

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

467



SUBMITTAL DATE:
January 19, 2016

FROM: Executive Office

SUBJECT: Legislative Platform Addendum

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:
Approves the additions to the 2016 Legislative Platform.

BACKGROUND:

Summary

On January 5, 2016 the Executive Office submitted the 2016 State and Federal Legislative Platform to the Board. Upon approval of the platform, the Board accepted a motion by Supervisor Jeffries to include support for three specific items. 1) Requiring Cal Fire to conduct criminal background checks on applicants for fire-fighting positions. 2) Legislation to encourage a more robust state tire collection and recycling program. 3) Reiterate support for federal funding for habitat conservation in the County's two multi species habitat plans.


Brian Nestande
Deputy County Executive Officer

Departmental Concurrence

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost:	POLICY/CONSENT (per Exec. Office)
COST	\$	\$	\$	\$	Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NET COUNTY COST	\$	\$	\$	\$	

SOURCE OF FUNDS:	Budget Adjustment:
	For Fiscal Year:

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: **APPROVE**
BY: 
George A. Johnson
County Executive Office Signature

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- A-30
- Positions Added
- 4/5 Vote
- Change Order

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | District: All | Agenda Number:

3-37

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FORM 11: Support for Transportation Legislation**

DATE: January 19, 2016

PAGE: 2 of 2

BACKGROUND:

Summary (continued)

Attached are addendums for said platform additions.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

The action presented should not affect residents or businesses within Riverside County

SUPPLEMENTAL:

Additional Fiscal Information

N/A

Contract History and Price Reasonableness

N/A



CAL- FIRE

Department of Forestry and Fire Protection: Employment Criminal Background Checks

Issue: Firefighter Employment Background Check

Action: Support legislation which would require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to conduct a state and federal level criminal offender record information search through the Department of Justice prior to hiring an applicant, as defined, for a position with the department or the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, with exceptions.

Background: Existing law requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to be responsible for the fire protection, fire prevention, maintenance, and enhancement of the state's forest, range, and brush land resources, contract fire protection, associated emergency services, and assistance in civil disasters and other non-fire emergencies. Current law only requires background checks to be administered to firefighters who have a dual purpose as EMT's or through other law enforcement programs.

Riverside County seeks to amend this issue as CAL-FIRE provides contract services within Riverside County and thus within numerous cities that already traditionally conduct such background checks as a procedural course of employment. In seeking legislation for this issue we do so not with the idea of stopping any employment within the fire protection services, but rather to ensure that those who are hired are qualified individuals who have the best intent when they are working within the fire protection services.



Waste Resources

Waste Resources

Issue: Tire abatement and recycling – Senate bill 876 (Escutia, 2000) directed CalRecycle to submit a five-year-plan to the legislature for management of waste and used tires. The seventh edition of the five-year-plan was adopted in 2013 which covers through 2017/18. A draft plan has been written to cover years up to 2019/20.

Action: Support legislation to assist local governments in ensuring used tires are properly disposed.

Background: The state has a tire recycling goal of 75%; however the rate has hovered around 40%. This is mainly due to a lack of a secondary market for used tires, therefore many tires end up being exported to other countries, placed in tire landfills or illegally dumped. The aim of the new draft plan is to implement an expanded incentive program that provides payments for desired end-uses of tires. This would entail differential incentive payment rates, with higher payments for preferred end-uses such as incorporation of crumb rubber into rubberized asphalt concrete; moderate payments for end-uses such as use of tire-derived aggregate in retaining walls; and lower payment rates for less-preferred (but still non-disposal) uses such as energy recovery (which, while not recycling, still allows for capture of the energy content in tires). This approach focuses on creating demand by assisting manufacturers in covering the costs of marketing their products against competing non-recycled products; it is modeled after similar incentive programs such as for plastic market development.



Executive Summary

Executive Summary

The Executive Office prepared this document in accordance with Board Policy A-27 and with the assistance from the Board members, department heads, federal advocates and regional stakeholders. Positions approved from the previous state platform are still in effect.

Riverside County continues to rebound from the great recession. The local economy is improving but still struggling to increase productivity and create new economic opportunities for businesses and residents. Revenues to the County are still below pre-recession levels, almost \$100 million less than in 2008.

Fiscal realities, coupled with the passage of AB 109 (state mandated change of probation responsibility), and proposition 47 (the state initiative that reduced many crimes to misdemeanors), led the county to re-evaluate how dollars are spent in the Sheriff, Probation, Public Defender and District Attorney's offices. In October 2015 the Board of Supervisors initiated the first ever financial and operational assessment of our criminal justice system with the goal of increasing efficiency and allocating tax dollars to their best use.

The Board believes fiscal prudence and job creation is paramount to the success of our community. A sustainable job market is one of the most important element in ensuring the health and welfare of individuals and families.

Therefore the Board of Supervisors is advocating for the following policies of streamlining delivery of services and encouraging job creation:

- **A comprehensive review of regulations at the state and federal level.** Reducing onerous and unnecessary regulations that hamper economic growth.
- **A comprehensive review/audit of state agencies** with the goal of eliminating duplicate regulations and streamlining agencies and departments (we note that Congress is demanding the first ever financial audit of the Department of Defense).
- **Reform and expansion of the H-1B and L-1 Visas.** Support of the bi-partisan legislation to reform the program.
- **Support efforts to increase access to capital for entrepreneurs and small businesses.** Small business is responsible for 60%- 80% of job growth.
- **Support trade and infrastructure for goods movement.** Southern California is a trading nation. With 40% of US trade moving through the ports of LA and Long Beach, it is vital to our economy that we improve our infrastructure and promote trade.
- **Reduce the federal corporate tax rate.** The U.S. has the highest corporate tax rate of all industrialized nations. There is an estimated \$2 - \$3 trillion dollars held overseas by U.S. companies to avoid the high tax rate. If those monies were brought back home, hundreds of thousands of jobs would be created.
- **Conformity with federal law for a flexible work schedule.** As our economy continues to diversify, we encourage the state to enact policies which allow for

flexible work schedules. This would reduce traffic and greenhouse gas emissions while increasing job opportunities

- **Litigation/Tort reform.** The county supports efforts to rein in the cost of litigation at the state and federal level, specifically SB 251 by Senator Richard Roth.

