



County of San Bernardino

2016 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.

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 2016.

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

The 2016 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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The legislative priorities section establishes the County's goals, and outlines the legislative agenda for the current year.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Housing costs play a critical role in the economic stability of families as well as their physical and psychological wellbeing. The Public Policy Institute of California reports 36% of mortgaged homeowners and approximately 48% of all renters in California are spending more than one-third of their household incomes on housing.

A significant amount of San Bernardino County's renters spend more than 50% of their income on housing, leaving little to spend on other essential items such as transportation, healthcare and food. Overcrowding for low-income renters in San Bernardino County is twice the national average. The shortfall of affordable homes increases the burden on low-income families in the County and can undermine family health, stability and children's educational attainment, putting future opportunities at risk and perpetuating a cycle of poverty.

The County will work with the delegation, statewide associations and local agencies to advocate for legislation or budget actions that will: 1) a permanent source of funding that is equitable; and/or 2) include regulatory reform that reduces the cost and delivery time of affordable housing projects.

The Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program was established in 2014 to create and implement programs to allocate Cap-and-Trade revenues to meet the state's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals of AB 32. Administered by the Strategic Growth Council, and implemented by the Department of Housing and Community Development, the AHSC Program funds land-use, housing, transportation, and land preservation projects to support infill and compact development. Existing law directs that investment in disadvantaged communities be a primary factor in the distribution of funds. During the first round of funding only 18% of the projects invited to submit full grant applications were from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region, which includes San Bernardino County, though this region represents 67% of the disadvantaged communities statewide.

The County will work with the delegation, statewide associations and other local agencies to advocate for legislation, regulations or budget actions that will ensure: 1) the region receives an equitable distribution of the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities funding; and/or 2) existing impediments in the regulations, such as density requirements, are removed to ensure the region is not inherently disadvantaged in its pursuit of funding.

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 costs 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 expired in October 2015. The Waiver was 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 state and federal government's commitment to the implementation of the ACA through a successor Waiver, "Medicaid 2020", will allow counties to further improve care delivery. The County will work with the delegation, statewide associations, counties and other stakeholders to support legislation or budget actions that will seek federal and state support to promote and improve: 1) health outcomes, access to care and cost efficiency; 3) coordinated care and integrated physical and behavioral health services; 4) robust coordination with social, housing, workforce development, substance use disorder care, recuperative care and other services critical to improve patient care; and /or 5) the existing system of care delivery models developed under the Bridge to Reform Waiver.

REGULATORY REFORM, PROJECT STREAMLINING & EXPEDITING

Adopted in 1970, the basic purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) were to: inform governmental decision makers and the public about the potential significant environmental effects of proposed activities; identify ways that environmental damage can be avoided or significantly reduced; require changes in projects through the use of alternatives or mitigation measures when feasible; 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 and infrastructure projects. As the State seeks methods of creating economic stimulus and improving infrastructure 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 and reform CEQA to integrate updated environmental and planning laws; 2) focus CEQA litigation on compliance with environmental and planning laws; 3) re-evaluate the statutory and categorical CEQA exemptions to allow the streamlining of projects; 4) promote job creation; and/or 5) support legislation that promotes innovative procurement of projects, such as Design-Build and Public-Private-Partnerships where appropriate for efficient project delivery.

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.

TRANSPORTATION

As the population and economy, especially the goods movement sector, continue to grow, there will be more cars and trucks on increasingly crowded and poorly maintained roads and highways. The deficit for local road and bridge repairs statewide, based on the California Local Streets & Roads Needs Assessment prepared by Cities and Counties in 2014, stands in excess of \$78 billion over ten years. San Bernardino County has over 2,500 center line miles, consisting of 7,000 lane miles, of county maintained roads in the unincorporated area, with an even larger inventory within our 24 cities that are maintained by each city. The County also maintains over 300 bridges on County roads.

The County will work with statewide associations, local agencies and stakeholders to advocate for legislation or budget actions that: 1) designate a dedicated and secure source of funding to support the maintenance and rehabilitation of the state and local road and transit systems; 2) expedite delivery and provide administrative flexibility for transportation projects; 3) promote and expand alternative financing programs; and/or 4) improve mobility options for the public.

