may not commence. Since Regional Centers have several months to process a new assessment, this means the disabled adult would have a gap in services at the same time as experiencing a transition in residence and treatment programs.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that clarifies that a juvenile court dependent, who is also a Regional Center consumer, retains California residence and entitlement to transitional services to Regional Center Adult Services when placed out-of-state.

STEPPARENT ADOPTION FEES

A stepparent desiring to adopt a child of the stepparent's spouse may file a petition for adoption in their county of residence. A home study is not required for such an adoption. However, the probation officer, qualified court investigator, licensed clinical social worker, licensed marriage family therapist, or, at the option of the board of supervisors, the county welfare department in the county in which the adoption proceeding is pending shall make an investigation of each case of stepparent adoption. The court may not make an order of adoption until after the probation officer, qualified court investigator, licensed clinical social worker, licensed marriage family therapist, or county welfare department has filed its report and recommendation and they have been considered by the court.

The Family Code specifies that in a stepparent adoption, the prospective adoptive parent is liable for all reasonable costs incurred in connection with the stepparent adoption, including, but not limited to, costs incurred for the investigation, up to a maximum of seven hundred dollars (\$700). The fee may be deferred, waived, or reduced if its payment would cause economic hardship to the prospective adoptive parent. This \$700 fee has not been increased since 1992 and no longer covers costs by the investigator. If the County Board of Supervisors has opted for their county's welfare department to perform this service, the welfare departments are operating this service at a loss. Given the extreme budgetary constraints that all counties are operating under, more and more counties will have to opt out of performing this service.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that would amend Family Code 9002 to allow for a fee scale that is adjustable to actual costs now and in the future for those families who can afford to pay full costs, while maintaining the protections that fees can be deferred, waived or reduced based on need.

TITLE IV-E RELATIVE HOME RE-APPROVALS

The federal Adoptions and Safe Families Act (ASFA) requires foster families and relatives to follow "same-same" standards for licensure and approval in order to draw down federal Title IV-E funding. California is currently in compliance with the federal IV-E requirements, but with regard to the annual reassessments of relative caregivers, California currently exceeds federal requirements. State law does not require annual renewals of foster family homes, but does require annual re-assessments of relative homes.

The problem lies in the fact that, in the case of relative care providers, federal and state funding continues only when the annual reassessment is completed. Under state law, a foster family home license is issued in perpetuity and remains in effect until the home is relocated or the license is revoked for cause. While we do continue to support the policy requiring annual reassessment for relatives, we disagree with making continued federal and state AFDC-FC funding contingent upon the annual renewal.

Due to high workloads at the local level and the fact that the state underfunds the county workload for annual reassessments, counties are struggling to complete these reviews on time. There are circumstances that can delay the renewal outside of the caregiver or County's control. Since there is no state AFDC-FC program for relative caregivers, the default payment is CalWORKs for the foster children remaining in the home. This change in aid payments means additional workload for the county to process the CalWORKs application, stop and start payments, issue Notice of Actions and attempt to collect overpayments. For the caregivers, this means a significant reduction in payment amount and the risk of placement disruption. For the state it means additional costs as the state must re-pay the federal government its share of any overpayment and cannot recoup these costs from either foster parents or counties based on current law.

The state and counties are needlessly losing federal funding for these placements. Nothing in federal law prohibits continued payment to a foster care provider once they are initially licensed/approved to provide care. In fact, the federal IV-E requirements state that the same standards apply to approved relative homes as to licensed foster homes.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that would amend state statute by clarifying that continuous payment of IV-E funded AFDC-FC to otherwise eligible foster children placed with approved relative caregivers shall not be terminated or disrupted solely due to the untimely completion of the annual reassessment.

PUBLIC HEALTH

ANTI-OBESITY LEGISLATION

The statistics on childhood obesity in California are depressing:

- 28.1 percent of 5th, 7th and 9th grade students in California are overweight.
- 25 percent of the state's 5th grade students achieve the fitness standards in all six areas of the California Department of Education fitness test.
- 80 percent of children diagnosed with type 2 diabetes are overweight.
- 33 percent of boys born in 2000 will develop diabetes if current trends continue.
- 39 percent of girls born in 2000 will develop diabetes if current trends continue.
- 75 percent of overweight adolescents are likely to be obese as adults.
- The yearly cost of physical inactivity, obesity to Californians in 2005 in direct medical expenses and lost productivity was \$22 billion.
- There are 10 chronic diseases directly associated to childhood obesity.

In addition, children who are overweight are at increased risk for type 2 diabetes mellitus, asthma and orthopedic problems; they are more likely to have risk factors for cardiovascular disease (such as increased blood pressure and cholesterol); they are more likely to have behavioral problems and depression; and they are more likely to be obese adults.

The County Department of Public Health recognizes that obesity, especially among children, is a growing public health problem in California, and supports legislation that encourages a healthy lifestyle, including improving the nutritional quality of food and beverages available in schools, restaurants and at home, and encouraging physical activity among the state's children.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that promotes healthy diets and physical activity for California's children.

HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES

The National Institutes of Health defines health disparities as differences in the incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden of diseases and other adverse health conditions that exist among specific population groups in the United States.

Striking disparities in health status exist among various communities and populations throughout California, which include shorter life expectancy and higher rates of chronic health conditions and disability. According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), disparities are also observed in most aspects of disease prevention and treatment, including care for mental health disorders and substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, oral health conditions, maternal and child health, respiratory disease, and end stage renal disease.

One of the most successful programs in California to address healthcare disparities was the state-funded Black Infant Health Program (BIH), which provided at-risk African American pregnant and parenting women education and case management services regarding appropriate pediatric care through the first two years of life, causes of infant mortality and low birth weight, anemia, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) awareness.

The San Bernardino County BIH program showed promising results as disparities in healthcare between African American and non-minority women with respect to maternal and child health were substantially narrowed. Unfortunately, funding for the BIH declined in the last two years and was completely eliminated in the 2009-10 State Budget, resulting in lost ground for the San Bernardino Public Health Department that will be hard to make up. The success of the BIH proves that healthcare disparities can be addressed, as long as programs like BIH are adequately funded.

Legislative Position: Support legislation and budget actions that would fund and address healthcare disparities.

HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM

In May of 2009, the Governor, as part of his May Revise Budget, proposed drastic cuts to state funding of the Healthy Families Program. The Legislature approved most of the cuts, and the Governor line item vetoed an additional \$50 million from the program, for a total cut of \$179 million, in addition to the loss of millions of dollars in federal funding. Recent state legislation (AB 1422) and a timely contribution to the program from the state Children's and Families Commission has enabled the program to continue signing children up for Healthy Families, and earlier plans to disenroll hundreds of thousands of children have been shelved. AB 1422 and the Children and Families Commission contribution are for one year only, and in the 2011 state budget year, funding for Healthy Families will once again be in jeopardy. Not only is this program vital for the health of the state's children, it is absolutely necessary for the public health department to run a number of programs, especially the California Children's Services program.

Legislative Position: Support legislation and budget actions that would preserve and protect funding for the Healthy Families Program.

PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING

Recent state legislation and budget actions have cut or eliminated funding for a variety of public healthy programs and functions. These include:

- HIV/AIDS Programs: The Governor cut an additional \$52.1 million to HIV/AIDS programs, eliminating state funding for the Education and Prevention, Therapeutic Monitoring, Counseling and Testing, Early Intervention and Home and Community Based Care and Housing programs.
- Maternal and Child Health: The Adolescent Family Health, Black Infant Health and Domestic Violence programs had their state funding eliminated.

In addition, state funding for pandemic influenza planning, tuberculosis prevention and control, immunization prevention and registry activities, the Child Health and Disability Prevention program, the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment program, the Childhood Lead Poisoning program, the Perinatal Alcohol/Drug Risk Assessment program, state grants for local

laboratory public health microbiologists and laboratory grant funding for and the California Children's Services program remains at risk.

County public health departments rely on these funding sources to meet state mandates to provide these services, and declining funding has meant that the services are either not provided or counties have to dig into their General Funds to pay for them.

Legislative Position: Support legislation or budget actions that would protect and restore public health funding. In the absence of state funding for these programs, support the suspension or elimination of mandates on public health department programs that are not sufficiently funded by the state.

PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING AGREEMENT SIMPLIFICATION

The State Department of Public Health (DPH) funds most public health services through county and city local health departments. The State Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) funds the rest. The 61 city and county health departments receive public health funding through more than 1,000 categorical agreements that total less than half a billion dollars in local assistance funds. The two state departments administer 3,000 contracts with local health departments. San Bernardino County currently has approximately 50 such contracts.

County health departments face competing application and reporting deadlines from DPH and DHCS. The administrative burden of managing contracts with the state significantly reduces the time staff can devote to program activities. State contract procedures have little flexibility to address existing and emerging local health issues. Most existing contracts are overly complicated and focused on spending allocations rather than measurable public health goals. In addition, delays in executing contracts, which are common, places a financial burden on local health departments, which must provide the services on faith that the state will eventually complete the contract procedure. By contrast, some public health programs have statutory authority to fund local health departments through allocation or subvention agreements instead of contracts. The allocation agreements with city and county health departments do not pose a financial risk to the state or eliminate local health departments' accountability for performance. Allocations have also been exempt from recent contract freezes that have delayed contracts beyond the normal timeframes, assuring the funding and delivery of public health services.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that requires the use of allocation agreements instead of contracts, and to consolidate multiple program and reporting requirements for programs administered by county and city health departments on behalf of the state.

PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE

An adequate supply of well-prepared public health professionals is essential to an effective public health system in America. Concerns about bio-terrorism and terrorist attacks as well as the outbreak of Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and a potential H1N1 pandemic have made the country more acutely aware of the important responsibilities of the nation's public health system. At the same time, there is concern about the adequacy of the public health workforce, both in terms of the number of workers and their skills and competencies. A study by the National Center for Health Workforce Analysis found that recruitment difficulty for public health professionals is widespread. These recruitment problems affected the existing public health workforce. The inability to fill vacant public health positions typically led to chronic understaffing and difficult working conditions. Many local public health departments report that they have learned to do more with less, but in many instances they were unable to maintain the level of services provided. As a result, direct patient services were reduced (i.e., hours or cases); the start-up of new programs was delayed and population-based services were cut

back. The County Department of Public Health has encountered continuing difficulties in hiring qualified public health professionals, and supports these recommendations. The department believes that maintaining an adequate supply of public health professionals is necessary for the department's mission of protecting the health and safety of the citizens of San Bernardino County.

Legislative Position: Support legislation or budget actions that would increase the number of qualified public health medical professionals.

TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE

ALIGN CALWORKS AND TANF WORK PARTICIPATION AND TIME LIMIT REGULATIONS

State and federal regulation inconsistencies have placed an undue administrative burden on counties and have disadvantaged counties in their ability to meet mandated Federal Work Participation Rates (WPR). Current state CalWORKs regulations require recipients of federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) benefits to participate in more hours of welfare-to-work activities than federal statutes and regulations require. State regulations also allow recipients to receive assistance beyond the federal time limits.

Misalignment between state CalWORKs and federal TANF work activity requirements creates a number of problems. The higher participation requirement results in additional administrative, child care, supportive service and maintenance of effort (MOE) costs and hampers the state's ability to meet federal participation requirements. County welfare departments must expend additional effort beyond what is federally required to engage welfare-to-work participants in the full number of CalWORKs hours, as opposed to the fewer federally required hours.

State CalWORKs regulations allow for over nineteen exemptions and extenders that increase the number of months that a recipient can receive aid past the established 60-month federal time limit, seventeen more than federally allowed. Exemptions are circumstances under which a month of assistance does not count in determining whether the family has reached the time limit. In essence, the time clock stops. Extenders allow for aid to be continued even though the family has reached its time limit. As these extensions and extenders are solely funded by state dollars, aligning federal and state regulations would potentially lead to a significant savings for the state. There would also be an increase in administrative simplification, allowing counties to use their limited workforce to focus their efforts on other pressing issues such as the WPR.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that would align State CalWORKs and Federal TANF regulations, while retaining the Safety-net Program that serves the children on these cases.