Health Care Delivery

In September the Board approved consolidation of the health care departments. Mental Health, Public Health and the County Hospital became the Riverside University Health System. The consolidation provides efficiencies in the delivery of health care services for county residents. The new agency reflects the evolution of health care delivery and is aligned with federal and state changes under the Affordable Care Act.

The Board of Supervisors support legislation to enhance the quality of health care and to strengthen the public health care delivery system.

- **Increase the state match for Medicaid.** The state reimbursement rate for MediCal is among the lowest in the United States. When the state does not pay adequate rates to doctors, fewer physicians accept MediCal limiting access to care, particularly for the lower income population.
- **Repeal the prohibition of medical insurance coverage for inmates.** When a person enters jail, their insurance coverage is suspended and the county is responsible for the cost of care. The county supports, with amendments, H.R. 4201 - Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Costs Act by Rep. Hastings, [D-FL-20].
- **Oppose attempts by the federal government to limit the 340B Medicare drug purchase program.** This program reduces the cost of prescription drugs for safety net hospitals and is critical to ensuring care to the underserved.
- **Support continued efforts for behavior health parity and integration.** The Board supports policies that enhance the role of behavior health in health care.

Transportation and Housing

- AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, set forth a regulatory structure referred to as Cap & Trade. This program produced over a billion dollars to the state in 2015, and is projected to collect more in 2016. The affordable housing and sustainability community (AHSC) grant is one of five pools of money distributed from Cap & Trade. In 2015 The Southern California region received 18% of allocated funds from the program even though the region has 60% of the state population and 67% of the disadvantaged communities in the state.
- **The County supports a new distribution formula for the Cap and Trade program.** Governor Brown advocates for the use of "subsidiarity" in government operations. This term means, as he explained, to allow local governments as much authority as possible and the State only does what it must. By applying the concept of subsidiarity to the allocation of AHSC, the State would grant responsibility to regional bodies such as the Southern California Association of Governments to distribute monies according to the guidelines in SB 350 (the implementing law for distribution of Cap & Trade money).

- **The Board continues to support new funding for state and federal transportation obligations.**
- **The Board continues support for CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) and NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act) reform.** Particularly relating to transportation projects as specified in Rep. Calvert's legislation, HR 211.

National Defense

In November 2014 the Board created the Commission on Defense & Military Services. The purpose of the commission is to support the military assets in the county, specifically March Air Base Reserve Base and the Naval Surface Warfare Center.

- **The Board of Supervisors supports a strong national defense and opposes any legislation or administration action to close or to reduce March Air Reserve Base or the Naval Surface Warfare Center.**

Child Welfare System.

AB 403, the Continuum of Care Reform, was in-acted with the stated purpose of better serving children in the child welfare system. The underlying principle of the bill is to move children out of group homes and in to foster care or in to Short Term Residential Treatment Centers (STRTC).

- **The County is concerned with the level of funding to be proposed for the new system. The Board also opposes any effort by the state to require new licensing responsibility to the County without adequate funding.**

The Board continues to support higher levels of care to the most vulnerable of our society; the abused, abandoned, and neglected children.

Salton Sea

- **The Board supports the implementation of the Governor's Salton Sea task force plan** and encourages continued action without further consternation or formal studies. Riverside County also advocates for an appropriate share of Proposition 1A bond money for the Sea.

Broadband

- **The Board supports a policy of universal broadband access.** The access to the internet is crucial for the development of education and business. Therefore the board supports policies to enhance the development and deployment of broadband while providing affordable access to those near the poverty level.

Funding Formulas

- **Support for a study of state and federal distribution formulas.** As previously noted Southern California, and more specifically the Inland Empire, receives inadequate funding for health care, transportation, housing and other programs. The Board supports a broad effort to examine the funding equity among counties and regions.

Previous Platform Items – State and Federal

In order to fulfill the dual roles of agent of the state and local service provider, counties must have adequate authority, flexibility, and resources. Most importantly, counties

must have stable sources of revenue that enable them to implement state and federal laws and respond to essential local priorities.

- Support measures that provide greater decision-making authority over the use of state funds, including direct grants or mandatory pass-through allocations and in turn adequate funding for programs the county operates on behalf of the state. While opposing: additional measures that erode local control and impose additional mandates without a funding mechanism, program reductions unaccompanied by a commensurate decrease in responsibility with any attempts to shift costs to counties, and reductions in state programs that require increased local funding to maintain the same level of service.
- Support measures that provide constitutional protection of all local revenues.
- The Board continues to support a comprehensive federal legislative solution for immigration reform.
- The Board continues to support the efforts of Wildomar, Menifee, Eastvale and Jurupa Valley to obtain parity in receipt of VLF revenue.
- Continued support for Senator Roth's SB 229 which will fund ten additional Superior Court Judgeships and one new Appellate Court Justiceship.

Habitat Conservation

- **The Board continues support for habitat conservation.** As in previous platforms the Board supports federal appropriations for the County's two multi species habitat plans. Funding is crucial to ensure the viability of the plans which are designed for the protection of endangered species while development of housing and infrastructure continues in defined areas.