



County of San Bernardino

# 2015 State Legislative Platform



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

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

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

The 2015 State Legislative Platform was developed in coordination with the Board of Supervisors, County departments, and regional stakeholders and complements the Countywide Vision. The Legislative Platform is an expression of the Board's direction for comprehensive County legislative policy on a range of issues and needs facing the County. The Platform is arranged by Legislative Priorities, County Sponsored Proposals, Legislative Positions, and Policy Statements. The Legislative Priorities section describes the County's legislative goals and outlines the legislative agenda for the current year. The County Sponsored Proposals section provides a summary of specific statutory changes the County is seeking in the current legislative session. Finally, the Legislative Positions and Policy Statements provide general policy direction when developing a position on pending legislation and is broken into areas including governance, finance and operations, health and human services, public safety and first responders, housing, land use and transportation, flood control, water resources and environmental quality, and cultural, educational and recreational services. Each item contains a brief background and legislative action.

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## STATE BUDGET

Given the tentative economic recovery nationally and in California, as well as the State's ongoing budget issues and history of over projecting revenue, mitigating any potential impacts from the budget is imperative to the fiscal well-being of the County.

The County will work with the delegation, statewide associations and local agencies during the budget process to advocate for: 1) the preservation of state funding; 2) payment of costs to local governments for state mandates; 3) adequate and protected funding for programs the County operates on behalf of the state; 4) reduced uncompensated health care costs; and/or 5) an equitable reallocation of state funding to provide services to County residents.

## CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT REFORM

Adopted in 1970, the basic purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) were to: 1) inform governmental decision makers and the public about the potential significant environmental effects of proposed activities; 2) identify ways that environmental damage can be avoided or significantly reduced; 3) require changes in projects through the use of alternatives or mitigation measures when feasible; 4) and disclose to the public the reasons why a project was approved if significant environmental effects are involved.

Unintended consequences of CEQA not contemplated four decades ago have had adverse impacts on economic development. As the State seeks methods of creating economic stimulus through a streamlined regulatory process, focus is likely to be on the environmental review process and revisions that will allow for additional expediency in project delivery, while maintaining existing environmental protections.

The County will work with the delegation, statewide associations, local agencies and stakeholders to: 1) modernize CEQA to integrate updated environmental and planning laws; 2) eliminate CEQA duplication; 3) focus CEQA litigation on compliance with environmental and planning laws; and/or 4) re-evaluate the statutory and categorical CEQA exemptions to allow the streamlining of projects.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The average business operating cost per job in California is 19 percent higher than the national average. These operating costs are on average 10 percent higher than the average for all Western states and 16 percent higher than those for firms in large industrial states. This can be attributed to energy and labor cost as well regulatory requirements.

The County will work with the delegation, statewide associations, counties and other stakeholders to support legislation or budget actions that will: 1) provide tax relief programs for business recruitment and retention; 2) provide regulatory and permitting reforms that improve California's business climate and competitiveness; and/or 3) attract private capital to stimulate the local economy.

## MEDICAID WAIVER

California's existing section 1115 "Bridge to Reform" Medicaid Waiver expires in October 2015. The Waiver is a five-year demonstration of health care reform initiatives that invested in the state's health care delivery system to prepare for the significant changes spurred by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Continuance of the federal government's commitment to the implementation of the ACA through a successor Waiver will allow the state and counties to further improve care delivery and incorporate necessary Drug Medi-Cal components. Through the Waiver, the County seeks

federal and state support to promote and improve health outcomes, access to care and cost efficiency, building upon the system of care delivery models developed under the 2010 Waiver.

The County will work with the delegation, statewide associations, counties and stakeholders to support a five-year state Medicaid Waiver that provides adequate funding (at least at current levels), rates, reimbursements, flexibility and infrastructure to: 1) achieve Triple Aim measures; 2) support a public integrated safety net delivery system; 3) build on previous delivery system improvement efforts for public health care systems; 4) allow for the creation of a new county pilot effort to advance improvements through coordinated care, integrated physical and behavioral health services and provide robust coordination with social, housing and other services critical to improve care of targeted high-risk patients; 5) improve access to share and integrate health data and systems; 6) provide flexibility for counties to provide more coordinated care and effectively serve individuals who will remain uninsured and decrease uncompensated care; 7) ensure that California receives necessary federal approvals to expand the continuum of substance use disorder treatment services that are eligible for Medicaid funding, including residential treatment, detoxification services and care coordination; and/or 8) reinvest savings to further improve the system of care, including early intervention and prevention.

## PUBLIC SAFETY REALIGNMENT

In 2011, Governor Brown signed AB 118, the legislative vehicle that established the fiscal structure for the realignment of public safety and health and human services programs that were realigned from the State to counties. In the areas of public safety, counties assumed significant new responsibilities for managing, treating and supervising new adult offender populations at the local level. Within the jail system, the County is now tasked with housing more serious inmates for longer periods of time and has to transform its jail medical and mental health services from a focus on episodic and short-term services to chronic and continuity of care services.

The County will advocate for 1) adequate funding for the incarceration, supervision, treatment and rehabilitation and other costs necessary to successfully implement AB 109.

The County will oppose legislation and budget actions that impede the County's capacity to carry out realigned services by: 1) reducing the County's funding to incarcerate, supervise, treat, or rehabilitate this population; 2) removing flexibility or local discretion on how the services are provided or funded; and/or 3) transferring additional state responsibility or programs to counties unless program control and flexibility is also shifted and adequate state funding is guaranteed.

## TRIAL COURT FUNDING

California's state court system, the largest in the nation, serves 38 million people. The state's fastest growing counties, including San Bernardino County, are facing a critical shortage of judges to hear the cases of our most vulnerable citizens. In 2007, the Legislature authorized 50 new trial court judges. However, the positions remain unfunded and unfilled. San Bernardino County Superior Court is one of the most underfunded, under judged and understaffed courts in the state and has one of the highest caseloads statewide.

The County will work with the delegation, statewide associations, counties and other stakeholders to support legislation or budget actions that will fund: 1) critical court services and provide funding consistent with court workloads and/or 2) existing approved judgeships that have never been funded.

## WIOA IMPLEMENTATION

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was signed into law on July 22, 2014. WIOA is designed to strengthen the partnerships between Workforce Development Boards, businesses, and education by helping job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in gaining self-sufficient employment and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.