CALWORKS OVERPAYMENT CLEAN UP

An overpayment is defined as any amount of aid payment an assistance unit (AU) received to which it was not eligible. Regulations have been established regarding how counties are to recoup these overpayments from caretaker relative recipients and order of priority. Regulations allow for an overpayment to be recouped via grant adjustment, balancing, demand for repayment, civil judgment, voluntary cash recovery, or voluntary grant offsets.

As currently written, once a case is discontinued with an existing overpayment balance, and the caretaker relative was not an AU member (unaided) at the time of the overpayment, the County cannot demand payment, or seek other recovery methods, i.e., tax intercept from that individual, even if he/she caused the overpayment. However, the County can demand and recoup from any child who was aided at the time the overpayment occurred.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that would enable counties to collect overpayments from caretaker relatives, except relative caregivers providing care for foster youth, regardless of whether or not they were aided at the time the overpayment occurred, and would preclude collections from AU members who were minors at the time of the established overpayment.

CALWORKS SELF-INITIATED PROGRAM

The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Federal Final Rule requires Work Eligible Individuals (WEIs) to meet the Work Participation Rate (WPR) requirement. There is a disparity in state regulations regarding educational Self-Initiated Programs (SIPs), which is inconsistent with federally approved work activities, which prevent the state from meeting federal requirements and undermines the principle of equitable treatment of CalWORKs recipients. Current state SIP regulations do not: require participants to meet federal core hour requirements after exceeding the statutory 12-month limitation in a vocational educational training activity; count federally allowable hours for unsupervised study/homework time; and allow pursuit of an advance degree unless it is related to a teaching credential.

A SIP is not a federally defined work activity; however a SIP participant who meets the federal definition of a WEI is included in the WPR calculation. There are statutory guidelines that prevent the state from requiring a SIP individual to participate in federal core work activities after the 12-month federal statutory limit is reached. Only a SIP activity that voluntarily or otherwise fits the definition of a federally allowable activity may be included in the WPR calculation.

Since the state is prevented from requiring SIP participants to meet federal core hour requirements there is a negative impact on WPR, and the principle of equitable treatment of all CalWORKs recipients who are WEIs is undermined.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that would align state regulations for SIPs to conform to the TANF Federal Rules by affording the state and counties increased potential to meet federal WPR, and allowing for equitable treatment of all CalWORKs recipients regardless of SIP status.

CHILD CARE FOR CALWORKS TIMED-OUT PARENTS

CalWORKs timed-out adults whose children are CalWORKs recipients are considered Work Eligible Individuals (WEI) by federal definition and must be counted in the federal Work Participation Rate (WPR). They are classified as former CalWORKs recipients who are receiving CalWORKs on behalf of his/her child(ren). Timed-out adults are unable to receive Stage One Child Care supportive services while participating in Welfare-to-Work activities, which negatively impact the state and the County's ability to engage these parents in work activities and to meet federal WPR requirements.

CalWORKs timed-out adults typically need child care supportive services for their child(ren) in order to work and/or participate in a County-approved activity to meet WPR and achieve financial independence. Due to state regulation differences between Stage One, Stage Two and other Child Care programs, timed-out adults may not receive any child care supportive services.

Without the needed child care supportive services, timed out adults are unable to participate and will not meet the WPR, which increases the state risk for federal financial penalties.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that would reclassify CalWORKs timed-out individuals as eligible to Stage One Child Care, and shift funding from Stage Two Child Care to Stage One Child Care in order to accommodate these individuals.

MEDICARE PART B BUY-IN CASES

The state eliminated the Medicare Part B Buy-In for Medi-Cal recipients with a share of cost over \$500 in November 2008, as a cost-saving measure. When this policy was enacted, it inadvertently created a group of cases that is bouncing back and forth between share-of-cost Medi-Cal and no-cost Medi-Cal for Aged, Blind, and Disabled persons. This results in month-to-month changes in eligibility for Medi-Cal for a population that was previously quite stable in its eligibility.

This is creating a great deal of confusion for clients and County staff and generates many notices to these clients, as well as checks being sent to the affected clients (in arrears) to pay them back for out-of-pocket expenses incurred every other month.

Legislative Position: Support cost-neutral legislation or budget actions that would change the deduction policy for the Aged and Disabled/Blind Federal Poverty Levels to programs to allow for the monthly Part B premium to be deducted from income regardless of whether the client is receiving the buy-in.

MEDI-CAL FOR FOSTER CARE ADOLESCENTS

In 2000, California adopted the state option available under federal Medicaid law to allow children who are transitioning out of foster care at age 18 to continue their Medi-Cal coverage under the Former Foster Care Children (FFCC) program. To be eligible, a child must be in foster care under the responsibility of the state on his or her 18th birthday, and coverage continues until age 21 when they "age out" of the FFCC program.

There is no income or asset test requirement for the FFCC program, and beneficiaries do not have a share of cost for Medi-Cal coverage. FFCC beneficiaries must indicate they still want Medi-Cal by filling out a one page application and statement of facts at their annual redetermination of Medi-Cal eligibility that asks for specified information, including the individual's name, address, date of birth, and whether the individual has other medical insurance. There are approximately 5,400 to 6,100 individuals enrolled in the FFCC. Between January and June 2006, an average of 540 foster care beneficiaries turned age 18 each month. Of these 3,240 individuals, 41% were moved into the Medi-Cal aid code for FFCC.

Currently, these former foster youth are required to fill out Medi-Cal eligibility forms as a prerequisite to getting the health care services to which they are already entitled to by law. The results of this current practice are foster youth incorrectly filling out their forms, forms being sent to the wrong addresses and ultimately loss of medical care for foster youth who are eligible. Independent former foster youth have acute health care needs and experience mental illness, substance abuse, and homelessness at rates far greater than the general population.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that ensures there is no interruption in Medi-Cal coverage for independent foster care adolescents in foster care prior to his or her eighteenth birthday.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICES FUNDING

County Veterans Service Offices (CVSOs) play a vital role in the local veteran community, not only within the Veteran Affairs (VA) claims process, but in other aspects as well. This includes providing information about all veterans benefits (federal, state and local), as well as providing claims assistance for all veteran-related benefits, referring veterans to ancillary community resources, providing hands-on development and case management services for claims and appeals, and transporting local veterans to VA facilities.

CVSOs statewide receive \$2.6 million from the California Department of Veterans Affairs. This amount compared to the \$23 million total cost to counties related to maintaining these programs illustrates how the state has not kept pace with increasing costs. San Bernardino County's annual subvention from the state is \$299,000. SB 419, passed in 2009, provides code cleanup by declaring that 50% of the amount annually budgeted for (CVSOs) is approximately \$11 million. While this bill recognizes the increase in costs to counties there was no appropriation included in the bill requiring the state to increase funding to (CVSOs). Increasing funding for will ensure that local agencies have the financial resources to continue to provide services to veterans efficiently and effectively.

Legislative Position: Support legislation to increase state subvention of County Veterans Service Offices.

VETERANS ACCESS TO HOMES FOR VETERANS WITH ORGANIC BRAIN SYNDROME, DEMENTIA, AND ALZHEIMERS DISEASE

Veterans desiring to be considered for admission into one of California's three veterans homes must be residents of California, age 62 or older (or younger if disabled), and have served honorably. State government plans to construct five new veterans' homes in California and is in the process of acquiring land, planning, and designing the new veteran's homes. There are approximately 1900 beds between the three existing homes. Only the Yountville and the Chula Vista homes offer skilled nursing facilities. The 2007-08 State Budget included \$2.3 million to re-open the 40 bed skilled nursing facility at the Barstow home that will occur over two years. The 2006-2007 budget included \$3.4 million from the General Fund to establish a 75 bed Alzheimer facility at the Yountville home. While these changes are definitely a step in the right direction, there is a growing need for specialized medical care.

There is a long waiting list for all three existing homes, and an even longer waiting list exists for those veterans needing specialized medical care. As California's veteran's age, there will continue to be an increase in the number of veterans who are suffering from debilitating diseases such as Organic Brain Syndrome, dementia, and Alzheimer's disease. These individuals need the kind of care that is currently only being offered at the Yountville home. There are a limited number of beds set aside for veterans needing this type of care. It is imperative the number of beds set aside in each home be re-evaluated and adjustments be made accordingly. Legislation is needed to move toward providing the appropriate care to these veterans who sacrificed so much for this country.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that would provide increased access to California's Veterans Homes for those veterans suffering from Organic Brain Syndrome, dementia, and Alzheimer's disease.

VETERANS LICENSE PLATE PROGRAM

California allows for individuals to purchase specialized license plates in order to express their pride in their military, National Guard, or reserve service or to show support for California's veterans. The fees collected from the Veterans' Organizations License Plates are used by the California Department of Veterans Affairs for the benefit of participating County Veteran Service Offices (CVSOs) and to commemorate veteran organizations.

To be eligible to purchase one of the available specialized veterans plates an individual must be a veteran or an eligible family member of a member of the Armed Forces who was killed in the line of duty. However, there are numerous citizens who would proudly purchase a specialized plate knowing that the proceeds would go to support California's veteran population. In order to

increase the revenue generated from this program it is necessary to increase the pool of individuals that are eligible to purchase specialized license plates that would directly benefit veterans. A substantial obstacle is the requirement that 7,500 applications and fees be submitted to the Department of Motor Vehicles before a new specialized license plate is issued on behalf of a state agency. This particular requirement impedes efforts to establish a specialized license plate to be purchased by citizens wishing to show their support for California's veterans while also providing an additional revenue source for CVSOs.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that would make needed changes to the Veterans License Plate program thus increasing the revenue source for County Veteran Service Offices.

VETERANS PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

The Veterans Property Tax Exemption is not keeping pace with the Homeowners Property Tax Exemption. According to existing regulations, a property owner that is a Veteran (or the unmarried surviving spouse of such a Veteran) may qualify for an exemption of up to \$4,000 off the assessed value of their property. Likewise all other property owners that occupy the property as their principal place of residence may qualify for an exemption of \$7,000 off the assessed value of their property, thus reducing the property tax bill. Additionally, eligibility to the Veteran's Exemption is limited to those single veterans with assets less than \$5,000 and married veterans with assets less than \$10,000. Property owners may not claim both the Veterans and the Homeowners Exemption on the same property.

The initial idea behind providing veterans with the Veteran's Property Tax Exemption was to recognize their efforts and contributions to our society beyond that of the average citizen. The fact that the current veteran's exemption falls far below that which is offered by the Homeowners Exemption diminishes that recognition. Legislation is needed to ensure that the Veterans exemption will always exceed the amount of the Homeowners Exemption.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that would increase the Veterans Property Tax Exemption to an amount exceeding the standard Homeowners Exemption.

LAW AND JUSTICE

- Support legislation to amend California Vehicle Code Section 9250.19 to extend or repeal the sunset; and support amendment of California Government Code Section 26746.
- Support legislation to amend Government Code Section 26746, to allow funds to be used for personnel salaries and benefits.
- Support legislation that will provide adequate funding and augment law enforcement and public safety operations.
- Support legislation that will enhance inmate and officer safety in detention and correction operations.
- Support legislation that will enhance the safety and security of citizens by maintaining and increasing funding for law enforcement.
- Support legislation that will assist in the campaign against illegal narcotics manufacturing and use.
- Oppose legislation that will erode public safety at the state level.
- Oppose legislation will lead to the early release of violent and sex offender inmates.
- Oppose legislation that will decrease sentences.
- Oppose legislation that will decrease law enforcement funding.