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>
Fair Political Practices Commission Contracting	<p>AB 2146, passed in 2012, authorized the FPPC to assume primary responsibility for administration and enforcement of San Bernardino County’s campaign finance ordinance until January 1, 2018. This legislation authorized the FPPC to investigate possible violations of the local county campaign finance reform ordinance and bring administrative actions against persons who violate the ordinance. The County has contracted with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) for these services since 2013. The ability to contract with the FPPC to administratively and civilly enforce the County’s campaign finance ordinance is a cost-effective solution to impart public confidence, utilizing FPPC’s expertise. Legislative authority to contract with the FPPC expires on January 1, 2018.</p>	<p>Sponsor legislation that would repeal the January 1, 2018, sunset date and allow the County to continue to contract with the FPPC for campaign finance ordinance oversight and enforcement.</p>

ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
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>
Restrictions of Sex Offenders	<p>In order to protect the safety of children, state law should be amended so that registered sex offenders are restricted from accessing places where children congregate including arcades, day care centers, parks and schools. Legislation would provide for the reduced threat that sex offenders pose to children by limiting the ability of sex offenders to be in contact with these children. In January 2014, the Court of Appeal issued a published opinion striking down portions of a City of Irvine ordinance regulating the presence of sex offenders at public parks within the City. The Court found the Legislature had occupied the entire field of regulation of sex offenders through the multiple provisions in the Penal Code governing sex offender registration, location, and other requirements, thus preempting local regulation.</p>	<p>Sponsor legislation that would impose additional restrictions on sex offenders.</p>
Small Claims Jurisdiction Limits	<p>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.</p>	<p>Sponsor legislation that raises the limit for small claims action brought by a public entity from \$5,000 to \$10,000.</p>

ISSUE

SUMMARY

ACTION

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.

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, for the price accuracy of scanners and the quantity in packages.	Support legislation that maintains consumer protections related to functions of the Sealer of Weights and Measures.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Agriculture/ Weights and Measures	Environmental Protection	State law provides for environmental protection and the health and safety of both employees and the public by regulating the use of pesticides.	Support legislative and regulatory efforts to maintain and protect citizens, workers and the environment from the improper use of pesticides and encourage the development of new pesticide formulations and uses that may have a positive and beneficial impact on the environment, public health and safety.
Agriculture/ Weights and Measures	Fees Charged or Collected by a County	State law currently limits fees that can be charged by counties for mandated and necessary services. When statutory fees are insufficient to fund the program costs the County General Fund is used to subsidize these services.	Support legislation and budget actions that provide clear authority for counties to use service fees to fully fund the cost of providing mandated services.
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	Intaglio Print Alternatives	The unique quality of the banknote paper that is required by law is the use of "intaglio" print, which is a specialized method of printing in which the paper is indented and then filled with metallic foils to create a raised lettering. This method is nearly impossible to re-create or forge, giving it an advantage on other security measures. Currently	Support legislation and budget actions that provide alternatives to intaglio print that offers equal or greater security protection.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
		<p>the only source for this secure print is a firm located in Canada. California Recorders and County Clerks would prefer to utilize a company located within the United States.</p>	
<p>Assessor/ Recorder/ County Clerk</p>	<p>Recording Documents</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Assessor/ Recorder/ County Clerk</p>	<p>Recording Fees/ Recording/Fraud protection</p>	<p>The Recorder-Clerk's Office is committed to protecting the integrity of records and strives for uniformity when performing our mandated duties. To that end, any changes to the fees or policies for recording documents should directly relate to the duties of the County Recorder.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that protect all vital and official records against fraud while ensuring their availability to authorized users. Support legislation that provides greater flexibility in the use of electronic recording for real property records that includes appropriate precautions to protect consumers and homeowners against fraud.</p>
<p>Economic Development Agency</p>	<p>Ports/Goods Movement</p>	<p>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 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>Support legislation and budget actions that improve the movement of goods throughout the Southern California transportation network.</p>

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Economic Development Agency	Southern California Logistics Airport	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.	Support legislation and budget actions that assist Southern California Logistics Airport in its effort to revitalize the economy of the High Desert region.
Fleet Management	Alternative Energy	Most public fleets are mandated to use alternative energy sources. For geographically large counties with vast areas of low population density, fueling infrastructure is limited and the distances to be travelled are great, making alternative fuel vehicles, especially heavy duty vehicles, impractical.	Support legislation, regulatory action or policy changes that provide flexibility in fueling options for public fleets of geographically large counties, with low population densities, and/or provide incentives to deploy cleaner vehicles.
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.
Real Estate Services	Land Easements	As shifts in land uses occur the County often finds itself with conservation easements that are in conflict with adjacent land uses. Land exchanges are often needed to mitigate these concerns by relocating conservation easements to more appropriate locations.	Support legislation that provides counties flexibility to exchange or terminate conservation easements.
Registrar of Voters	Increasing Voter Participation	Voting-by-mail for all elections in conjunction with the use of vote centers enables the County and other jurisdictions to expand voter participation by providing more options to access elections while providing cost savings for county election operations.	Support legislation and budget actions that give counties the option to implement the use of vote-by-mail in combination with vote centers.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
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 and/or impose additional costs on public employers.
Superior Courts	Trial Court Funding	California's 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, underjudged and understaffed courts in California and has one of the highest caseloads statewide.	Support legislation or budget actions that fund critical court services and approved judgeships that have never been funded, consistent with court workloads.