The County will work with the delegation, statewide associations, counties and other stakeholders to support legislation or budget actions that will align the California Workforce Investment Board (CWIB), the California Workforce Association (CWA), and Local Workforce Development Boards with WIOA, in order to streamline programs and improve services to job seekers and employers in several ways including: 1) establishing a single State Unified Strategic Plan and a common performance accountability system for core programs; and 2) support for Local Workforce Development Boards and local sector strategies, ensuring that job seekers get access to the training and skills needed to participate in the local economy and that employers have a skilled worker pipeline.

The County Sponsored Proposal section includes specific statutory changes that the County is seeking in the current legislative session. Sponsoring bills provide a proactive opportunity to advance the County’s legislative goals and agenda. This is accomplished by working with the legislative delegation, statewide associations and regional stakeholders.

ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Alternate Dispute Resolution	<p>The County operates a dispute resolution program that has been administered by the Court since 2004. The program is funded with a surcharge to civil filing fees and is intended to encourage the establishment and use of local dispute resolution services as an alternative to formal court proceedings. This is particularly important in San Bernardino County given the limited number of judicial positions relative to caseload. The County has maintained involvement because the code sections are required to be adopted by the County and the funds are deposited with the County. However, in practice, the funds are administered by the courts. The proposed legislation would allow for the transfer of revenues and responsibilities under the Dispute Resolution Programs Act of 1986 to formalize the County’s current practice, reduce staff time and cost, and eliminate confusion over program authority and procurement process.</p>	<p>Sponsor legislation that would allow for the formal transfer of revenues and responsibilities under the Dispute Resolution Programs Act of 1986 on a permissive basis upon agreement by the County and the local court.</p>
Ballot Printing	<p>The County is required to print ballots for 75 percent of registered voters in spite of historic low turnouts. The overprinting of ballot impacts County resources.</p>	<p>Sponsor legislation that would allow the County to print ballots that more accurately reflect voter turnout.</p>
Manufacturing	<p>The County is experiencing a slow but steady recovery from the nation’s historic recession. The warehousing and logistics sector in the County continues to recover and maintain a prominent position in the County’s economy due to the convenient rail and major highway access to and from major airports, seaports, and markets. The growth and sustainment of the manufacturing sector is important to continued economic growth in the region.</p>	<p>Sponsor legislation that incentivizes manufacturing.</p>

ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Mid-Day Ballot Pick-Up and Early Ballot Processing	Historically, the manual vote counting process of paper ballots cast at the polling place on Election Day can only begin after the polls have closed, and ballots have been transported to the Registrar of Voters' Office. This is a costly and time-consuming process that requires hours of manual labor by hundreds of staff. In recent years, the process has been revised and is much faster than in the past but final Election Day ballot counting still takes from two to ten hours to determine final results. The process is time extensive and delays election day reporting. Allowing the Registrar of Voters to begin vote counting mid-day along with reconciliation at the polling place will result in the earlier posting of election results and a more expedited and cost-effective process.	Sponsor legislation that would permit the Registrar of Voters to collect and process ballots, but not release results, before the polls
Small Claims Jurisdiction Limits	Currently, the limit for public entities to file small claims is \$5,000. Litigation costs incurred by public entities handling contested collections cases (typically unpaid hospital bills) where the debt at issue is more than the \$5,000 but less than \$10,000 often result in attorney's fees equaling, and occasionally even exceeding, the judgment awarded. Attorney's fees are not always recoverable in these cases, as there are instances in which there is no contract (or the court finds there is no contract) between the debtor patient and the County's hospital under which attorney's fees could be recovered. Increasing the limit for public entities would result in counties experiencing a reduction in attorney's fees incurred in litigating collections cases under \$10,000, and the costs of obtaining a judgment in such cases would be far less.	Sponsor legislation that raises the limit for small claims action brought by a public entity from \$5,000 to \$10,000.
Renewable Energy on Mining Facilities	The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) provides that any time a mine operator considers a change or expansion to an existing surface mining operation that affects the completion of the previously approved reclamation plan, or that changes the end use of the approved plan to the extent that the scope of the reclamation required for the surface mining operation is substantially	Sponsor legislation that will exempt renewable energy facilities from SMARA requirements when developed in proximity to, or as part of, an existing surface mining operation.

ISSUE

SUMMARY

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changed, the lead agency may consider changes to the entire mining operation pursuant to CEQA. An exemption from this requirement for development of renewable energy production will alleviate concerns about effecting a change to the entire surface mining operation. Also, the exemption may facilitate strategic advantages for both future reclamation and help the State meet its' 2020 greenhouse gas emission goals by increasing accessibility to lands for renewable energy that otherwise are excluded at this time.

The County of San Bernardino is a regional government. We understand that every aspect of the quality of life in a community is part of an interrelated system. The County takes responsibility for ensuring that the community has determined how, when and by whom each element of that system is being addressed in pursuit of our shared Vision of the County and the future we desire. Our job is to create a County in which those who reside and invest can prosper and achieve well-being. The following are priority County Governance, Finance and Operations legislative positions.

#### County Operations

- Support legislation and budget actions that provide: 1) flexibility to administer federal, state or local programs; 2) decision-making authority over the use of state funds, including directing grants or mandatory pass-through allocations; 3) the utilization of technology and innovation to streamline County services; and/or 4) the elimination of unnecessary, redundant, or overlapping requirements or regulations for program eligibility, funding maintenance of efforts, monitoring, permitting or reporting.
- Oppose legislation and budget actions that will adversely impact County operations by: 1) preempting the County's authority; 2) eroding local control; 3) limiting the ability to operate in a reasonable and cost-effective manner; 4) transferring programs from the state to counties unless program control and flexibility is also shifted and adequate funding is guaranteed; and/or 5) exposing the County to unreasonable litigation.