GPS SEX OFFENDER REFORM IMPLEMENTATION FOR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

SB 1128 and SB 1178 established the Sex Offender Reform Implementation, requires that in 2009, all high-risk sex offenders as identified by the Static 99 risk assessment tool are mandated to be on Geographical Positioning Satellite (GPS) tracking systems. The Sex Offender Reform Implementation, coupled with Jessica's Law which mandates that sex offenders paroled from state prison must also be on GPS tracking for life, places strict GPS requirements for sex offenders without clear parameters of the responsible agencies for managing this population. GPS tracking systems are most effective when law enforcement agencies are actively managing this population. Active GPS management allows law enforcement agencies to be proactive by specifying officers to actively monitor and respond to violations rather than passively search for violations after a crime has been committed. This effort requires dedicated officers as responders to prevent the victimization of citizens. The estimated total cost is \$100 million statewide.

Legislative Position: Support legislation or budget actions that will maintain funding for GPS Sex Offender Reform Implementation.

JUVENILE JUSTICE CRIME PREVENTION ACT AND JUVENILE PROBATION AND CAMP FUNDING

Funding Request: \$319 Million

Estimated Total project Cost: \$319 Million

The Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) was enacted in 2001 through AB 1913, and later administratively tied to the Community Oriented Police Services (COPS) funding stream. The Juvenile Probation and Camps Funding (JPCF) has been an integral part of County Juvenile Probation funding streams. Both of these funding streams focus on providing preventative services through County juvenile justice programs. The funding for both of these programs has steadily been declining and in 2009-10 was placed under Vehicle License Fee (VLF) funding. The VLF funding stream is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2011. Additionally, the VLF receipts have been reduced an estimated 34% in 2009-10 fiscal year, directly affecting services to these juveniles.

Project Description: JJCPA operates direct state funded programs designed to prevent juveniles becoming more entrenched in the Juvenile Justice System. JJCPA under San Bernardino County operates four distinct programs: School Probation Officer; Day Reporting Centers; and the House Arrest Program all operated by Probation, and the Let's End Truancy (L.E.T.) Program operated by the District Attorney's Office. Each of these programs provide direct services to juveniles to keep them in school to complete their education, provide after school options for mentoring, tutoring and other educational opportunities, and keeps them home with their families while awaiting adjudication for misdemeanor offenses. JPCF provides funding for camp programs, and juvenile probation/detention structured programs that allow juveniles an opportunity to participate in classes and activities designed for their specific needs.

TRANSPORTATION

INTERSTATE 10 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS

I-10 is the principal east/west circulation route for automobiles and trucks into and out of the Los Angeles basin. I-10 currently handles 185,000 vehicles a day with a projected traffic count of over 250,000 trips per day in 2020. Interchanges along I-10 throughout the Inland Empire were typically built at every mile with overpasses or underpasses (grade separations) at every half-mile.

CHERRY AVENUE/I-10 INTERCHANGE

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$71 Million

I-10 is the principal east/west circulation route for automobiles and trucks into and out of the Los Angeles basin. I-10 currently handles 185,000 vehicles a day with a projected traffic count of over 250,000 trips per day in 2020. Interchanges along I-10 throughout the Inland Empire were typically built at every mile with overpasses or underpasses (grade separations) at every half-mile. However, in this area, apart from the spacing between Sierra and Citrus Avenues, interchanges are spaced at two-mile intervals and no midpoint grade separations exist. The lack of mid-point grade separations places extraordinary pressure on the existing interchanges.

Cherry Avenue is a multi-function arterial and truck route providing access to industrial sites in north Fontana. Cherry Avenue provides access to the Fontana Speedway and provides a gateway for a large and growing residential core south of the rail tracks. Cherry Avenue is a regionally significant north/south highway with average daily traffic of over 26,000 with projected traffic count of over 38,000 trips per day by 2035. Cherry Avenue/I-10 Interchange is experiencing heavy congestion with over 20 minute delays in local cross over traffic during the afternoon peak hours. Alterations to the interchange configuration are complicated by the parallel railroad tracks to the south of I-10.

Legislative Position: A joint project request between SANBAG, the County of San Bernardino, and the City of Fontana to widen Cherry Avenue to seven lanes and improve the I-10 Interchange.

CITRUS AVENUE/I-10 INTERCHANGE

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$45 Million

Citrus Avenue is a regionally significant north/south highway with heavy truck traffic because it serves major industrial sites in Fontana and unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County. The Citrus Avenue/I-10 Interchange is experiencing significant vehicle congestion with over 20 minute delays in local cross over traffic during afternoon peak hours. Parallel railroad tracks immediately to the south of I-10 complicate alterations to the interchange configuration and will significantly increase project costs. With the environmental phase completed, the project is now in final design and right-of-way acquisition.

Project Description: A joint project request between SANBAG, the City of Fontana, and the County of San Bernardino to complete the interchange work through Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E).

PEPPER AVENUE/I-10 INTERCHANGE

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$50 Million

Pepper Avenue provides access to the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center and provides a gateway for growing local residential development. Pepper Avenue is regionally significant. Pepper Avenue/I-10 Interchange is experiencing heavy congestion with traffic backing up into the freeway lanes during the peak hours significantly slowing interstate traffic including goods movement and contributing to air quality issues and lengthened commute times (no plans to alter Rail overhead or construct to south). A significant first phase of the project has already been constructed.

Project Description: A joint project request between SANBAG, the City of Colton, and the County of San Bernardino to widen Pepper Avenue to seven lanes and improve the I-10 Interchange.

CEDAR AVENUE/I-10 INTERCHANGE

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$50 Million

Cedar Avenue is a regionally significant north/south highway with average daily traffic of 39,000 and a projected traffic count of over 74,000 trips per day by 2020. Cedar Avenue/I-10 Interchange experiences heavy congestion with over 20 minute delays in local cross over traffic during the afternoon peak hours. Alterations to the interchange configuration are complicated by the parallel railroad tracks immediately to the south of I-10. Cedar Avenue is a multi-function arterial route. It is a truck route, providing access to industrial sites in south Fontana. Cedar Avenue is also a heavily traveled school transportation corridor with a large middle school on the northeast corner of Slover Avenue at Cedar Avenue. The over-crossing provides a gateway for a large and growing residential core south of the rail tracks.

Project Description: A joint project request between Caltrans and the County of San Bernardino to widen Cedar Avenue to seven lanes and improve the I-10 interchange. The amount requested is to complete project work through Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E), right-of-way, and construction.

HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$4.3 Billion

The High Desert Corridor (HDC) provides a vital missing link in the National Highway System between California's two major North/South Interstates, the I-5 and the I-15. In SAFTEA-LU, the HDC was designated as a High Priority Corridor on the National Highway System from Los Angeles to Las Vegas, via Palmdale and Victorville. The E-220 was designated as the 50-mile segment of the HDC between the SR 14 in Palmdale and the I-15 in Victorville, and with inland ports at each end will provide for improved goods movement and congestion relief throughout Southern California, better air quality in the South Coast Air Quality Management District region by the diversion of trucks to rail, and the economic stimulus of almost 100,000 construction and logistics jobs. The HDC Joint Powers Authority (JPA) was formed by the Counties of Los Angeles and San Bernardino as the legal public sector entity to govern and provide oversight of the development of the E-220. Approval of the state legislature is the next step required for the HDC JPA to become a Public Private Partnership (P3) with the ability to have Design Build Authority and levy tolls on trucks and cars to provide potential financing options.

Project Description: JPA governance and oversight of a P3 for planning, programming, design, construction, maintenance and operation of a six lane expressway connecting Inland Ports in Victorville and Palmdale and costs associated with project development. First phase of project funding for Phase 1A is a Tier II TCIF mark for \$150M.

ARROWBEAR DRIVE REALIGNMENT AND WIDENING

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$2 Million

The Arrowbear Community off California State Highway 18 has limited access to CA18. The existing bridge/spillway and road needs to be realigned and widened. The project is not capacity increasing. Regionally, improvements to this road will mitigate traffic safety issues. Arrowbear Drive is the only evacuation route for the Arrowbear community.

Project Description: Remove and replace bridge/spillway and realign and widen road to improve traffic safety and provide easier egress access in an emergency.

CEDAR GLEN FIRE ACCESS

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$2.5 Million

In 2003, the Old Fire decimated the Cedar Glen area east of Highway 173 and Lake Arrowhead. The area residences were built over a series of very steep ridges and gullies. Traversing a terrain of pine forest at about 5,000ft elevation, vehicles are required to ascend or descend steep grades and tight curves on roads which have been cut as benches into the sides of the ridges of decomposing granite bedrock. One of the major issues to surface in a report and internal analysis of the Cedar Glen area was the lack of paved roads to facilitate traffic circulation, an ability to enter and exit the area without back-tracking. The area having in effect roads that were long cul-de-sacs inhibited emergency evacuation and left emergency personnel extremely vulnerable with no means of escape from the area. Several hundred structures were destroyed. The study and analysis suggested linking paved County Maintained Torrey Road and Pine Ridge Drive which in turn links to Hook Creek Road along the alignment of Little Bear Creek Road and Elder Drive. Little Bear Creek and Elder Drive currently are dirt roads that could be widened and, when paved, have a longitudinal slope-grade which would enable fire equipment to safely traverse these roads.

Project Description: Construct road and drainage improvements to Little Bear Creek Road and Elder Drive in the Cedar Glen area east of Highway 173 in the San Bernardino Mountains.

CUMBERLAND DRIVE: STATE HIGHWAY 18-BALD EAGLE RIDGE

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$6 Million

Current subdivisions off State Highway 18 have limited access to State Highway 18 and needed improvements to this road will mitigate traffic safety issues. Cumberland Drive may also serve as a vital evacuation route for several vulnerable residential areas. The road would improve fire emergency response times for these residential areas that are still highly vulnerable.

Project Description: The road will require, at a minimum, a paved traffic lane in each direction between State Highway 18 to an existing paved cul-de-sac road within Bald Eagle Ridge.

DALEY CANYON ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$500,000

Daley Canyon road is a busy access road for the mountain communities off State Highway 18. The proximity of the local High School with attendant traffic congestion makes the intersection a bottleneck. Regionally, improvements to this intersection will mitigate traffic congestion. Daley Canyon Road may be important as an evacuation route.

Project Description: Add a turn lane along Daley Canyon Road to split right and left turns at the intersection of Daley Canyon Road at State Highway 18.

GLEN HELEN PARKWAY UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD (UPRR) - BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE (BNSF) GRADE SEPARATION

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$46 Million

The existing Parkway is four lanes west of Glen Helen Park, and two lanes within the limits of the proposed grade separation project. The roadway crosses the Cajon Creek via a low-water reinforced concrete box structure, located along the north bank of the creek. This creek carries the main flow from the Cajon Pass watershed, which occasionally floods the existing Glen Helen Parkway in major storms. A proposal for Highway Bridge Program Funds has been submitted to Caltrans to replace the existing inadequate structure on a new alignment suggested by the preliminary planning study analysis currently underway, paid for by the County. However, the project must consider the entirety, not just the crossing of the creek. Both the BNSF and the upper cross the roadway east of Cajon Creek. The UPRR has a single track at this location, but also uses the BNSF tracks for hauling freight. BNSF has three operational tracks located east of the UPRR. These are main line tracks and experience heavy train traffic coming in and out of the Ports, and downtown Los Angeles, with the eastbound trains moving relatively slowly. The Glen Helen Parkway intersection with Cajon Boulevard is stop controlled. The roadway serves as access to I-215 and I-15 for local traffic, and also access to the Glen Helen Park. This park offers recreational opportunities including fishing, picnicking, camping and horseback riding, as well as special events at the San Manuel Pavilion, which is the outdoor amphitheater in the County and has over 10,000 seats, with an ultimate capacity of 65,000. The Pavilion has a busy schedule of events, including usually 8-12 events during summer (April - October).