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, Preschool Services, Child Support Services, veterans' 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 and protect funding formulas for services that ensure an equitable allocation of federal and state funding and reflect complete, accurate and total caseloads and administrative costs; 3) promote local control over health and human service programs; 4) provide greater flexibility to ensure programs are delivered efficiently and in a cost-effective manner; 5) provide for the health, safety and well-being of county residents; 6) diminish poverty and stimulate the local economy; and/or 7) 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 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 service programs.

Health Care Reform Implementation and the 2020 Medicaid Waiver

- Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) maintain and/or expand safety net provider funding, rates, reimbursement, flexibility and infrastructure; 2) prioritize allocation and reimbursement to counties that have disproportionately high levels of poverty; 3) provide patient-centered, timely, integrated and effective safety net delivery systems; 4) improve access to share and integrate health data and systems and maintain federal and state privacy and security standards while ensuring patient confidentiality and safety; 5) encourage healthy lifestyles and promote preventative care; 6) fund technological advances to achieve health care reform, especially as it relates to Health Information Exchanges, Medicaid Expansion and County participation in state mandated demonstration projects; 7) advance improvements through coordinated care, integrated physical and behavioral health services and provide robust coordination with social, housing, workforce development, substance use disorder care, recuperative care and other services critical to improve patient care; 8) provide flexibility for counties to effectively coordinate care to serve individuals who remain uninsured and decrease uncompensated care; 9) reinvest savings to further improve the system of care, including early intervention and prevention; and/or 10) promote outreach, education, enrollment and collaboration between stakeholders to achieve desired outcomes.
- Oppose legislation and budget actions that: 1) increase uncompensated health care costs; and/or 2) propose funding reductions not based on actual experiences.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
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 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.	Support legislation, budget actions and regulatory efforts that will provide mechanisms to increase and retain qualified medical and behavioral health professionals locally; protect and enhance funding to provide incentives for medical professionals to serve in underserved areas; and provide for education and technological advances to support the medical professional workforce.
Administration	Parolee And Probation Medical and Mental Health Programs	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.	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.
Administration	Poverty	Poverty is influenced by a disparate but connected set of factors, including but not limited to: lack of sufficient income; geographic challenges; employment and economic climate; availability of stable and permanent housing; lack of education resources; access to health care, child care, and transportation systems; complex state and federal regulations; and disparities in healthcare service access and provision.	Support legislation and budget actions that: promote local control to meet federal and state standards and address the unique challenges of County residents; include counties in designing and reforming programs that focus on whole person care.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Administration	Same Day Billing	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.	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.
Aging and Adult Services	Department of Labor (DOL) and In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Coordination	IHSS providers often run into barriers when trying to access benefits such as unemployment, disability and worker's compensation. A DOL liaison that works with IHSS agencies and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to specifically address and resolve disputes between IHSS caregivers and their IHSS employers, as well as address agency questions regarding labor laws would help mitigate these issues. This position would free up social workers to dedicate more time to conduct assessments and oversee the provision of care.	Support legislation and budget actions that establish a DOL liaison position to specifically address IHSS issues.
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.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Aging and Adult Services	Older Californians Act	Over the last decade, state funding for senior programs within the Older Californians Act has been drastically cut. This includes elimination or reduction of senior services including Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Centers, Senior Companion, Linkages, Respite Care, and Brown Bag. These community-based programs enable seniors to remain independent in their own homes and potentially avoid costly placement into institutional settings. It is important to revitalize this network of locally driven, flexible services.	Support legislation and budget actions that will restore and increase state funding for the Older Californians Act.
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.
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.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
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.
Behavioral Health	Divert the Mentally Ill from the Criminal Justice System	Mentally ill individuals often reach the criminal justice system, which is ill-prepared to deal with mental health problems. Diverting the mentally ill from the criminal justice system will result in better treatment and outcomes.	Support legislation and budget actions that support prevention, diversion, housing and intervention services for mentally ill adults and delinquent and/or emotionally disturbed minors.
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	Integrated Health Care	There is a great need for integrated funding to treat mental health services and substance use disorders (SUD) with that of primary and specialty care. When present, primary care services provided in SUD settings extend beyond medication management and create an opportunity for holistic treatment plans.	Support legislation and budget actions that further the goal of integrated health care, increase coordinated care and enhanced 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.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Behavioral Health	Juvenile Justice Mental Health Care	Lack of access to medical care is an acute problem for youth in and exiting juvenile detention facilities. Many need psychotropic medicine or other medical care necessary to treat severe health conditions. Failure of a ward to receive treatment for a mental health or substance use disorder can be a significant factor in the high rate of recidivism among youth.	Support legislation and budget actions that provide additional funding for juveniles entering, in and exiting the Juvenile Justice System that enable counties to receive Medi-Cal reimbursement for medical and mental health/substance use disorder treatment services.
Behavioral Health	Mental Health Care for Current and Former Foster Children Placed Out of County	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 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.	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.
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	Support legislation and budget actions that provide for specialized mental health training for local law enforcement personnel, parole and probation officers.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Behavioral Health	Subaccount	<p>basis. 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.</p> <p>The 2011 Realignment Behavioral Health Subaccount (Subaccount) funding allocation is used for various mental health programs, services, and treatments at the county. The funding allocation is based on prior years' experience and doesn't reflect actual spending costs. 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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
Child Support Services	Child Support Strategic Plan	<p>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.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that provide additional funding to LCSAs to improve operational efficiencies, enhance family stability and achieve CDCSS strategic plan goals.</p>