#### County Finances

- Support legislation and budget actions that provide: 1) constitutional protections of all local revenues; 2) greater financial independence from the state budget process for governmental programs and services; 3) adequate funding for programs the County operates on behalf of the state; and/or 4) increased share of total state funding to local governments.
- Oppose legislation and budget actions that: 1) increase County responsibilities or expenses without a viable, adequate and dedicated source of revenue; and/or 2) reduce the County's share of total funding through formula allocations or reductions

#### Public Retirement Systems

- Support legislation that maintain public employee retirement systems': 1) responsible and predictable level of investment; 2) ability to recruit and retain a competent workforce; 3) capacity to restore the public trust in public retirement systems and the officials that run them; 4) capacity for mutual sharing of financial responsibility between the County and its employees; and/or 5) flexibility to allow counties to meet their local needs.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Agriculture/ Weights and Measures	Consumer Protection	State law currently provides consumer protection for items sold based on count, measure and weight, and for the accuracy of price scanning and quantity in packaged goods.	Support legislation that maintains consumer protections related to functions of the Sealer of Weights and Measures.
Airports	State Aeronautic User Fees	The Airport Improvement Program (AIP), through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), primarily funds airport capital improvements. The State Aeronautics account is funded by user fees and serves as a source of matching funds required to qualify for AIP grant opportunities. While State Aeronautics funds are currently available, they have been subject to reduction in the past as a measure to balance the State budget. Removal of these funds as a source for AIP matching compromises important airport improvement projects.	Support legislation and budget actions that protect or enhance funding to the State Aeronautics program.
Assessor/ Recorder/County Clerk	Recording Documents	Previously enacted legislation adding distinctive requirements for recording documents has led to considerable confusion, as County Recorders have individually modified existing documents or created new ones to conform to the legislation with limited or no direction from the Legislature.	Oppose legislation and budget actions that require a new recording document that is not supplied by the state. Support legislation and budget actions that establish a new document if appropriate funding and recording documents are included.
Economic Development Agency	Ontario International Airport	The Inland Empire has taken a tremendous economic hit over the past several years due to decline in air passenger travel.	Support legislation proposals and budget actions that increase air passenger travel through the return of Ontario International Airport to local control.
Economic Development Agency	Ports/Goods Movement	Logistics is a key factor in the development and growth of the County of San Bernardino. The County is a crucial corridor for the movement of goods from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. The efficient	Support legislation and budget actions that improve the movement of goods throughout the Southern California transportation network.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Economic Development Agency	Southern California Logistics Airport	<p>movement of goods throughout the Southern California transportation network is critical to the mobility and economic vitality of the region, the state and the nation.</p> <p>George Air Force Base, which closed in 1992, is now operating Southern California Logistics Airport (SCLA). 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 High Desert region.</p>	Support legislation and budget actions that assist Southern California Logistics Airport in its effort to revitalize the economy of the High Desert region.
Purchasing	Local Preference Procurement	The County has implemented a local vendor preference policy to support the award of contracts for goods and services to vendors within the County, thus promoting job creation and maintenance of local tax revenue in the County.	Support legislation and budget actions that will ensure the County continues to have the ability to support the local economy with the application of local preference policies.
Registrar of Voters	Vote By Mail	The ability to utilize vote- by- mail for special elections enables the County and other jurisdictions to realize substantial savings without compromising service delivery. Furthermore, mail ballot elections increase voter participation.	Support legislation and budget actions that incentivize counties to use vote-by-mail.
Risk Management	Workers' Compensation Presumptions	Existing laws governing the California workers' compensation system and the determination of the compensability of industrial injuries are generally equitable for employees and employers. Workers' compensation law requires that benefit payments to an injured employee depend on the existence of an injury that not only occurs during the course of the employee's duties, but those injuries are resultant of their employment. Any expansion of existing definitions will impose a higher burden of proof for employers attempting to rebut a claim believed to be non-work-related, thereby creating additional administrative costs.	Oppose legislation that expands presumptions for eligibility that impose additional costs on public employers.

San Bernardino County’s Human Services Group administers aging and long-term care services, mental health treatment, alcohol and substance use treatment, public health services, healthcare for indigents, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), CalFRESH, foster care, child welfare services, adult protective services, In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), General Assistance (GA), medical and emergency medical services, homeless services and services to children aged five and younger. Together, these programs represent the largest percentage of County-administered state programs within the County.

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

Health and Human Services Funding and Operations

- Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) fully fund the cost of federal and state mandated health and human service programs and associated technological and training needs; 2) provide funding formulas that ensure an equitable allocation of federal and state funding and reflect complete, accurate and total caseload and administrative costs; 3) promote local control over health and human service programs to ensure programs are delivered efficiently and in a cost-effective manner; 4) provide for County health and well-being improvements; 5) provide appropriate amendments to the California Constitution to protect County funding sources; and/or 6) hold counties exempt from fiscal penalties when federal or state governments do not provide adequate funding.
- Oppose legislation and budget actions that: 1) transfer health and human service programs from the state to counties unless program control and flexibility is also shifted and adequate federal and state funding to fully fund the costs of federal and state mandates is guaranteed; 2) propose funding formulas that adversely impact and impede the ability of the County to deliver health and human services; and/or 3) erode local control of the administration of health and human services programs.

Health Care Reform

- Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) maintain and/or expand safety net provider funding; 2) provide adequate funding, rates and flexibility; 3) prioritize allocation and reimbursement to counties that have disproportionately high levels of poverty; 4) promote outreach, education and enrollment; 5) provide patient-centered, timely, integrated and effective physical and mental health and substance use disorder care; 6) encourage healthy lifestyles and integration of mental health and substance use disorder treatment services with primary care; 7) increase capacity for adequate service provision; 8) fund technological advances; and/or 9) provide for partnerships between stakeholders to achieve desired outcomes.

Protection of Realignment Funding Streams

- Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) promote, protect and/or enhance the funding streams for Health and Human Services program realignment to ensure continued operation; and/or 2) provide funding for preventative services.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Administration	Medical Professional Workforce	An adequate supply of well-prepared health professionals is essential to an effective health care system. A National Center for Health Workforce Analysis	Support legislation, budget actions and regulatory efforts that will increase and retain qualified medical

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
		<p>found that recruitment difficulty for health professionals is widespread and these recruitment problems affect the existing healthcare workforce. This inability to fill vacant positions typically has led to chronic understaffing, lack of health care access, and difficult working conditions. In addition, the Affordable Care Act will continue to bring many more individuals into the health care system, necessitating an increase in primary and specialty care physicians who are available to provide care to this additional population.</p>	<p>and behavioral health professionals, and protect and enhance funding to provide incentives for medical professionals to serve in underserved areas.</p>
Administration	Parolee And Probation Medical and Mental Health Programs	<p>Fifteen percent 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 three years of being released. The number of parolees has grown considerably due to recent changes in law such as the creation of the non-revocable parolee program and AB 109. Although County Public and Behavioral Health departments are uniquely positioned to provide services, the State should be held responsible for providing adequate funding for medical and mental health pre-and post-care services to the counties.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that provide additional funding for counties to provide pre and post-release medical and mental health care services for parolees and probationers.</p>
Administration	Same Day Billing	<p>California law prohibits Federally Qualified Health Centers (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. Eliminating the lockout will allow more patients to receive early preventive care rather than returning with advanced conditions requiring more expensive care. Eliminating the lockout would also make this system consistent with current Medicare law that contains no lockout provision.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that permit same day billing for FQHCs. Support legislation and budget actions that would clarify Medi-Cal billing rules for non-FQHC county integrated service clinics.</p>