Project Description: Widen Glen Helen Parkway to four lanes; constructing an all weather crossing of the Cajon Creek; and constructing a grade separation over both the BNSF and UPRR railroads, with associated approach walls to be used to span the creek and railroads. It is anticipated the creek cross sectional area may need substantial protection from flood damage, which may include dikes and hard surfacing of the embankments. Other improvements may include accommodation of a horse trail and pedestrian facilities. In addition, a new connection to Cajon Boulevard must be made depending upon the configuration of the alternative design.

HELENDALE ROAD PAVING PROJECT

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$14 Million

The proposal is to pave Helendale Road as an alternative route for National Trails Highway (Route 66) between the Silver Lakes/Helendale communities and Victorville. This alternative route avoids an at-grade rail crossing at Vista Road and a very narrow, functionally obsolete, road underpass at Oro Grande that inhibits traffic flow and reduces level of service. For commuters, this additional road improves system connectivity, as commuting times can be more predictable, allowing commuters to efficiently access intermodal transportation systems, trains and rideshare/vanpools.

With the development of Southern California Logistics Airport (SCLA) an estimated additional 10,000 jobs will be generated. It is anticipated that multiple housing tracts will be developed north of the airport with Helendale Road as the primary road link. Constructing this road prior to known development patterns will significantly reduce project costs.

Project Description: Pave Helendale Road, currently a dirt road. Pave one lane in each direction within existing right-of-way from Colusa Road within the City of Victorville north to Silver Lakes Road.

INSTITUTION ROAD: GLEN HELEN REHABILITATION FACILITY TO CAJON BOULEVARD

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$10 Million

Institution Road is the only paved access road for the Glen Helen Rehabilitation Facility, which lies on the west side of the Cajon Wash. Institution Road crosses the Cajon Wash approximately perpendicular to the line of flow. The road has several vertical sags or dips that correspond with seasonal streambeds. Institution Road is closed in inclement weather due to water and debris flows and debris is regularly deposited on the road. In significant storm events the wash above the road creates braided channels and water (and debris) may flow across Institution Road at any point. In 2005 the road was closed for so long that helicopters had to ferry personnel to and from the facility. Due to significant environmental issues involving flow regimes and endangered species migration patterns, a more complex bridge structures must be built to create all weather access.

Project Description: 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 & Game and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Institution Road will also serve as an alternate access road to Rosena Ranch.

LENWOOD ROAD GRADE SEPARATION PROJECT

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$32 Million

The project is to provide grade separation between Lenwood Road and the BNSF rail tracks. Lenwood Road is utilized by a disproportionate volume of truck traffic due to this crossing being a chokepoint for travel. This grade separation is part of the Alameda Rail Corridor (East) project that has examined the consequences of additional frequency and train length impacts on local communities. Lenwood Road is a major truck traffic connection between State Highway 58 to the north of the Mojave River and the community of Lenwood to the south. State Highway 58 carries significant levels of truck traffic from other states and Las Vegas via I-15 and from I-40 and points east. Main Street, otherwise known as National Trails Highway (NTH or Route 66) provides access to Barstow and Victorville. Barstow is a logical stopping point for many truck drivers, either for changing drivers or for mandatory rest stops. Significant safety issues that will be mitigated upon completion can further support Lenwood Road grade separation project. The reduction in traffic congestion and improvements to air quality may be quantified to demonstrate a high benefit cost ratio for this project.

Project Description: Provide grade separation between Lenwood Road and the BNSF rail tracks. Project Approval & Environmental Documentation (PA&ED) is almost complete.

MONTE VISTA AVENUE REALIGNMENT

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$6 Million

Monte Vista Avenue is a north south route scheduled for construction of a grade separation over the railroad tracks north of State Street by 2009. The realignment of Monte Vista Avenue will complement the local traffic circulation patterns, significantly reducing local congestion. The offset alignment is identified with increased congestion. The current four-way stop creates uncertainty over traffic precedent; slowing traffic efficiency, and increasing safety concerns.

Project Description: Monte Vista Avenue requires horizontal realignment at Philips Boulevard. The north south alignment is offset due to Monte Vista Avenue following survey markings between old land grants. Philips Boulevard was the boundary between land grants. The project will realign the road intersection to eliminate the offset.

NATIONAL TRAILS HIGHWAY BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS PROJECT

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$135 Million

National Trails Highway between Daggett and Interstate 40 at Mountain Springs Road serves as an alternate route to Interstate 40 during sand storms, traffic collisions, or other safety concerns. The 135 bridges on National Trails Hwy have exceeded their design life and replacement is necessary to accommodate heavy weight trucks, access to planned water and energy projects, and increased interstate and tourist travel. This project is a safety project to design and replace 135 1930s era timber trestle bridges that are significantly beyond their design life and replace them with concrete bridges on National Trails Highway. National Trails Highway serves as an alternate route to Interstate 40, is used for goods movement, interstate travel, and tourism, and is a component of the National Historic Register. It is also in nomination as a World Heritage Site.

Project Description: A safety project to design and replace 135, 1930s era timber trestle bridges on National Trails Highway that are significantly beyond their design life and replace them with concrete bridges.

NISQUALLI YUCCA LOMA CORRIDOR

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$101 Million

The Mojave River is a major east-west obstacle for transportation in the high desert area of San Bernardino County. The Mojave River is also a major watercourse and, in the rainy winter months, is subject to high water flows. With the urban development in this area, additional bridges are becoming necessary, both for ease of movement and for safety. Construction of an additional bridge across the Mojave River (and the AT&SF Railroad tracks), connecting Yucca Loma Road via Yates Road to Green Tree Boulevard (a distance of approximately 3.4 miles) will provide a necessary structure to facilitate ease of movement across this natural barrier and provide a grade separation across the busy railroad tracks.

There are only two crossing points across the Mojave River between Victorville and the Town of Apple Valley, two rapidly growing communities. One crossing link is via State Highway 18 through the Mojave Rivers upper narrows about four miles to the north and the second is located at Bear Valley Road about a mile to the south of the proposed Yucca Loma alignment.

Project Description: The Town of Apple Valley, City of Victorville and County of San Bernardino have developed a project to connect Yucca Loma Road, Yates Road, and Green Tree Boulevard from Apple Valley Road to Hesperia Road. This project will provide an alternate

east/west corridor in the Victor Valley Region. The project includes construction of the four-lane Yucca Loma Bridge over the Mojave River in the Town of Apple Valley, widening of Yates Road to four lanes in the County area and construction of the Green Tree Boulevard in Victorville. The new roadway and bridges will carry vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians across the Mojave River and the B.N.S.F. Railroad.

ORO GRANDE OVERPASS

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$29 Million

Currently, National Trails Highway (Route 66) at the railroad tracks is channeled through a very narrow, functionally obsolete, underpass that inhibits traffic flow and prevents larger vehicles from utilizing a direct route from the Southern Logistics Airport on the outskirts of Victorville, north and east to Barstow and State Highway 58. The ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles receive and export goods through San Bernardino County to other states and regions. The current height restriction and narrow (essentially one lane) bottleneck for traffic impacts this interstate commerce. Many trucks cannot utilize National Trails Highway as a route due to the height restriction. The construction of a multi-lane overpass fits well with an existing project that is on schedule to widen National Trails Highway north for several miles north of the current underpass. Improvements to the Oro Grande underpass on National Trails Highway need to be constructed to improve traffic flow.

Project Description: Improve the existing grade separation for National Trails Highway (Route 66) under the BNSF and UP rail tracks at Oro Grande.

PIUTE WASH BRIDGE PROJECT

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$20 Million

Piute Wash is a major drainage feature intersecting Needles Highway. Needles Highway is located within the tri-state regional area of Arizona, California, and Nevada. Needles Highway is bounded on the east by the Colorado River, on the west by the Deadman Mountains, and extends from California to Nevada. Needles Highway is currently part of a county road network in both states and is under the local jurisdictions of Clark County Nevada, San Bernardino County, and the City of Needles. Piute Wash has the potential to generate large water flows where it intersects with Needles Highway. Early 1990's drainage studies estimate a 100-year peak flow in excess of 26,500 cubic feet per second and concluded that Piute Wash needs to be bridged. The recommendation is for a 500-foot long multi-lane all weather bridge to mitigate any future flooding potential. Although Piute Wash is located within the limits of a Needles Highway realignment and rehabilitation project, it has been excluded from the project due to the cost.

Project Description: Construct a 500-foot long, multi-lane, all weather bridge on Needles Highway over the Piute Wash.

ROCK SPRINGS ROAD BRIDGE PROJECT

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$30 Million

Rock Springs Road is a major circulation link in the high desert between the Town of Apple Valley and the City of Hesperia. Rock Springs Road is a continuation of the alignment of Main Street and Phelan Road, major streets that intersect with I-15. This link causes many residents of the Town of Apple Valley and the County unincorporated areas to the east of the Mojave River to utilize Rock Springs Road for commuting to work in the Inland Empire, Orange County and Los Angeles County. The proposed project is to construct a four-lane road bridge across the Mojave River on the Rock Springs Road alignment. The road is a major artery between the

Town of Apple Valley and the City of Hesperia with approximately 9,900 vehicles per day using the roadway. The Mojave River is a major watercourse and, especially in the rainy winter months, subject to high water flows. At this location the river is estimated to carry over 26,000 cubic feet per second during a 100-year storm. With the urban development in this area, construction of Rock Springs Bridge is essential, both for ease of movement and for safety. The winter storms of 2004-05 destroyed the low flow crossing. The closure to restore the low flow crossing lasted until October 2005, nearly ten months.

The closure of Rock Springs Road at the Mojave River necessitates a 12-mile detour to Bear Valley Road increasing the commuting distance, cost and time per trip. Longer trips significantly impact emergency responders. Delay in response time is critical to health and safety.

Project Description: Construct a four-lane road bridge across the Mojave River on the Rock Springs Road alignment. Initial funding request is to implement the environmental documentation through PS&E. A Request for Proposal has been issued for engineering and environmental services.

STATE STREET STATE ROUTE 210 TO CAJON BOULEVARD

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$20 Million

The proposed project will widen the existing two-lane section of State Street between State Route 210 and Cajon Boulevard into four lanes. State Street is designated as a Major Highway according to San Bernardino County Master Plan of Highways. A major highway designation specifies 104 feet of right-of-way and 80 feet of pavement curb-to-curb width. Caltrans has constructed an interchange with State Street as part of the new freeway extension connection to State Route 210. North of this new interchange is the California State University San Bernardino campus; currently serving over 20,000 students. State Street, from this interchange, will also provide a north-south link between State Route 210 and I-215. In addition, an overpass grade separation is completed with SANBAG as the lead agency for the project to relieve congestion at the current grade crossing over the Burlington Northern tracks. The crossing is extremely busy with nearly 100 trains traveling in a 24-hour period.

State Street, as a north/south circulation link carrying traffic from State Route 210 to I-215 Freeway and to Cal State San Bernardino through University Parkway, will have significantly increased volumes of traffic, yet for the most part, the State Street section of road is only two lanes wide. Even before this interchange is constructed, the Average Daily Traffic (ADT) in this section of road is 10,520. The increased capacity of State Street is regionally important and will complement infrastructure improvements that are either in construction, or in the forward planning stages for the area.

Project Description: Construct a four-lane road on existing alignment between State Route 210 and grade separation at Cajon. The 2010 fiscal year funds requested are to acquire the necessary right-of-way and for construction.

SUMMIT VALLEY ROAD

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$21 Million

Summit Valley Road, branching from State Highway 18 is proposed as a vital project; an alternative paved access route between the San Bernardino/Los Angeles Basin and the High Desert Communities. The San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains create a formidable barrier to road and rail transportation between the Pacific Rim Port Cities, the densely populated Los Angeles Basin and Inland Valleys to the High Desert communities and on to other states.