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Children and Family Services	Approved Relative Caregiver (ARC) Funding Option Program	Effective, January 1, 2015, Counties have the option to participate in the ARC Program under which relative caregivers are paid at the same per-child per-month rate as foster care providers. If a county depletes their state ARC allocation, it is required that county funds be utilized, in an amount equal to the basic foster care rate. This requirement reduces available county funds necessary to serve needy children in other areas.	Support legislation and budget actions that require the State to fully fund the ARC Program.
First 5	Children and Families Trust Fund Backfill	Health and Safety Code Section 130105, created the California Children and Families Trust Fund in the State Treasury, which receives funding from the sale of tobacco products (Section 30131.2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code). New program proposals that provide funding from Sec 30131.2 pits new programs against existing services. "Backfill" language included as a part of every tobacco tax proposal ensures that the original intent of voters is preserved.	Support the inclusion of "backfill" language to any new tobacco legislation to preserve existing programs funded by the Children and Families Trust Fund.
Homeless Services	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, 2,140, counted in 2015 represents an 8% decrease from the 2013 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. Sixty-one percent of the homeless population counted	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
		<p>consists of unsheltered individuals or families. According to recent Census surveys, approximately 1 out of 5 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.</p>	
<p>Preschool Services</p>	<p>Early Childhood Education Funding</p>	<p>High-quality early childhood education programs are vital to a child’s cognitive, academic, and social development. Sufficient funding is required to deliver high-quality early childhood education and comprehensive services to low-income children.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that maintain or increase funding for early childhood education and Quality Improvement Systems (QRIS) that ensure improvement in the quality and effectiveness of early care and education programs.</p>
<p>Preschool Services</p>	<p>State Reimbursement Rate</p>	<p>California’s Standard Reimbursement Rate for a part-day State Preschool program is currently \$22.28 per child per day or \$3,899 annually which translates to \$6.37 per hour. The full-day State Preschool program reimbursement rate is currently \$36.10 per child per day or \$8,881 annual, translating to \$5.55 hourly. These rates are inadequate to fund effective programs and restrict the availability of contracted providers to operate either program. Increased funding would allow our County to deliver necessary services to State Preschool children.</p>	<p>Support legislation that increases the Standard Reimbursement Rate for state contracted providers.</p>

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Public Health	Animal Control	<p>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 approximately half of the animals taken in.</p>	<p>Support legislation and budget actions that enhance the ability of county animal agencies to provide cost-effective and humane animal control services and either repeal or appropriately fund animal control mandates.</p>
Public Health	Chronic Disease Prevention and Wellness Promotion	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
Public Health	Food Safety	<p>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.</p>	<p>Support legislation, budget actions and regulatory efforts that protect and ensure the safety of California's food supply.</p>