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Aging and Adult Services	Long-Term Care Maintenance Needs	The maintenance allowance for personal and incidental needs for institutionalized Medi-Cal beneficiaries has remained at \$35 since 1985. This allowance is intended to cover incidentals such as clothing, shoes, socks, undergarments, haircuts, snacks or entertainment needs.	Support legislation and budget actions that increase the long-term care monthly maintenance need level for Medi-Cal beneficiaries.
Aging and Adult Services	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. Ombudsmen monitor and investigate quality of life and quality of care issues. The program is mandated in federal and state law. Despite budget cuts that removed all State General Fund money from the program, state mandates remain for the Ombudsman Program.	Support legislation and budget actions that will provide sustainable and non-prejudicial funding for the Ombudsman Program, while enhancing the rights, independence, and choice of long-term care residents.
Aging and Adult Services	Public Guardian-Conservator	The goal of the Public Guardian-Conservator (PG-C) is to ensure the safety, both financially and physically, of incompetent and mentally disabled persons who meet the criteria for conservatorship, when there are no viable alternatives to public conservatorship. Due to the ambiguity in current law, courts are appointing the PG-C as conservator to persons with developmental disabilities whereas such individuals should have the Director of Developmental Services (DDS) as their conservator.	Support legislation to allow the courts to determine if it is in the proposed conservatee's best interest to have the DDS as his/her conservator, and require the California DDS to be the conservator for Regional Center clients who are in need of protection.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Behavioral Health	Behavioral Health Subaccount	Senate Bill 1020, passed by the State Legislature in 2012, created a more permanent structuring of 2011 Realignment funding by codifying Behavioral Health Subaccount funding for various mental health programs, services, and treatments at the county level. Funds appropriated by the State may prove inadequate to address the increasing costs related to the Drug Medi-Cal expansion and other entitlement services such as access to Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT). As a result, counties may exceed their allocated revenue Subaccounts causing them to file State reimbursement requests. Without the State establishing an improved base formula, counties will be challenged to fund the growing trend for EPSDT, Drug Medi-Cal expansion and other vital services.	Support legislation and budget actions that support State re-evaluation of the 2011 Realignment Behavioral Health Subaccount funding allocation formula that increases funding for county mental health providers proportionately.
Behavioral Health	Blending Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Treatment Funding	Most mental health and substance abuse treatment funding is allocated for specific purposes, without consideration of local needs. These funds are commonly referred to as “set asides,” or “categorical” funding. Federal and state mental health and substance use disorder funding sources are replete with these set-asides, which limit the ability of county behavioral health services to direct the funds to areas of greatest concern.	Support legislation and budget actions that give counties the flexibility to blend mental health and alcohol, and other drug treatment funding from various sources, and direct it to the area of greatest need.
Behavioral Health	County Correctional Facility Inmate Mental Health Medications	A greater percentage of county behavioral health budgets must be devoted to psychiatric medication for county correctional facilities as the mentally ill inmate population increases, particularly as the result of AB 109.	Support legislation and budget actions that provide financial assistance to county behavioral health departments allowing for the purchase of newer and more effective mental health medications for inmates.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Behavioral Health	Expedite Federal Reimbursement of Mental Health Claims	Timely federal reimbursement of mental health claims, Federal Financial Participation (FFP), to county mental health plans is necessary for the continuous access to funding for the provision of mandated services. The State's distribution of FFP is historically uneven and cannot be withheld from counties when the budget is delayed. Establishing a new trust fund with continuous appropriation would maintain the continuity of funding to county mental health programs in two major areas: Medi-Cal and the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA).	Support legislation and budget actions that establish a trust fund with FFP and MHSA money to continuously appropriate money from the fund to counties.
Behavioral Health	Homeless Assistance Program	Homelessness is a persistent national problem that impacts cities and communities throughout San Bernardino County. According to the most recent Point-In-Time Count Homeless Survey the number of homeless, 2,321, counted in 2013 represents an 18% decrease from the 2011 homeless count. This modest improvement is a result of investments in positive programs such as permanent supportive housing, homeless prevention outreach, housing first and rapid re-housing efforts. More than one-fifth of the homeless population consists of children and youth, and 11% are veterans. According to recent Census surveys, 20% of San Bernardino County residents (primarily women and children) live below the federal poverty line and are at risk of becoming homeless. This population poses serious societal and economic implications. Despite a decline of the homeless population in San Bernardino County, additional housing assistance programs at the state and federal level are still needed.	Support legislative, budget actions, and regulatory efforts that will provide a more focused approach to the issues of homelessness and provide a system of care that is inclusive, well planned, coordinated, evaluated and accessible to all who are, or are at-risk of becoming, homeless.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Behavioral Health	Integrated Health Care	<p>There is a need for state funding to integrate treatment for mental health services and substance abuse treatment as well as primary and specialty care. There is limited integration of primary care services into substance use disorder (SUD) specialty care settings. When present, primary care services provided in SUD settings extend beyond medication management and create an opportunity for a holistic approach to treating the person rather than a single immediate medical concern.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that further the goal of integrated health care, increase coordinated care and enhance technological communication in the coordination of care especially as it relates to Health Information Exchanges, Medi-Cal Expansion and County participation in state mandated demonstration projects aimed at improving health care delivery in county/state/Medi-Cal Managed systems of care.</p>
Behavioral Health	Mental Health Care for Current and Former Foster Children Placed Out of County	<p>The history of abuse, neglect, and trauma suffered by children removed from their homes and placed in foster care results in nearly 70% of foster youth experiencing a mental health problem associated with such circumstances. Accessing mental health services, however, is complicated for children and youth in foster care placements outside their home counties. Although federal and state laws guarantee these children mental health services, there are hosts of bureaucratic barriers that make accessing the services difficult. Despite the improvement of special health care needs, more foster care system improvements are still necessary.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that ensure every child in the foster care system and children formerly in foster care receive timely specialty mental health services when needed, regardless of the county of placement, without causing added hardships for service providers responsible for managing services.</p>