The Cajon Pass, created by the San Andreas Fault system, is the most direct and feasible transportation corridor link between Inland Southern California, the High Desert and ultimately Nevada and Northern Arizona. Burlington Northern/Santa Fe and Union Pacific Railroads use this corridor. I-15 and State Highway 138 routes are currently the only paved highways through Cajon pass. State Highway 138 near the Summit Valley Road intersection also provides critical access to the San Bernardino National Forest. Summit Valley Road provides alternative access to the Victor Valley area in the event of closures on State Highway 138 and I-15. A cooperative agreement will be necessary both with Caltrans (junction of State Highway 138) and the City of Hesperia. An interim paving of the road on the existing alignment has been completed with local monies. An agreement with the City of Hesperia has been formulated for a proportionate share of costs. This interim road is a paving of one lane in each direction and does not address the ultimate design envisioned in the County Master Plan of a multi-lane major highway on a different alignment connecting State Highway 138 with Ranchero Road which is currently under design to provide a grade separation at the railroad tracks. Ultimately, a newly aligned four-lane major arterial road is the preferred outcome for this item.

Project Description: Project Approval and Environmental Documentation (PA&ED) is underway and environmental clearance is expected in the coming year. Continue planning efforts and pre-construction activities and upgrade Summit Valley Road from State Highway 138 to Hesperia City limits to a four-lane arterial.

VISTA ROAD GRADE SEPARATION PROJECT

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$29 Million

The proposal is to create a grade separation on Vista Road for National Trails Highway (Route 66) and the Silver Lakes-Helendale community traffic. This grade separation will avoid significant delay created by train traffic estimated at 99 trains per day, many of which extend delay by waiting, blocking Vista Road for clear tracks.

As Vista Road is the only bridged crossing over the Mojave River between the City of Victorville to the south and Lenwood, just east of the City of Barstow, to the north. Vista Road is utilized by a disproportionate volume of traffic due to this crossing being a chokepoint for east west travel.

Traffic is delayed every time a train passes and with the limited east west bridge options, not only is the traffic delay greater, but the delays impact larger volumes of vehicular traffic. Safety vehicles such as ambulances have been documented as being forced to wait for periods of up to 15 minutes with one incident being reported in the local newspaper inferring the enforced wait had fatal consequences for a seriously ill patient. Alternative travel routes are severely limited and create significantly longer travel times and additional mileage. Alternative route trips negatively impact regional air quality, as Helendale Road is currently unpaved.

Project Description: Provide grade separation on Vista Road and the BNSF rail tracks. The 2010 fiscal year funds requested are to implement the environmental documentation through Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E).

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING AND PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Dedicated transportation funds are an important piece of the funding picture for annual road maintenance and major improvement projects on the County's maintained road system. In recent years, the State has taken a significant amount of dedicated transportation funding to cover the General Fund budget deficit. The magnitude of State budget challenges makes it certain the State will be creative in their effort to include counties as part of its budget balancing solution. San Bernardino County will advocate for the protection of all current transportation

funding sources and work to prevent the State from dipping into these funds again to cover budget shortfalls. Proposition 1A of 2004 placed limits on the State's ability to divert transportation funds to the General Fund, but loopholes have still allowed diversion and this has become an increasing part of the State's short term crisis response. In addition, recent legislative efforts have sought to curb the flexibility counties have in administering transportation programs for road maintenance and construction, as well as project funding. Administrative flexibility allows local transportation agencies the ability to provide services in a timely and far more cost effective manner. This existing flexibility should be maintained or enhanced.

Legislative Position: Support legislative efforts and budget actions that protect, preserve, or enhance transportation funding and administrative flexibility.

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

New schools constructed without adequate drainage or road improvements create a variety of negative impacts to the local community, such as access problems for students and liability issues for cities and counties. In addition, new school construction may not adequately ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act beyond the perimeter of the school. Section 53097 of the Government Code requires the governing board of school districts to comply with any city or county ordinance regarding drainage improvements or road improvements when constructing onsite improvements to a school. If a school district elects not to comply with these ordinances, the city or county is not be liable for any injuries or for any damage to property caused by the failure of the school district to comply with those ordinances. However, no similar statute exists for the construction of new school facilities.

Establishing statutory language requiring school districts to comply with city and county ordinances linking infrastructure improvements on community streets to the construction of new school facilities would decrease local agency liability should a school district elect not to comply with any offsite improvement requirements of city or county ordinances.

Legislative Position: Sponsor or support legislation requiring school districts to comply with city and county ordinances relating to drainage improvements or road improvements and conditions when constructing a new school facility.

HOUSING AND LAND USE

ACCESS TO AND THROUGH FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS

Historic access on Federal public lands, primarily administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), has been allowed under R.S. 2477. That law, dating from 1866, was repealed in 1976, but rights-of-way created under the act remain in force. Under the federal law, the rights-of-way were "self issuing," with no documentation issued by the federal agency or recordation on Federal public land records. Within San Bernardino County virtually all primary road system outside the urban area were created and is so authorized, and thousands of miles of secondary routes exist on the 8 million acres of public land in the County. These provide a variety of public access for commercial and recreational uses that exist, or are permitted under a variety of federal laws.

Legislative Position: Oppose legislation that would require state review when local governments seek rights-of-way for existing roads and routes on Federal lands under R.S. 2477, recordable disclaimer regulations or any other legal means.

BIOMASS USE FACILITATION

Proper forest management has created a need to process resultant biomass. Lack of operating area to perform biomass processing has become an issue in the Big Bear area. Federal lands adjacent to the Big Bear Landfill/Transfer Station have been identified to be ideally suited to integrate biomass processing with transfer station operations. The County has entered into a local agreement to provide land to facilitate a land exchange with the Federal government to enhance biomass processing in the Big Bear area.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that provides for the land exchange between the federal government and the County.

IMPLEMENTATION OF SB 375

The County recognizes its role in enacting environmentally friendly policies, serving as environmental stewards, and promoting environmental awareness. Building upon its existing record of environmental leadership, the County adopted a Green County initiative. The initiatives are intended to promote environmental building standards, reduce pollution, decrease effects on climate change and cultivate ecologically responsible habits in the daily lives of our residents and businesses. While the County is in favor of reducing emissions, reducing vehicle miles traveled, and streamlining the CEQA process, we continue to have our reservations about SB 375 and AB 32. Furthermore, transferring County planning authority to a Metropolitan Planning Organization is not the best solution to reach the provisions in the legislation.

The County agrees with the Administration and the Legislature that reducing green house gas emissions by enforcing clean air regulations is imperative, however it is important to take into consideration the fiscal and economic implications of implementing of AB 32 and SB 375. According to a report released by the Legislative Analysts' Office, a stable, long-term source of funding to implement the provisions in AB 32 has not been identified. The County is also concerned that the implementing the Scoping Plan will have an adverse impact on California businesses and consumers. With the current economic crisis deepening, it is not the time to force additional regulation through higher compliance costs.

Legislative Position: Support legislation or budget actions that will mitigate the financial and economic implications of implementing AB 32 and SB 375 on local government.

INDIAN CASINO IMPACT MITIGATION

When considering tribal-state gaming compacts, the Legislature must carefully consider the extent to which casino operations negatively impact local jurisdictions, and the extent to which proposed mitigation efforts effectively address all impacts. Specifically, this review should consider issues such as the extent to which safeguards exist to protect public safety, health and welfare. To these ends, all casino building projects should be required to complete CEQA review and be subject to building and safety standards at least equivalent to local county standards required of other building construction projects as well as inspection approvals.

Legislative Position: Support legislative and administrative efforts to mitigate public health, safety, welfare, and environmental impacts related to Indian casinos and tribal gaming.

MOJAVE NARROWS REGIONAL PARK WATER FLOW

The State's Mojave Fish Hatchery is responsible for a substantial portion of the water that flows through Mojave Regional Park. Water pumped from the Mojave River Basin and used in the fish hatchery's operations is then diverted through Spring Valley Lake and the Mojave River into the regional park. If the State were to shut down operations at the hatchery and cease pumping the water, the park would suffer significant consequences, including reduced water flow through the park, distracting from the scenic beauty of the river walk, lack of running fresh water for fish,

stocked for the fishing programs, and ground water reduction in the wells used for irrigation.

Legislative Position: Support legislation or budget actions providing for continued operations at Mojave Fish Hatchery in Mojave Regional Park.

OPEN SPACE SUSTAINABILITY

Development projects undergo California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, which often require that mitigation land be set aside as a condition of approval. Currently, no regulations exist regarding the actual management of the land, or funding for the management. In the absence of regulations, organizations have received off-site conservation land but have done nothing to ensure the sustainability of the habitat or species on the land. There are no regulations or policies preventing organizations in receipt of endowment funds from using funds improperly such as litigation against developers and other agencies.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that requires entities that agree to accept responsibility for the preservation and maintenance of any land set aside for mitigation purposes to create a management plan, conduct a biological study and ensure that all endowment funds are used for habitat management preservation purposes.

PERCHLORATE CONTAMINATION

Soil and groundwater investigations have determined that perchlorate is not emanating from the existing Mid Valley Sanitary Landfill (MVSL). In 1994, after an extensive environmental investigation report found no significant issues, the County purchased a portion of the Rialto Ammunition Backup Storage Point to use for future expansion of the MVSL. In 1999, perchlorate was discovered to be potentially emanating from on or near the property the County purchased in 1994. Therefore, in an effort to protect the citizens of the area, County's Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD) spent over \$3.5 million to investigate and characterize perchlorate-related impacts to groundwater believed to have originated on or near this property. Soil on private property occupied by a fireworks manufacturer is directly downstream of future expansion areas. Areas surrounding expansion sites have tested positive for perchlorate in large amounts. The SWMD is expected to spend another \$3 million to complete the treatment plant that assures continued delivery of drinking water to the City of Rialto at its Well No. 3. The County will also spend approximately \$1 million per year through the life of the cleanup, through 2023, to keep the treatment plant operating. Additionally, extensive testing of soil on the property and removal and disposal of contaminated soil will be required, currently budgeted at \$5 million. The County is involved in a legal process to recoup funding from private companies and the Department of Defense who previously owned or conducted operations on the property, which is believed to have resulted in the presence of perchlorate. Most of these private companies are either defunct, bankrupt, or cannot be located and funding gained from these sources, if any, is years away. The total cost to date for perchlorate related expenses, including legal fees and administrative costs is \$18.93 million.

Legislative Position: Support legislation or budget actions to assist the County's efforts to clean up impacts created by the existence of perchlorate contamination to soil and groundwater in and around future landfill sites.

REFORM CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Currently, the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) requires "sufficient scientific information" to support requests for listing or delisting of an animal or plant pursuant to the Act or to modify an existing listing status. However, scientific data are not required in implementing the Act or other related Fish and Game Code provisions on a day-to-day basis. Likewise, when considering potential impacts to biological resources posed by development projects during

review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), impact assessments and prescribed mitigation measures often lack scientific credibility. The County is seeking legislative reform to related statutes and regulations to incorporate science-based implementation and enforcement of CESA and CEQA.

Legislative Position: Support reforms to the California Endangered Species Act and California Environmental Quality Act to require scientific justification for regulatory or judicial actions affecting land use decisions by local jurisdictions.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOGISTICS AIRPORT

Southern California Logistics Airport (SCLA), formerly George Air Force Base, was closed in 1992 severely impacting the economy of the High Desert Region with the loss of 7500 military and civilian jobs and an economic impact of \$380 million. The High Desert region remained in a “recession” condition throughout most of the 1990s. The former Base is now operated by the City of Victorville and a Joint Powers Authority consisting of the High Desert Cities and the County of San Bernardino. It is widely understood that the industrial and commercial development of SCLA will be the economic engine that will drive the economy and create jobs for the region.

Legislative Position: Support legislation that assists Southern California Logistics Airport in its effort to revitalize the economy of the High Desert region.

FLOOD CONTROL

SANTA ANA RIVER MAINSTEM FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT

Funding Request: \$108.6 Million

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$1.7 Billion

The Santa Ana River Mainstem Project includes seven interdependent features: Mill Creek Levee, Oak Street Drain, San Timoteo Creek, Lower Santa Ana River, Seven Oaks Dam, Prado Dam and Santiago Creek. As of this date, Seven Oaks Dam, Mill Creek Levee, Oak Street Drain, San Timoteo Creek Reaches 1, 2 and 3A and the Lower Santa Ana River (LSAR) Reaches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10 are complete.