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Public Health	Health Disparities and Equity	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, budget actions and regulatory efforts that address equitable access to disease prevention, healthcare, safe communities, and education.
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 an adequate supply of safe drinking water is essential to all residents of the State. Ground and surface water sources are increasingly exposed to climatic conditions and environmental contaminants.	Support legislation, budget actions and regulatory efforts that protect and ensure the safety and adequacy of local water resources.
Public Health	Vector Control	With the constant threat of West Nile virus and the recent upsurge of invasive species in California such as <i>Aedes aegypti</i> (Yellow Fever mosquito) and <i>Aedes albopictus</i> (Asian Tiger mosquito), vector control agencies are increasingly called upon to use their financial resources to control and eradicate these threats.	Support legislation and budget actions that protect against invasive and harmful vectors.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Transitional Assistance Department	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.
Transitional Assistance Department	Medi-Cal Allocation/Funding Work	The Medi-Cal program allocation is based on antiquated budgeting methodologies and has been held at the same level for several years. While some additional funding was made available to counties for the administration of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the level of funding is still insufficient to handle required manual processing due to CalHEERS issues, increased workloads and to meet case management standards. During fiscal years 2013-14 and 2014-15, Medi-Cal cases grew by 87% while funding decreased by 1.4%.	Support legislation and budget actions that increase Medi-Cal funding and provide a new budgeting methodology for determining allocations to the counties.
Transitional Assistance Department	Technological Developments	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.	Support legislation and budget actions that encompass time and cost of technological developments necessary to accurately implement programs and services at the local level.
Veterans Affairs	Veterans Programs	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.	Support legislation and budget actions that will fully fund the state's responsibility to provide comprehensive veterans services.

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.

Public Safety Realignment

- Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) provide adequate, secured and ongoing funding for incarceration, supervision, treatment, rehabilitation and other costs associated with providing services to this population; 2) ensure funding reflects complete, accurate and total caseload costs; and/or 3) promote flexibility and local discretion in the administration of programs.
- Oppose legislation and budget actions that: 1) reduce funding at the state and local level for public safety realignment; 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.

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	Support legislation and budget actions that toughen enforcement of unsafe excavation practices and identifies a primary enforcement entity.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
		<p>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. California has not designated any specific 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.</p>	
County Fire	Railroad Safety	<p>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.</p>	<p>Support legislation and administrative actions that improve the safety of the rail system, especially the safety of transporting crude oil by rail.</p>
ICEMA	Local Emergency Management Systems	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>

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:

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	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.

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
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 and extend GHG reduction deadlines to provide businesses with an opportunity to comply with future emission standards. Oppose legislation, budget actions and proposals that erode local land use authority and adversely impact the fiscal well-being of local government or the business community.
Land Use	Open Space Sustainability	Development projects undergo California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) 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.	Support legislation and budget actions that reform CESA to require scientific

DEPARTMENT	ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
		<p>However, scientific data is not required in implementing CESA 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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
Land Use	Renewable Energy	<p>Under the Governor’s Executive Order B-30-15 requiring a 40 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels, and under recent legislation passed, California has increased its Renewable Portfolio Standard to require 50 percent of its electricity to be generated from renewable sources. Utility scale renewable projects can have major environmental impacts of their own, requiring extensive mitigation, and siting smaller renewable energy projects can be difficult due to concerns about dust, aesthetics, neighborhood integrity, and highest and best use of land for economic development.</p>	<p>Support legislation, regulatory action or budget actions that encourage or incentivize maximum deployment of rooftop solar, distributed generation, smart grid development, and flexible, innovative local solutions, such as Community Choice Aggregation and/or any program that provides a local benefit from renewable energy generation.</p> <p>Oppose actions that would limit local flexibility, impose additional costs for renewable energy, or discourage deployment of small scale, locally supported renewable energy that provides a local benefit.</p>

The San Bernardino County Flood Control District is responsible for the development and 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 4) provide funding or services to mitigate the impact of run-off and debris flows from unmaintained federal lands into both private property and the flood control system.

Water Quality

- Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) maintain or improve upon the supply of adequate potable water; 2) fund treatment or removal of pollutants of concern; and/or 3) ensure 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 the 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, infrastructure maintenance, replacement, and improvements.
Regional Parks	Regional Park Facilities	The Regional Parks System includes 9,200 acres of diverse outdoor recreational opportunities, such as camping, swimming, fishing, and boating. 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 and improvements to the park facilities. Support legislation and budget actions that fund recreational programming for residents.

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 \$11 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 \$63 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 \$29 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 acceptable to U.S. Fish and Wildlife, CA Fish & Wildlife and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This project is estimated to cost \$7 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 \$196 million.
Needles Highway	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 \$88 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 \$32 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 \$68 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 \$24.9 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 \$38 million.