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Behavioral Health	Offender Treatment Program	While funding for Proposition 36 has ceased, the law known as the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act (SACPA) of 2000 remains in effect. The Offender Treatment Program (OTP) was established to fund treatment for offenders diverted from the criminal justice system under SACPA. However, there has been no funding for SACPA since 2006 and the OTP program last received funding in 2011.	Support legislation and budget actions that fund the Offender Treatment Program and suspend or eliminate mandates not reimbursed by the State.
Behavioral Health	Realignment - 2011	Mental health funding is essential to ensure counties have adequate resources to meet the growing behavioral health demands associated with the 2011 Realignment.	Support legislation and budget actions that protect existing mental health funding.
Behavioral Health	Specialized Mental Health Training for Law Enforcement	Law enforcement officers are frequently the first persons to have contact with mentally ill individuals, and parole and probation officers see mentally ill parolees or probationers on a regular basis. However, they are often not adequately trained to handle such situations. Recent state legislation will establish state training to address law enforcement interaction with mentally disabled, or developmentally disabled, persons living in a state hospital or developmental center. This type of enhanced and specialized training is needed for local first responders.	Support legislation and budget actions that provides for specialized mental health training for local law enforcement personnel, parole and probation officers.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Child Support Services	Child Support Strategic Plan	The California Department of Child Support Services (CDCSS) has established a strategic plan, which requires Local Child Support Agencies (LCSAs) to increase collections, improve performance, and provide quality customer service. Over the last several years, program funding has not kept pace with operational costs, this has impacted the LCSA's ability to increase efficiency and enhance family stability. Adequate funding is necessary to strengthen low-income families, reduce child poverty and achieve the goals of the strategic plan.	Support legislation and budget actions that provide additional funding to LCSAs to improve operational efficiencies, enhance family stability and achieve CDCSS strategic plan goals.
Preschool Services	State Reimbursement Rate	California's Standard Reimbursement Rate for a part-day State Preschool program is currently \$21.22 per child per day or \$3,714 per year (based on a 175 days/year) and \$34.38 per child per day, or \$8,457 per year, for full-day program. This translates to \$7.07 per hour for part day and \$5.29 per hour for a full day program and rates that are inadequate to fund effective programs, and restricting the availability of contracted providers to operate either program.	Support legislation that increases the Standard Reimbursement Rate for state contracted providers by at least
Public Health	Animal Control	Each year almost one million unwanted and abandoned cats and dogs are born in California. Local governments are mandated to prevent and control rabies. This is achieved through animal adoptions, vaccination and licensing programs, stray animal control, animal bite reporting, investigation and animal isolation, along with public education. Local governments spend more than \$250 million annually on these services and ultimately euthanize over half of the animals taken in.	Support legislation and budget actions that enhance the ability of County animal controllers to provide cost-effective and humane animal control services and either repeal or fund animal control mandates.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Public Health	Chronic Disease Prevention and Wellness Promotion	Chronic diseases, such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, and arthritis are among the most common and costly of all health problems in the U.S. Many of these chronic conditions and their adverse effects are preventable; however, inadequate resources and programs are dedicated to the prevention and control of these chronic conditions.	Support legislation and budget actions in preventive health services or activities that improve community health outcomes, encourage the enhancement of funding to support these efforts at the local level and seek to improve nutrition, obesity and fitness education programs as well as health literacy in California's population.
Public Health	Food Safety	The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that foodborne illness in the U.S. causes 3,000 deaths, 128,000 hospitalizations and 48 million illnesses annually, at a cost of billions of dollars. Significant numbers of outbreaks and recalled food products have shown that our food systems are fragile and that impurities at any step of production can have far reaching public health impacts.	Support legislation, budget actions and regulatory efforts that protect and ensure the safety of California's food supply.
Public Health	Health Disparities and Health Inequities	In California, minority populations have been well-documented to experience a higher incidence of chronic diseases, higher mortality rates and poorer health outcomes. In addition, low-income residents, regardless of race, lack access to regular medical care and adequate, if any, health insurance coverage. Local health departments have begun to emphasize programs to reduce these disparities; however, in order to be effective, increased resources must be made available.	Support legislation and budget actions that reduce health disparities and inequities.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Public Health	Local Health Department Simplification	California's local health departments administer a myriad of state and federal categorical public health programs. Most of these programs involve categorical funding streams and target populations, rather than core public health functions and outcomes. The result is a maze of contracts, with each public health program having its own reporting, training, staffing and administrative requirements.	Support legislation and regulatory efforts to simplify the process of contracting with the State Department of Public Health and allow local health departments to develop a system for the delivery of comprehensive and coordinated public health services to their communities.
Public Health	Safe Drinking Water	Providing and ensuring the availability of safe drinking water is essential to all residents of the State. Ground and surface water sources are increasingly exposed to contaminants.	Support legislation and budget actions that protect and ensure the safety of our State water resources.
Transitional Assistance	CalFresh	CalFresh, California's name for the Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), offers nutrition benefits to participating customers and provides economic benefits to local communities. Over the past several years, as Californians are dealing with significant job losses, this program has served as the cornerstone of the nutritional safety net by providing assistance to those who qualify. Since the beginning of the recession CalFresh caseloads have increased by approximately 246 percent in San Bernardino County alone. This, along with federally-mandated outreach efforts, requires counties to maintain staffing levels to provide the needed case management.	Support legislation that improves access and maintains benefits of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program known in the State as CalFresh.
Transitional Assistance	CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work (WtW)	California allows flexibility for CalWORKs WtW customers to participate in program activities that do not meet federal WtW participation requirements. The State has received federal fiscal sanctions for consistently failing to meet federal work participation rates and these sanctions may be passed on to counties.	Support legislation and budget actions that align State work participation requirements with federal work participation requirements.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Transitional Assistance	Medi-Cal Allocation/ Funding	<p>The allocation for the Medi-Cal program is based on antiquated budgeting methodologies and has been held at the same level for several years. From 2010 to 2013 the County’s Medi-Cal caseload increased by 48%, however funding only increased by 23%. During fiscal year 2013-14, Medi-Cal cases grew by 60% and caseloads have consistently inflated at a rate of 12,000 a month since the end of 2013. While some additional funding was made available to counties for implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the level of funding is still insufficient to handle increased workloads and meet case management standards.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that increase Medi-Cal funding and provide a new budgeting methodology for determining allocations to the counties.</p>
Transitional Assistance	Technological Developments	<p>Consideration for time and cost associated with technological developments is not apparent in enacted legislation. Significant resource investments are necessary to develop, maintain and enhance system technologies necessary to accurately and efficiently administer programs and services.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that encompass time and cost of technological developments necessary to accurately implement programs and services at the local level.</p>
Veterans Affairs	Incarcerated Veterans Documentation	<p>Approximately 10% of individuals incarcerated in California prisons are veterans and over 10,000 veterans are paroled each year. Many incarcerated veterans are unaware that they may be eligible for benefits and services upon release. Permitting the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to collect and provide data to the Department of Veterans Affairs on incarcerated veterans would assist in closing this gap.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that permit CDCR to collect and provide information on incarcerated veterans to the California Department of Veterans Affairs.</p>