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.

The San Bernardino County Flood Control District, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and Orange County Flood Control District are the Local Sponsors of the \$1.7 Billion federal flood control project. In cooperation with the other county agencies, the system is almost complete and will provide valuable flood control features for over 3 million people living within the Santa Ana River Watershed and Floodplain.

Project Description: The remaining portion requested for funding includes \$108.6 million for engineering, construction, right-of-way acquisition, environmental mitigation for Prado Dam (\$56.5 million), Seven Oaks Dam (\$8.6 million) and Reach 9 of the Lower Santa Ana River reach (\$43.5 million).

SEVEN OAKS DAM WATER QUALITY SPECIAL STUDY

Funding Request: \$8.6 Million
Estimated Total Project Cost: \$8.6 Million

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, is conducting a feasibility level study to investigate water quality issues related to Seven Oaks Dam and Reservoir. This effort is proceeding in partnership with the existing non-Federal sponsor for the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project, that sponsor being the flood control districts of Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Project Description: The District is working with the Corps of Engineers to determine causes, effects and possible remediation of debris and other water quality issues in this newly completed flood control reservoir. Efforts may lead to alteration or addition of structural features and/or changes to the current operating procedures. Funding requested would be used to complete a feasibility phase study and to start identifying alternatives and develop plans for implementation. The current cost estimate is \$8.6 million.

CUCAMONGA BASIN #6 ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT

Funding Request: \$8 Million
Estimated Total project Cost: \$14 Million

The Cucamonga Basin #6 ecosystem restoration and environmental enhancement project is the last component of the overall Cucamonga Basin #6 flood control protection, water conservation and water quality project. Cucamonga Basin #6 is southerly of the 210 freeway between Campus Avenue on the west and Cucamonga Creek on the east in the City of Upland. The flood control improvements are currently in construction and will provide 100-year flood protection for the downstream community by attenuating storm flows. In addition, the improved basin will capture the flows in a more efficient manner for the groundwater recharge activities of the San Antonio Water Company and the Cucamonga Valley Water District.

The proposed ecosystem restoration and environmental enhancement project includes the construction of irrigation systems, the establishment of wetlands and landscaping of the basin slopes. Approximately 25 acres of the basin floor will be re-vegetated with riparian plants to recreate a wetlands environment. It is anticipated that the wetland environment created by the project would assist in filtering water before being recharged in the underground aquifer and also provide resting and nesting areas for mitigating birds. Basin side slopes will be vegetated with native plant species to control erosion and to expand and restore habitat for small animals. Recreational trails will be established along the upper perimeter of the basin and channel, as well as through some of the basin area to provide for walking, biking and equestrian uses.

Preliminary estimates show a cost of \$8 million for the ecosystem restoration and environmental enhancement project. The total project is estimated at \$14 million. The project is scheduled to begin construction in the spring of 2010.

Project Description: The San Bernardino County Flood Control District is requesting funding for the ecosystem restoration and the environmental enhancement portion of the Cucamonga Basin #6 project in the amount of \$8 million.

DEER CREEK DEBRIS BASIN FLOOD PROTECTION STUDY

Funding Request: \$1.2 Million

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$7.4 Million

The capacity of Deer Creek basin has been a controversial topic for many years, but quieted in the late 1990s. After the Grand Prix Fire in 2003, the issue resurfaced and gained national attention by U.S. Senators Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer inquiring about the capacity of the basin.

The San Bernardino County Flood Control District worked with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine what the next step would be to improve the basin's capacity and how to approach Congress for funding. The outcome of the meeting concluded that Congress would have to authorize a study of the basin, which the Corps estimated at \$1.2 million, to determine if its current capacity is less than the original design. After the study is complete, if it was ruled that the basin is smaller than the original design called for, the District and City of Rancho Cucamonga could request federal funding for the improvements. The District has completed an informal survey of the basin and estimates the cost at \$6.2 million to expand the basin to 310 acre-feet, the standard capacity for Corps facilities.

Project Description: The San Bernardino County Flood Control District requests authorization and funding in the amount of \$1.2 million for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to study the capacity of the Deer Creek Debris Basin.

CACTUS BASIN #3 FLOOD PROTECTION, WATER QUALITY AND WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT

Funding Request: \$6 Million

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$1.06 Million

The Cactus Basin #3 flood protection, water quality and water conservation project is located in the City of Rialto. Much of the area downstream of the basin is residential. Efforts are underway to improve the Rialto Channel System in several phases to its ultimate demand capacity and to accommodate the increased flows conveyed by the Cactus Channel, north of the new I-210 Freeway. Caltrans and San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) completed the Cactus Channel in December 2004.

One of the most important elements of the Rialto Channel system is Cactus Basin #3. This basin is crucial due to the sudden increased run off concentrated into the system from the I-210 Freeway and the Cactus Channel project. In October 2004, the system experienced severe flooding, which damaged private property walls and fences along the channel downstream of the basins and destroyed two road crossings, cutting off secondary access to residences.

The San Bernardino County Flood Control District is currently designing the expansion of Basin #3 and the plans are in the final stages of review and environmental clearance. The basin improvements will include a riparian revegetation area using native plant material. The basin will also be available to the San Bernardino Municipal Water District to use as a water recharge area. Construction has in part been delayed due to a lack of funding. Basin #3 is critical to flood prevention and contains water quality, water conservation and ecosystem restoration elements. The current cost estimates for Basin #3 is \$10.6 million. With adequate funding construction could start as soon as Spring 2010.

Project Description: The San Bernardino County Flood Control District is requesting funding for construction of the Cactus Basin #3 flood protection, water quality and water conservation project in the amount of \$6 million. The project fits with the Bureau of Reclamation's mission to utilize identified basin-wide water supply issues that could be resolved with modifications to existing facilities or the development of new facilities. The project will incorporate the latest science, engineering technology, climate models and dual-purpose basin innovation. The Basin project will help meet water demands and foster sustainable development. Additionally, the project fits in with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's mission to reduce public risk from disasters and to promote an energized economy. The proposed improvements will reduce the potential for major flooding along the project site and preserve the safety and well being of both life and structures. The improvements will also provide and sustain vital infrastructure necessary to allow the community to continue to grow.

DESERT KNOLLS WASH, REACHES II AND III FLOOD PROTECTION, WATER QUALITY AND WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT

Funding Request: \$8 Million

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$13.4 Million

The Town of Apple Valley experienced rapid development in recent years, creating a need for increased flood protection. Two sections of the Desert Knolls Wash are planned for improvements to assist with increasing the flood protection in the area. The proposed flood protection, water quality and water conservation project includes improving the existing channel with slope stabilizing materials, such as rip-rap, and constructing improvements to reduce the velocity of the water being conveyed into the Mojave River. Reach I extends from the existing concrete channel to the receiving waters of the Mojave River and is estimated to cost \$9 million. Reach II is from Apple Valley Road east to Tuscola and is estimated to cost is \$4.4 million.

The San Bernardino County Flood Control District is working with the Town of Apple Valley and the Lewis Center for Educational Research (LCER) to develop plans that will meet the requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The LCER applied for and was denied a funding request for the construction of this project under Proposition 50, the California River Parkway Grant.

Project Description: The San Bernardino County Flood Control District is requesting funding for construction of the Desert Knolls Wash Reaches II and III flood protection, water quality and water conservation project in the amount of \$8 million. The project fits within the Federal Water Pollution Act enacted in 2002. The project emphasizes the national goals of the Environmental Protection Agency to plan the development and use of land through preservation and enhancement of rivers, tributaries, streams, as well as the land drained thereby. The project will incorporate the latest science, engineering technology and climate models to assist the effort in meeting water demands and foster sustainable development.

DONNELL BASIN PROJECT

Funding Request: \$3.5 Million

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$3.5 Million

Loss of life and considerable damage to streets, structures and homes in the City of Twentynine Palms were caused by major flash floods in 1958, 1960, 1974, 1978 and 2003. Flash floods are especially perilous to motorists caught in number of low water crossings, due to combination of desert precipitation and steep topography of the area. Within the last several years, three fatalities have occurred in low crossings. Based on the Twentynine Palms Master Plans of

Drainage Study, the existing Donnell Basin would need to be expanded to act as a detention basin to reduce flows downstream.

Project Description: A decrease in downstream flows will provide safer crossings and conveyance system for motorists at Adobe Road, Utah Trail and the Amboy Road Bridge. The basin project is estimated to cost \$3.5 million dollars and is currently in design. Flash floods are perilous to motorists caught in number of low water crossings. Expansion of this detention basin would reduce flows downstream and provide safer crossings.

HESPERIA BASIN PROJECT

Funding Request: \$10.9 Million

Estimated Total project Cost: \$20.7 Million

Hesperia Basin was identified in the Hesperia Master Plan of Drainage as a priority facility for flood protection, water quality and water conservation for the High Desert area. The 850 acre-foot basin is proposed to be located just south of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) California Aqueduct, between Bandicoot Trail and the Edison Easement, in the unincorporated area of San Bernardino County adjacent to the City of Hesperia. At the request of DWR, a study was conducted by the San Bernardino County Flood Control District to consider the closure of several existing drop inlets along the California Aqueduct. DWR is currently reviewing the preliminary design and study submittal. The closures would be necessary for the proposed expansion of the aqueduct by DWR and to improve the quality of the imported water. The proposed basin is consequently larger to accommodate the closures. The basin will mitigate the additional flows generated by the upstream development and safely convey these flows to the existing aqueduct over-crossings. This project would be a joint effort with DWR and is highly anticipated by the City of Hesperia.

The current construction cost estimate is \$20.7 million. The estimated construction cost of the smaller basin in the South Community Alternative Plan (SCAP) is approximately \$7.4 million in 1996 dollars. Hence, it is proposed that cost participation by DWR in the construction of the Hesperia Basin be determined based on the difference in cost for pre and post drop-inlet closure; this would be approximately \$10.9 million, excluding processing of environmental studies, permits and mitigation costs.

Project Description: Project request for cost participation with the California Department of Water Resources for the construction of the Hesperia Basin.

ORO GRANDE BASIN FLOOD PROTECTION, WATER QUALITY AND WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT

Funding Request: \$6 Million

Estimated Total project Cost: \$10.8 Million

The City of Victorville has experienced rapid development in recent years, creating a need for increased flood protection. Thunderstorms of high intensity recently caused significant flooding damage near the Mojave River and the Oro Grande Wash area. Since the existing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed drainage facility, the Mojave River Forks Dam, does not have adequate capacity to convey the design flows, Oro Grande basin No. 9 was identified as one of primary facilities needing improvement to provide flood protection for the community. This basin would be part of a series of basins, which will be required upstream to reduce the peak flows. The San Bernardino County Flood Control District, the Mojave Water Agency and the City of

Victorville are working together to design the basin. The basin has a preliminary estimated construction cost of \$10.8 million that does not include right-of-way acquisition.

This project will help protect the surrounding community from flooding, as well as having water quality and water conservation elements. In addition, the Mojave Water Agency is developing a water conservation project. The two agencies plan to work together to assure the current water conservation project will work with the flood protection elements of the ultimate project.

Project Description: The San Bernardino County Flood Control District is requesting funding for construction of the Oro Grande Basin flood protection, water quality and water conservation project in the amount of \$6 million.

The project fits within the Federal Water Pollution Act enacted in 2002. The project emphasizes the national goals of the Environmental Protection Agency to plan the development and use of land through preservation and enhancement of rivers, tributaries, streams, as well as the land drained thereby. Additionally, the project scope incorporates components, which the Bureau of Reclamation identifies in their mission, to utilize basin-wide water supply issues that could be resolved with modifications to existing facilities or the development of new facilities. The project will incorporate the latest science, engineering technology, climate models and dual-purpose basin innovation. The Basin project will help meet water demands and foster sustainable development.