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Veterans Affairs	Veterans Programs	<p>CalVet administers programs in areas such as health care, financial assistance, housing and burial benefits to assist veterans who have sacrificed to serve their country. At the local level, County Veterans Service Offices strive to assist veterans as they navigate the complex and often frustrating process of securing claims and benefits to which they are entitled.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that will fully fund the state's responsibility to provide comprehensive veterans services.</p>

The overall safety and security of the residents of the County remains a top priority. In October 2011, the state began to shift the responsibility for the incarceration, supervision and monitoring of state prisoners and parolees to counties. With the uncertainty of long-term permanent realignment funding formula, the County will continue to monitor its capacity to adequately transition inmates back into an already overburdened county rehabilitative system. In addition, comprehensive fire protection and emergency response is imperative to the safety of the people and property of the County. Areas of policy development included in this Public Safety and First Responder section consist of issues ranging from realignment to emergency systems. The following are priority County Public Safety and First Responders legislative positions:

Public Safety and First Responder Funding and Operations

- Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) provide adequate resources to deliver services; 2) ensure the safety of the public, property of County residents, law enforcement and first responder personnel; 3) provide funding for information technology initiatives that improve coordination between agencies at all levels of government; and/or 4) enforce enhanced penalties for traffickers and those who solicit underage individuals for commercial sex.
- Oppose legislation and budget actions that: 1) reduce funding at the state and local level for public safety and first responders; 2) compromise the safety of the public, local law enforcement or first responder personnel; and/or 3) impede the local law enforcement or first responders' ability to deliver services.

Disaster Preparedness

- Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) enable the County to adequately plan for, respond to and receive reimbursement for emergency disasters; and/or 2) fund regional disaster management systems and resources to respond to emergencies, acts of terrorism and other catastrophic events.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
County Fire	Pipeline Safety	Each year, there are thousands of instances of excavators damaging underground natural gas pipelines while digging. Damage to natural gas pipelines puts public safety at risk, can necessitate dispatching fire and police personnel at significant cost to municipalities, and can result in service outages to homes and businesses. While most of these “dig-ins” do not result in immediate harm or threat to public safety, each has the potential to do so. About half of dig-ins are caused by excavators not following the State’s One-Call laws (Government Code Section 4216, et seq.), which require them to provide prior notice of intent to excavate so that underground utility lines in the area can be located and marked	Support legislation and budget actions that toughen enforcement of unsafe excavation practices and identifies a primary enforcement entity.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
		prior to commencement of excavation activities. California has not designated any specific entity as responsible for the enforcement of One-Call laws and, as a result, enforcement is lax and excavators have little incentive to comply.	
County Fire	Railroad Safety	San Bernardino County is a major hub for rail traffic, and has experienced major loss of life and property as the result of rail accidents in the past. Shipments of crude oil by rail have increased substantially, due to the advancement of drilling technologies, including hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) and directional drilling, which have opened up areas of the United States to oil production where there is little or inadequate pipeline infrastructure.	Support legislation and administrative actions that improve the safety of the rail system, especially the safety of transporting crude oil by rail.
ICEMA	Local Emergency Management Systems	A local emergency medical services agency (LEMSA) is a statutorily required governmental agency designated to plan, coordinate, implement, monitor, evaluate, and provide medical control to an integrated countywide emergency medical services system. ICEMA fulfills this role for San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono Counties through a three-county Joint Powers Authority (JPA). The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors serves as the Governing Board for the JPA.	Support legislation and budget actions that ensure stable funding and the continuation of County authority over planning, implementing and evaluating local EMS systems to guarantee a standardized emergency medical services system for the entire County. Oppose legislation and regulatory measures that erode a LEMSA’s authority to provide services and those that increase administrative burden.

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

Transportation Project Delivery, Funding and Financing

- Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) expedite project delivery and provide administrative flexibility; 2) protect existing funds dedicated for local transportation/transit improvements; 3) promote and expand alternative financing programs: and/or 4) improve mobility options for the public.
- Oppose legislation and budget actions that: 1) require additional state review of projects that are predominately of regional or local significance; 2) relinquish state highways to local agencies without the state restoring them to a state of good repair; 3) erode the County Road Commissioner’s ability to carry out his or her duties; and/or 4) reduces funding for transit.

Transportation Operations and Infrastructure

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

Land Use

- Oppose legislation and budget actions that: 1) erode local land use authority; 2) use climate change policy and/or air quality regulations as a vehicle to restrict or remove local land use authority; and/or 3) impose unfunded land use and general plan related mandates.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Land Use	Access To and Through Federal Land	Historic access on Federal public lands, primarily administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), has been allowed under R.S. 2477. Although the 1866 law was repealed in 1976, the rights-of-way created under the act remain active. Under 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 systems outside the urban area were created and are so authorized, as well as thousands of miles of secondary routes that 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.	Oppose any state legislation and budget actions that 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.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Land Use	Cap and Trade Revenues	Authorized by AB 32, the State’s landmark climate change legislation, which requires California to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, the law also authorizes the State to use market mechanisms to help achieve the overall GHG reduction goal.	Support legislation, proposals and budget actions that use Cap and Trade auction revenues derived from the transportation sector to fund transportation systems in a way that achieves AB 32 objectives and builds on the framework of SB 375 and other greenhouse reduction strategies. This includes targeting revenues and incentives toward local governments in support of regional planning goals and allocation of funding to counties based on these strategies. Oppose legislation or budget actions that divert Cap and Trade auction revenues to general governance or to any programs unrelated to GHG reductions.
Land Use	Greenhouse Gas Reduction	The County recognizes its role in enacting environmentally friendly policies, serving as environmental stewards and promoting environmentally friendly awareness. Building upon its existing record of environmental leadership, the County adopted a Green County initiative 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 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process, there remain reservations and concern about recent greenhouse gas reduction legislation and the implication to local government.	Support legislation, budget actions and proposals that mitigate adverse economic implications of GHG measures and allow flexibility at the local level to develop the most cost effective ways to meet GHG reduction goals. Oppose legislation, budget actions and proposals that erode local land use authority and adversely impact the fiscal well-being of local government.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Land Use	Open Space Sustainability	Development projects undergo California Environmental Quality Act review, which may require mitigation land be set aside as a condition of approval. Currently, no regulations exist regarding the actual management or funding of the land.	Support legislation and budget actions that will require 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.
Land Use	Reform the California 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 is not required in implementing the Act or other related Fish and Game Code provisions on a day-to-day basis. Additionally, CESA requires “full mitigation” for listed species. This language results in a degree of ambiguity since “full” cannot be accomplished short of project rejection. This results in arbitrary decision-making without the opportunity for oversight and appeal for projects which require Incidental Take Permits. Often mitigation requires “compensation” in the form of forcing the acquisition of private land and “donation” to the state or other tax-exempt organization. The County has lost significant acreage from its tax base over the past decade and available mitigation land is nearing exhaustion.	Support legislation and budget actions that reform CESA to require scientific justification for regulatory or judicial actions affecting land use decisions by local jurisdictions. Support amendment to the CESA and regulations which will require only mitigation, and provide that mitigation can and should involve means other than transfer of private land to public ownership.