RANCHERO BASIN PROJECT

Funding Request: \$1 Million

Estimated Total project Cost: \$12 Million

The Antelope and Victor Valleys in the San Bernardino County High Desert area have experienced rapid development in recent years, creating a need for increased flood protection. The construction of Rancho Basin was identified in the Hesperia Master Plan of Drainage as a priority facility for flood protection, water quality and water conservation. The City of Hesperia has a grade separation and realignment project for Rancho Road just north of the proposed basin location which should be going to construction in the next year or so.

The San Bernardino County Flood Control District met with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in October 2009. At that meeting, a proposal to divert storm water flows into Antelope Wash from the proposed Hesperia Basin watershed was discussed. This diversion could increase the necessary capacity of Rancho Basin by ten percent (10%). The District is currently designing the basin without these additional flows. The basin has a preliminary estimated construction cost of \$12 million. The Rancho Basin project will help protect the new road, as well as other downstream road crossings and the surrounding community from flooding. The project would also have water quality and water conservation elements to help replenish the groundwater table.

Project Description: Project request for cost participation with the California Department of Water Resources for the construction of the Rancho Basin.

WATER CANYON BASIN PROJECT

Funding Request: \$2.8 Million

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$6 Million

As a result of the 2006 Sawtooth & Millard fires in the Morongo and Yucca Valley areas, Natural Resources Conservation Service identified a project to construct a basin to intercept and collect post fire debris and flows in the Water Canyon watershed area. Per the Town of Yucca Valley Master Plan of Drainage, a detention/debris basin at the mouth of the Water Canyon watershed is proposed, which will substantially reduce debris and peak flows eliminating the threat to communities downstream.

Project Description: Project funding request for costs associated with the engineering and construction of the detention/debris basin in order to provide a dual purpose for the District which is provide water recharge and minimize the potential for disaster from a similar event in the community.

WEST FONTANA FLOOD PROTECTION, WATER QUALITY AND WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT

Federal Funding Request: \$15 Million

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$30.2 Million

The West Fontana flood protection, water quality and water conservation project is located in the City of Fontana and unincorporated areas of the County of San Bernardino. The channel protects parallel train tracks and residential neighborhoods from flooding. Much of the area has been developed with most of the remaining property scheduled for development within the next ten years. Land development has increased dramatically and has resulted in flooding issues increasing the need for the completion of this project. The channel parallels railroad lines, which carry passenger trains including the Metrolink Rail into Los Angeles. Numerous times the rail lines have been flooded causing commuter delays and rerouting of trains. This project is also just north of the California Speedway which holds NASCAR and other large events.

The project consists of construction of an open-channel storm drain within the San Bernardino County Flood Control District right-of-way and easements from the Banana Basin easterly to Juniper Avenue. The project included a concrete-lined open channel, associated catch basins with connector laterals, future drain stub outs, culvert crossings at street intersections, necessary appurtenant work inlet structure at the easterly side of Juniper Avenue and outlet facilities in the Banana Basin. The project also includes a basin for water conservation and water quality. The project is planned to be built in phases due to funding limitations. The current estimated total cost for the project is \$30.2 million. Of that the basin cost is estimated at just over \$15 million.

Project Description: The San Bernardino County Flood Control District is requesting funding for construction of the West Fontana flood protection, water quality and water conservation project in the amount of \$15 million. The project fits in with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's mission to reduce public risk from disasters and to promote an energized economy. The proposed improvements will reduce the potential for major flooding along the project site and preserve the safety and well being of both life and structures. The improvements will also provide and sustain vital infrastructure necessary to allow the community to continue to grow. Additionally, this project also fits with the Bureau of Reclamation's mission to utilize identified basin-wide water supply issues that could be resolved with, modifications to existing facilities or

the development of new facilities. The project will incorporate the latest science, engineering technology, climate models and dual purpose basin innovation. The Basin project will help meet water demands and foster sustainable development.

FISH AND GAME CODE CLARIFICATION

The State Fish and Game Code Section 1601 was passed to prevent and reduce streambed alteration, which can disturb natural species. Resource agency's narrow interpretation of Section 1601 has limited local agencies' ability to repair and maintain their various types of basin and channel facilities. Flood Control Districts have been impacted the most by the interpretations since they have not been allowed to clear and repair basin and channel facilities. These facilities must be routinely cleared and repaired prior to the beginning of the normal storm season, which begins October 15th. The consequences of not having flood control facilities ready for the storm season can result in dire risk to life and property.

Legislative Position: Clarify or limit interpretation of the State Fish and Game Code (1601) to allow regular maintenance of flood control and other public facilities.

FLOOD CONTROL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUNDING

Throughout the State, much of the existing flood control infrastructure is inadequate to handle 100-year storm flows. The existing facilities are aged and in serious disrepair. With the State's continued population growth and subsequent development in new and in-fill areas, most of the existing flood control systems are strained beyond capacity. The flood control districts and local jurisdictions do not have funding to repair, replace and construct new infrastructure.

Though California taxpayers approved Propositions 84 and 1E, creating funding directed at flood control issues, most of the funding was focused on the Delta/Central Valley region. In addition, funding is concentrated on floodplains and levees. The current program sets very limited allowance for infrastructure construction projects, which is an issue throughout the State. Most grants limit the use of funds for infrastructure.

Legislative Position: Develop state and federal funding sources for the repair, improvement and construction of flood control infrastructure projects outside the Delta/Central Valley region.

FLOOD CONTROL INFRASTRUCTURE LEVEL FUNDING

The approval of Propositions 84 and 1E in 2006 requires the State to develop a State Flood Plan. One of the elements being considered within the plan is the requirement that flood control facilities must be built for a 200-year storm event. Currently, most flood control districts use a 100-year storm event as the design criteria for regional facilities. Methodology used to derive a 100-year storm hydrology varies per region. Using Federal Emergency Management Agency guidelines/criteria as a base will make the minimum level of protection in the State consistent and allow individual entities to continue using their more conservative methods. Increasing the requirement to a 200-year event especially without a guideline definition would place an incredible financial burden on all flood control districts within the State. This would compound the existing issues of aging infrastructure and lack of funding mechanisms to repair, replace and build adequate flood control systems.

Legislative Position: Limit the required flood control protection in the State Flood Plan to a 100-year storm event as defined by Federal Emergency Management Agency guidelines.

FLOOD CONTROL SUBVENTIONS

As part of the Seven Oaks Dam and San Timoteo projects, which were funded in part by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), State subvention funds supplemented the federal

funds. The subvention fund program went unfunded for a few years. In 2006, Proposition 1E approved approximately \$500 million and Proposition 84 approved approximately \$180 million to be allocated for subvention funds statewide. This funding however was stopped due to the state budget crisis. The San Bernardino County Flood Control District (District) currently has \$7.6 million in subvention funds outstanding for San Timoteo Channel and Seven Oaks Dam/Santa Ana River projects. Both projects are in the San Bernardino Valley and protect residences and businesses all the way west to the California coast. The District is not the only agency awaiting subvention funds. Many agencies including the District are not able to fund other important flood control, water quality and water conservation projects due to the payment delays.

Legislative Position: Fully fund the Flood Control Subvention Program based on the voter approved Propositions 84 and 1E

LOCAL LEVEE EVALUATION PROGRAM

In 2006, Proposition 1E approved approximately \$3 billion and Proposition 84 approved approximately \$275 million to be allocated for levees. Of this \$20 million was allocated towards the Local Levee Evaluation Program. Requested applications were submitted and then the program was placed on hold due to the state budget crisis. As part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMAs) nationwide Map Modernization Program, FEMA initiated a Countywide Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) for San Bernardino County and all incorporated communities within the County. FEMA has implemented a policy to verify the certification status of all levees currently depicted on the effective FIRM as providing protection from the base (1% annual chance) flood. The regulatory requirements for accrediting levees as providing base flood protection on FIRMs is found in Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 65.10 (44 CFR 65.10). These criteria include design criteria (e.g., freeboard, closures, embankment protection, embankment and foundation stability, settlement, and interior drainage), operation, and maintenance.

FEMA intended to show those levees that cannot be certified on time as not providing any flood protection. This could place hundreds of homeowners in FIRM floodplains designations, potentially costing them thousands of dollars in flood insurance.

The San Bernardino County Flood Control District hired consultants to assist with the certification effort which included a large amount of geotechnical investigation. The District has submitted all of the required documentation to FEMA and awaits their reply. This was a major effort for the District especially due to the Districts size and number of facilities. Certifying the levees cost over \$9 million.

Legislative Position: Fully fund the Local Levee Evaluation Program including the applications that were already submitted and modify the guidelines to allow work completed after July 13, 2006 to be reimburse.

WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT FUNDING

California is in a water crisis. Throughout the State, existing infrastructure is inadequate to handle the growing need of the citizens, agriculture and commerce. The continuing drought has exasperated the situation. A variety of solutions and approaches have been discussed and investigated. One of the biggest untapped resources throughout the State is still not at the forefront of the water solution table; that resource is water conservation infrastructure. Hundreds of flood control facilities exist in the State. The San Bernardino County Flood Control District alone has over 218 basins. Many of these basins can be modified to allow water

percolation and recharge the groundwater table. Other basins are slated for construction but a lack of funding is available to move forward with these projects.

In 2006, California taxpayers approved Propositions 84 and 1E, creating funding directed at water and flood control issues but it concentrated on floodplains and levees. Most of the funding was directed towards the Delta/Central Valley region. The current program sets very limited allowance for infrastructure construction projects, which is an issue throughout the State. Most grants limit the use of funds for infrastructure.

Legislative Position: Support state funding sources for the improvement and construction of water conservation projects.

CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES

MUSEUM HALL OF GEOLOGICAL WONDERS EXHIBITIONS AND PROGRAMS

Funding Request: \$1 Million

Estimated Total project Cost: \$1 Million

The County Museum campus buildings were constructed in 1974. Since that time, museum conservation practices and public needs have changed. It is extremely important to the residents of San Bernardino County and the region that the museum provides contemporary exhibitions, modern museum collection care, diverse learning programs, and greater opportunities for public education and appreciation of regional natural and cultural heritage. The San Bernardino County Museum has systematically assessed needs for short and long term enhancements of County services for County and regional residents and visitors. A critical aspect of the Museum capital improvement plan is that through the vision of the County Board of Supervisors several significant accomplishments towards enhancing visitors' service and modernizing the Museum's facilities are in progress or completed. The Museum's 12,000 square foot Hall of Geological Wonders. This new museum wing, will be the benchmark for enhancing exhibitions and public programs for visitors, and benefit the region economically. In order to serve the growing cultural and informal education needs of inland Southern California, the County Museum will showcase and interpret the rich geologic and paleontologic history of the region. The unique geology of the region will be the template on which a myriad of paleontologic stories will be told. The Hall of Geological Wonders will utilize the fossil collections at the Museum, some of which include the only dinosaur track ways known from California, the Paleozoic Era's fossil riches from our deserts, in addition to fossils, which reflect our regions wetter, and wilder past in the Ice Age. Other exhibitions will include the evolution of the vertebrate system, and other geologic and research subject matter. The region boasts an incredibly unique geologic feature, shaping the face of Southern California. This, of course, is the San Andreas Fault System. Its effect on the physiographic region will be showcased at the Museum in an exhibit explaining its evolution and its future and will serve as an educational portal to invite the visitor to the proposed Earthquake Park, where they may experience this feature outdoors. Museum collections will be centralized for better preservation and maintenance, a vital safeguard for artifacts that ultimately belong to the public.