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

Flood Control Funding and Operations

- Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) fund the planning, construction, operation and maintenance of watershed management or flood control projects; 2) promote environmentally-friendly flood control improvements; 3) promote the use of low impact development to mitigate storm water and urban runoff; and/or

Water Quality

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

Environmental Quality

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

Environmental Permit Streamlining

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

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Flood Control	Fish and Game Code Amendment	Fish and Game Code Section 1601 was enacted to reduce streambed alteration, which can disturb natural species. California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s narrow interpretation of Section 1601 has limited local agencies’ ability to maintain their facilities. Flood control districts have been impacted the most by this interpretation since they have not been allowed to maintain or clean existing flood control and water spreading facilities. These facilities must be cleaned out before the start of the normal storm season,	Support legislation and regulatory efforts to exempt regular maintenance of existing flood control and other public facilities from the State Fish and Game Code (1601).

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Flood Control	Flood Control Infrastructure Improvement Funding	<p>which begins October 15th. The consequences of not having these facilities ready for the storm season can result in unnecessary risk to life and property.</p> <p>Throughout the state, much of the existing flood control infrastructure is inadequate to handle 100-year storm flows. Existing facilities are aged and in serious disrepair. With the state’s continued population growth and subsequent development, most of the existing flood control systems are strained beyond capacity. Flood control districts and local jurisdictions do not have funding to repair, replace and construct new infrastructure.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions to fund the repair, improvement and construction of flood control-focused infrastructure projects.</p>
Flood Control	Storm Water Recharge Project Funding	<p>Hundreds of flood control facilities exist in the state. The County Flood Control District alone has over 119 basins. Many of these basins can be modified to allow water percolation to recharge the groundwater table. Other basins are slated for construction but lack of funding stops them from moving forward. Current funding programs set very limited allowance for infrastructure construction projects and grants for infrastructure are scarce.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that improve and construct storm water recharge projects.</p>
Solid Waste	Perchlorate Contamination	<p>Groundwater in the Rialto Colton Basin is contaminated with perchlorate and other chemicals. There are multiple alleged source areas for this contamination, including the Rockets, Fireworks, and Flares (RFF) Site on the east side of the Basin and the County’s Mid-Valley Sanitary Landfill Unit 5 Expansion Property and the Stonehurst Site on the west side of the Basin. These source areas have created two separate and distinct perchlorate plumes in the basin, known as the Eastern Plume and Western Plume. Under state regulatory agency</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that assist the public entities’ efforts to clean up impacts created by the existence of perchlorate contamination to soil and groundwater within the County.</p>

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oversight, the County has taken the lead with respect to addressing the Western Plume. The U.S. EPA has taken the lead with respect to the Eastern Plume. The County supports the EPA listing of the RFF Site and its efforts to address the contamination in the Eastern Plume area.

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

Quality of Life

- Support legislation, proposals and budget actions that: 1) provide residents with access to County facilities that promote knowledge, education, lifelong learning, recreation/leisure and cultural enrichments; 2) preserve and protect the conservation of the County’s natural and historical land resources and infrastructure; 3) provide funding and increased grant opportunities for services that enhance the quality of life for County residents; and/or 4) balance economic development and environmental stewardship.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
County Library	California Library Services Act Funding	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 recent years, state matching funds have been significantly reduced due to other state budget priorities. Due to the vast geography of the County and the increase in patron usage, resource sharing is of significant importance to the County’s Library system. Further reductions in funding may discourage libraries from lending resources to neighboring libraries’ residents.	Support legislation and budget actions that restore, protect and enhance funding for the California Library Services Act.
County Library	Public Library Foundation	The Public Library Foundation (PLF) was established by the State Legislature in 1983 to provide state aid to local libraries to be allocated under a straight per capita formula. As an item in the state budget, the PLF allocation is subject to the extensive budget negotiation process. Funding for the PLF was completely eliminated two years ago. The elimination of 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 increases as more people turn to public libraries for assistance.	Support legislation and budget actions that increase funding for the Public Library Foundation Program.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Regional Parks	Calico Ghost Town	Calico Ghost Town and former mining town is a globally recognized historical and educational site set in the heart of San Bernardino County. Located in the Mojave Desert near Barstow and Yermo, Calico was designated the official California State Silver Rush Ghost Town in 2005, and prior to its present status had been designated a State Historic Landmark. The park draws a substantial number of worldwide visitors year-round, and continually has a significantly positive economic impact on local communities and the County. With aging infrastructure, however, renovations are needed to preserve critical facilities and maintain the economic, educational, recreational, and historical value of this international treasure.	Support legislation and budget actions that provide funding for the Calico facility and infrastructure maintenance, replacement, and improvements.
Regional Parks	Regional Park Facilities	The County of San Bernardino Regional Parks System includes 9,200 acres of diverse outdoor recreational opportunities ranging from metro and mountain to desert landscapes. The parks provide local low-cost entertainment experiences such as camping, swimming, fishing, and boating enjoyed by county residents and visitors alike. The facilities over time require improvements to maintain a safe and enjoyable experience for all guests.	Support legislation and budget actions that provide funding for infrastructure maintenance replacement and improvements to the 9,200 acres of County park facilities. Support Legislation and budget actions that fund recreational programming for underserved communities that would improve physical fitness, and exposure to outdoor activities

PROJECT	POSITION
Alabama Street/Interstate 10 Interchange	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist in funding the widening and interchange improvement at Alabama Street. This project is estimated to cost \$42 million.
Arrowbear Drive Realignment and Widening	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to remove and replace bridge/spillway, realign and widen the road to improve traffic safety and provide easier access in an emergency. This project is estimated to cost \$3 million.
Cedar Avenue/I-10 Interchange	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist in funding the widening and interchange improvement of Cedar Avenue. This project is estimated to cost \$61 million.
Glen Helen Parkway Bridge Over the Cajon Wash	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to construct an all-weather crossing of the Cajon Wash. This project is estimated to cost \$19.85 million.
Grove Avenue/I-10 Interchange	Support legislation and budget actions that fund the construction of the Grove Avenue/I-10 Interchange. This project is estimated to cost \$130 million.
Helendale Road Paving Project	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to pave Helendale Road, currently a dirt road and one lane in each direction within existing right-of-way from Colusa Road within the City of Victorville north to Silver Lakes Road. This project is estimated to cost \$14 million.
High Desert Corridor	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority's oversight and advocacy of a Public Private Partnership for the planning, programming, design, construction, maintenance and operation of a multi-purpose corridor, connecting Victorville and Palmdale, to include a freeway/expressway for goods movement, recreational and general traffic; right of way, design, construction and maintenance for high speed rail; planning, programming, design, construction, maintenance and operation of a bikeway; and planning for renewable energy generation and transmission to reduce cost of maintenance and operation of all infrastructure, and provide project revenue from transmission lines connecting to the grid, and alternative energy fueling. This project is estimated to cost \$ 5 billion, largely financed by the private sector, including \$500 million over six years needed for the I-15 interchange.
Institution Road: Glen Helen Rehabilitation Facility to Cajon Boulevard	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to create an all-weather access road for the Glen Helen Rehabilitation Facility, by constructing pipes, arch culverts or other bridge structures acceptable to U.S. Fish and Wildlife, CA Fish & Wildlife and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This project is estimated to cost \$20 million.
LA Mesa/Nisqualli Yucca Loma Corridor	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to construct a four-lane Yucca Loma Bridge over the Mojave River in the Town of Apple Valley, widen Yates Road to four lanes in the County area, and construct extension to the Green Tree Boulevard in Victorville. This project is estimated to cost \$101 million.

PROJECT	POSITION
National Trails Highway Bridge Replacement Project	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist in 100% funding of the design and replacement of 129 trestle bridges on National Trails Highway with AASHTO approved timber trestle bridges. This project is estimated to cost \$100 million.
Needles Highway (Project 1)	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to realign and construct Needles Highway, between "N" Street with in the City of Needles, north to the Nevada State Line. This project is estimated to cost \$80 million.
Needles Highway (Project 2)	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to realign and construct Needles Highway, within the City of Needles, between Interstate 40 and the northern city limit (which adjoins the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation boundary) to a two-lane road minimizing horizontal curves and vertical dips, provide drainage improvements and add turn pockets at intersections. This project is estimated to cost \$15 million.
Oro Grande Overpass	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to improve the existing grade separation for National Trails Highway under the BNSF and Union Pacific rail tracks at Oro Grande. This project is estimated to cost \$29 million.
Phelan Road	Support legislation and budget actions that assist with funding to construct a four-lane road on the existing alignment of a two-lane paved road between Mesa Linda Street and State Highway 138. This project is estimated to cost \$35 million.
Piute Wash Bridge Project	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to construct a 500-foot long, multi-lane, all weather bridge on Needles Highway over the Piute Wash. This project is estimated to cost \$26.5 million.
Rock Springs Road Bridge Project	Support legislation and budget actions that assist with funding to construct a four-lane bridge across the Mojave River on the Rock Springs Road alignment. This project is estimated to cost \$30 million.
Shadow Mountain Road	Support legislation and budget actions that will assist with funding to construct a four-lane road from National Trails Highway west to Helendale Road, including a grade separation at the BNSF railroad tracks and a four-lane bridge over the Mojave River to complete the logical connection to Shadow Mountain Road. This project is estimated to cost \$50 million.
State Street/State Route 210 to Cajon Boulevard	Support legislation and budget actions that assist with funding to construct a four-lane road on the existing alignment between State Route 210 and grade separation at Cajon Boulevard. This project is estimated to cost \$20 million.
Wild Wash Road	Support legislation and budget actions that assist with funding to construct a two-lane paved road from I-15 west to Helendale on an alignment currently served by an unpaved road. This project is estimated to cost \$25 million.

## PROJECT

## POSITION

Bandicoot Basin Flood Protection, Water Quality and Water Recharge Project

Support legislation and budget actions that assist with funding to mitigate the additional flows generated by upstream development and safely convey flows to the existing aqueduct over-crossings. This project would be a three stage phasing project with the intent to attenuate the flows upstream and minimize the impact to the Department of Water Resources' California Aqueduct. It is estimated that the project will cost \$18.5 million.

Cactus Basins Flood Protection, Water Quality and Water Recharge Project

Support legislation and budget actions that assist with funding the most important elements of the Rialto Channel system, Cactus Basins 3, 4 and 5. These basins are crucial due to the increased runoff concentrated into the system from the Interstate 210 Freeway and the related Cactus Channel project. It is estimated that the project will cost \$33.5 million.

Comprehensive Storm Drain 3-5/3-8 Flood Protection Project

Support legislation and budget actions that assist with funding the flood protection project. This system protects residences, commercial properties and major transportation corridors including Interstate Highway 10. The County Flood Control District is coordinating with the City of Colton on this project. It is estimated that the project will cost \$21 million.

Santa Ana River Mainstem Flood Protection Project

Support legislation and budget actions that provide \$22 million in subvention funds to assist with completing the Santa Ana River Mainstem Flood Protection Project, in conjunction with the USACOE to provide valuable flood control features for over 3 million people living within the Santa Ana River watershed and floodplain. Completion of all of the features will provide (a) necessary flood protection within Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties; (b) enhancement and preservation of marshlands and wetlands for endangered waterfowl, fish and wildlife species; (c) recreation amenities; and (d) floodplain management of the 30 miles of Santa Ana River between Seven Oaks Dam and Prado Dam.

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

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