Project Description: Program funding request to fund portions of the Hall of Geological Wonders exhibit fabrication that will include the following new exhibits: San Andreas Fault projection system, Deep Time and Early Life, Life to Death to Discovery, Paleozoic, and Mesozoic, Current Seismology, The Earth Experience, Local Geology, The Cave, A Journey to the Core, Mineral Library, Magma Chamber, Earths Test Kitchen, and Meteorites and

Extraterrestrial Geology. Included in this request is funding to develop and implement state-of-the-art earth sciences educational components for K through 12 students based on educational curriculum guidelines. Envisioned is the Hall of Geological Wonders as the regional center for understanding geological through hands-on interpretation and curriculum.

CALIFORNIA LIBRARY SERVICES ACT

Funding Request: \$10 Million

Estimated Total project Cost: \$10 Million

The California Library Services Act provides funding to public libraries through the State Library. The Act promotes resource sharing and reimburses public libraries for loans to people living in other library jurisdictions. In the 2006-07 fiscal year the Governor reduced the amount of funding for reimbursements from \$21 million to \$10 million. Due to the demographics of the County, resource sharing is significant amongst the County Library and the seven independent libraries within San Bernardino County as well as all of the libraries within Riverside County. Further reductions in funding may discourage libraries from lending resources to neighboring libraries residents.

Project Description: Support legislation or budget actions that will fund the California Library Services Act.

EARTHQUAKE PARK

Funding Request: \$1.5 Million

Estimated Total project Cost: \$1.5 Million

This is a collaborative County project between the County Museum and County Regional Parks. The Earthquake Park is a public partnership effort developed to educate residents and visitors to our region about the unique characteristics of a 10,000 acre tract of land within the San Bernardino National Forest and located in the Cajon Pass, San Bernardino County. The education and interpretive efforts will include geological, historical, anthropological, biological programming. Earthquake Park has the potential to become a unique partnership and educational experience for the K through 12 youth and adults who participate in the programs and tours of the Cajon Pass. Further, interpretive exhibitions will be available at the Hall of Geological Wonders at San Bernardino County Museum, and informational kiosks at Glen Helen Regional Park where visitors will learn about the unique San Andreas Rift Zone. Additionally, visitors to the Cajon Pass will discover a natural path created by tectonic processes that has for thousands of years facilitated human travel and commerce from north to south and east to west. Its rich natural and cultural history is well suited to interpretation through the implementation of an earthquake park. Visitors will receive an exceptional look at the phenomenon of earthquakes, this area of Southern California, and the biological and cultural aspects of the area realizing why the Cajon Pass is one the most distinctive regions in North America.

Project Description: Earthquake Park, a unique geologic setting distinctive for its natural, historical, cultural, and educational resources, is located in the Cajon Pass region of the San Bernardino National Forest. The public partnership will include collaborations between the U. S. Forest Service, the San Bernardino County Museum, and San Bernardino County Regional Parks. The Earthquake Park will serve student groups and the public by providing opportunities for multi-disciplinary education, on-site interpretation, and earthquake preparedness through understanding the influence of earth dynamics and their impact on humanity. The Earthquake

Park project will provide a physical venue to illustrate the cause and effects of seismic activity. Seismic routes will be mapped, including driving trails, and interpretative features and would include a slip fault prototype and fossils. Information provided at the Earthquake Park venue would link directly to the Museum's new Hall of Geological Wonders, which will display the San Andreas Fault, its effect on the region and its fossil riches. Additionally, Glen Helen Regional Park would serve as the gateway to the Earthquake Park venue with interpretive kiosks, information packets, and maps so visitors can explore the riches of the Cajon Pass. This project offers visitors exposure to this important seismic area of the County, and through programmatic activities, a better understanding for disaster preparedness, personal and home safety, and reducing overall risk of loss after an earthquake. The design and creation of the park can be facilitated through one-time funding. This project aligns with potential Seismic Safety Committee goals on a federal and state level.

MOABI REGIONAL PARK CHANNEL REHABILITATION

Funding Request: \$2 Million

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$6 Million

In order to facilitate water flows year round, eliminate health risks and provide increased access to the Colorado River for safety and emergency events, Regional Parks proposes improvements to Moabi's inlet and outlet channels. The Moabi Regional Park Channel Rehabilitation is estimated at \$ 4 million. The Flow Structure Removal and Bridge Installation are estimated at \$2 million.

Project Description: The Moabi Regional Park Channel Rehabilitation project entails the dredging of channel inlet 300' to 400' from the Colorado River up to the abandoned flow structure thus removing approximately 4'-0" of silt. Also, dredging will need to occur at the current Marina access inlet/outlet to eliminate a large sand bar that restricts water traffic even at high river flows. The Flow Structure Removal and Bridge Installation will reconfigure the existing and abandoned flow structure will entail the complete removal of three (+/-) 48" VCP inlet pipes and removal of the water flow control structure. After the dredging and widening of the inlet, the design and installation of a two-lane (24'-0" minimum) span constructed vehicular bridge. The bridge will allow Park campers continued vehicular access to Peninsula site one through 16. Analysis of the upper inlet area indicates that a (+/-) 120 lineal foot bridge, constructed 26 to 30 feet wide, with a standard pile and pile cap arrangement, in three-40 foot sections would adequately allow clearance for 85% to 90% of all boat traffic on the river. It will also eliminate approximately 20 minutes of emergency response time for the Sheriff and create more access to the Moabi Marina.

MOJAVE RIVER WATERSHED INTERPRETIVE PROJECT

Funding Request: \$1.2 Million

Estimated Total project Cost: \$1.2 Million

This is a collaborative project between the County Museum and County Regional Parks. The San Bernardino County Museum is the foremost cultural and natural history museum in the region, offering a rich visitor experience and interpretation of the region's priceless resources. The County Regional Parks is the crucial recreational leader in San Bernardino County. The San Bernardino County Regional Parks Department operates over 10,000 acres of parkland and regional trails throughout the County. There are ten parks including one park concessioned out to the Bureau of Land Management and seventeen miles of the 110-mile Santa Ana River Trail and Greenway. The parks and regional trails are located from the Chino Basin area through the San Bernardino Valley, into the San Bernardino Mountains and in the high and low deserts. The Mojave Narrows Regional Park will serve as a critical staging area and information guide for the Mojave River Watershed Interpretive project.

The Mojave River Watershed Interpretive project is a proposed multi-diverse plan to interpret the cultural, historic, biologic, and geologic past and present of the Mojave River Watershed. With the significant growing populations of County residents in the High Desert, there is a vital need to provide non-formal education to residents and visitors. The High Desert cultural and natural heritage is a critical part of the heritage of California. The story platform will center on the unique natural resource qualities of the Mojave River watershed and the importance of the watershed culturally, and historically. In addition, the human value economically, culturally, and esthetically will be interpreted.

Project Description: The Museum and Park professional staff will develop three programmatic venues. The first venue will be a Mojave River Watershed exhibition at the San Bernardino County Museum. This museum exhibit will serve as the Big Picture of the Mojave River Watershed and a staging area so museum visitors will receive both a 2D and 3D detailed perspective of the spatial area of the watershed environment, and what unique features define the watershed area and the river. A series of maps, displays and objects will be presented to the museum visitor on the diversity of the watershed, both in its natural landscapes, and its rich, natural and cultural resources. In addition to the dioramas at the County Museum, the museum visitor will be able to gain further knowledge by taking maps, printed material and site guides from the museum exhibit and continue the learning experience during field trips to many locations in the watershed. The second venue of this project will be at Mojave Narrows Regional Park, where visitors, school groups, and the general public will be provided non-formal interpretation of the diversity of the Mojave River and its watershed. Interpretation at the Regional Park will also include a series of kiosks, maps, printed material and site guides. The Mojave Narrows Park provides an excellent setting with its vast riparian habitats, diverse history and is strategically located along the river, which provides a magnificent location and learning experience. The third venue of this project will be the design and implementation of a sequence of kiosks among the Mojave River Watershed where visitors will experience a personal perspective of actual natural and cultural settings or contacts with historical events or geologic processes. The Museum and Regional Parks intends to identify key features of the watershed and river environment, and with collaboration with the Mojave Water Agency, U.S. Forest Service, San Bernardino Public Works, and those municipalities and agencies within the watershed, present stories and explanations through kiosks, and interpretive signage at vistas or information points along existing trails, highways and roads.

PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION PROGRAM

Funding Request: \$13 Million

Estimated Total project Cost: \$13 Million

The Public Library Foundation (PLF) was established by the State Legislature in 1983 to provide State Aid to local libraries. As an item in the State Budget the PLF allocation is subject to the extensive budget negotiation process. It is a straight per capita formula. The maximum amount allocated to the Fund was \$57 million in fiscal year 2000-01 and 2001-02. Since that time it has declined to \$13 million, a 78% reduction. The County's allocation has been reduced during that same time period from \$1.8 million to \$407,000, a \$1.4 million decrease. The County Library has utilized these funds to purchase books for its libraries. The significant decline in this funding has precluded the library from purchasing enough materials to meet the demand and in times of recession, the demand for materials in public libraries increase as more people turn to public libraries for assistance.

Project Description: Support legislation or budget actions that will increase funding for the Public Library Foundation Program.

SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED INTERPRETIVE PROJECT

Funding Request: \$1.2 Million

Estimated Total project Cost: \$1.2 Million

This is a collaborative project between the County Museum and County Regional Parks. The San Bernardino County Museum is the foremost cultural and natural history museum in the region, offering a rich visitor experience and interpretation of the regions priceless resources. The San Bernardino County Regional Parks is the crucial recreational leader in San Bernardino County, and operates over 10,000 acres of parkland and regional trails throughout the County. There are ten parks including one park concessioned out to the Bureau of Land Management and seventeen miles of the 110-mile Santa Ana River Trail and Greenway. The parks and regional trails are located from the Chino Basin area through the San Bernardino Valley, into the San Bernardino Mountains and in the high and low deserts.

The collaboration of Parks and Museums offers an exciting cutting edge educational venture that allows for shared resources and expertise to establish a stellar interpretative project for one of the most recognized regional resources, Santa Ana River Watershed in Southern California. Through the Museums high standards of collections care, site preservation and conservation, unique exhibits and exciting educational programs, the Museum is a critical resource to formally interpret the Santa Ana Watershed to Southern California residents. The Regional Parks expert recreation standards, programs, visitor orientation and the established Santa Ana River Trail and Greenway make this watershed interpretation project the model collaboration. With the Museums proximity to the river, and its long standing commitment in educating the residents of the region regarding the Santa Ana River Watershed history and current value, the Museum is an excellent venue to exhibit the watersheds significances and develop interpretive materials and kiosks throughout the watershed landscape which would depict the cultural and natural heritage that serve the region.

Project Description: The Santa Ana River Watershed Interpretive project is a proposed plan to interpret the cultural, historic, biologic, and geologic past and present of the Santa Ana River Watershed. The story platform will center on the unique natural resource qualities of the watershed and the importance of the watershed culturally, and historically. In addition, the

human value economically, culturally, and esthetically will be interpreted. The Museum and Regional Parks professional staff will develop two programmatic venues. The first venue will be a Santa Ana River Watershed exhibition at the San Bernardino County Museum. This museum exhibit will serve as a staging area so museum visitors will receive both a 2D and 3D detailed perceptive of the spatial area of the watershed environment, and what unique features define the watershed area and the river. A series of maps, displays and objects will be presented to the museum visitor on the diversity of the watershed, both in its natural landscapes, and its rich resources. In addition to the dioramas at the County Museum, the Regional Parks and Museum visitors will be able to gain further knowledge by taking maps, printed material and site guides from the museum exhibit and continue the learning experience during field trips to many locations along the Santa Ana River and in the entire watershed. The second element of this project will be to develop a chain of locations among the watershed and along the entire reach within San Bernardino County and potentially beyond the Santa Ana River environments to provide visitors a personal perspective of actual natural and cultural settings or contacts with historical events or geologic processes. The Museum and Regional Parks intend to identify key features of the watershed and river environment, and with collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service, San Bernardino Public Works, and those municipalities and agencies within the watershed, present stories and explanations through kiosks, and interpretive signage at vistas or information points along existing trails, highways and roads.