

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

932



FROM: Executive Office

SUBMITTAL DATE:
December 22, 2015

SUBJECT: 2016 Legislative Platform

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the 2016 Legislative Platform and direct the Executive Office and the County's Sacramento and Washington D.C. based representatives to advance the legislative proposals contained herein. All districts, [\$0]

BACKGROUND:

Summary

Each year, the Board of Supervisors adopts a Legislative Platform to guide the legislative advocacy efforts at the State and Federal levels. The Executive Office working in conjunction with Board members, department heads, state and regional advocates, developed the Platform to address a variety of crucial issues facing the County. Positions approved from the previous state platform are still in effect.

Departmental Concurrence

Brian Nestande
Deputy County Executive Officer

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost:	POLICY/CONSENT (per Exec. Office)
COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	

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

On motion of Supervisor Jeffries, seconded by Supervisor Benoit and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended with direction that staff return with amendments.

Ayes: Jeffries, Tavaglione, Washington, Benoit and Ashley
 Nays: None
 Absent: None
 Date: January 5, 2016
 xc: E.O.

Kecia Harper-Ihem
Clerk of the Board
By:
Deputy

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

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

3-4

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

FORM 11: 2016 Legislative Platform

DATE: December 22, 2015

PAGE: 2 of 2

BACKGROUND:

Summary (continued)

The 2016 Platform includes key State and Federal Legislative priorities, new policy items and selected policy items of continuing high importance to Riverside County. Furthermore as per the dynamic nature of the legislative process additional State and Federal legislative issues of concern to the County will be brought forward to the Board for appropriate action throughout the year as the need arises.

Based on the principles of fiscal stability, preservation of local control, efficient service delivery and operations and the promotion of inter-agency cooperation, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors provide specific direction and overall policy guidance by adopting an annual platform for each legislative session in accordance with Policy A-27.

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

RIVERSIDE COUNTY
2016
LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

John J. Benoit, Chairman
Fourth District

Kevin Jeffries
First District

John Tavaglione
Second District

Chuck Washington
Third District

Marion Ashley
Fifth District

Jay E. Orr
County Executive Officer

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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.
- The Board continues to support SB 266 by State Senator Block to allow Flash Incarceration as a tool for probation officers.



Behavioral Health

Expansion of Early Mental Health Intervention Programs to Preschool Children - (State)

Issue: Mental health intervention programs for preschool children are currently being provided through County-funded sources or not being provided at all.

Action: Support AB 1133, 2-year bill, which would extend eligibility and services to preschool children.

Background: Existing early mental health intervention programs do not include preschool children, providing a gap in valuable care that is not being reimbursed through Medi-Cal or other state funding.

Specialty Mental Health Services for Foster Children - (State)

Issue: Foster children who are placed outside of their county of original jurisdiction face delays and discontinuity in mental health care

Action: Support AB 1299, 2-year bill, which would requires that mental health services be provided in a timely manner consistent with the child's needs and EPSDT program standards

Background: Delays and discontinuity in mental health services for children produce preventable increased costs to the mental health and juvenile justice systems and reduce progress and wellness outcomes for foster children.

Affordable Housing - (State)

Issue: Housing for homeless individuals with severe and persistent mental illness is facilitated through the concurrent development of affordable housing targeted at low and very low income households.

Action: Support introduction of new legislation to offset objections expressed by Governor in veto of AB 35.

Background: Legislation vetoed by the Governor (AB 35) would have increased the allocation of housing tax credits for the production of affordable housing by \$ 100 million for 5 years; affordable housing is an essential component of the continuum of housing needed to reduce homelessness for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. The County has a successful program in providing 105 units of permanent supportive housing for homeless and at-risk individuals with severe and persistent mental illness that are located in affordable housing communities.

Medicaid Expansion (Federal)

Issue: The standard of mental health care and most treatment protocols require the coordination of the care that is provided for physical and mental health conditions. A majority of the County's mental health consumers are Medicaid (Medi-Cal) eligible but their specific care and the coordinated care are not always considered Medicaid reimbursable. Expanded eligibility of care would allow more of the County's mental health costs to be recoverable through Medi-Cal reimbursements.

Action: Support budgetary action that would increase coverage and regulatory reform that would expand access to care and services for Medicaid eligible beneficiaries, including integrative treatment of mental health and physical health conditions

Background: Medicaid is the single most important financing source of mental health services in the U.S., covering nearly 27% of all mental health care and nearly half of the public mental health spending.

School-Based Mental Health Services (Federal)

Issue: Funding and resource limitations limit the reach of County-funded mental health screenings and interventions in public schools. Existing regulations do not promote effective Medicaid reimbursement for care delivered in school settings.

Action: Support Mental Health In Schools Act (HR 1211 / S. 1588) which would provide resources for suicide prevention, improve integration of mental healthcare and physical healthcare in Medicaid, provide funding for interventions in school settings and remove the 190-day lifetime limit on inpatient psychiatric treatment in Medicare.

Background: School settings are important and cost-effective locations for screening and early detection of mental health conditions and establishing linkages to the community mental health system that will reduce barriers for individuals and families to access services.

Access to Mental Health Treatments and inclusion of Expanded Psychiatric Medications under Medicare Part D (Federal)

Issue: Individuals with severe mental illness are often considered to be disabled by professional standards of care but are found to be ineligible for disability related SSI and SSDI benefits, which passes the costs of that care and related supports through to the County-funded system of care.

Action: Support regulatory reform that would adjust the diagnostic criteria used by the SSA to match those accepted in the medical professional field, and either providing basic training on mental health conditions to SSA claims reviewers and/or hiring special claim evaluators with education in mental health to improve access to disability benefits.

Background: Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries are frequently denied access to treatments and services prescribed by a qualified professional and approved by the FDA and the NIMH based on cost/formulary limitations/provider restrictions.



Economic Development Agency

Business Relief from Disability Access Lawsuits - (State)

Issue: The issue is the protection of businesses from litigation for noncompliance with Americans with Disabilities Act while allowing a reasonable time period in which the business is allowed to complete the improvements and come into compliance. Providing tax credits or low interest loans to facilitate the improvements would help small business in California.

Action: Support legislation that would provide businesses an opportunity to correct violations of noncompliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act before falling victim to frivolous and predatory litigation.

Background: Businesses large and small across the state are reporting instances of receiving letters from attorneys representing disabled clients that are threatening to file litigation for alleged noncompliance violations to provide disability access. These letters often immediately demand payment to settle the dispute, without any follow-up concern for correcting the violation or whether there was even a violation. Furthermore, they require the business to sign a non-disclosure agreement to stop them from warning other establishments from being similarly victimized. Many of these small businesses are making tough decisions to stay afloat and this practice immediately and sometimes irrecoverably impacts their bottom line and their ability to stay in business.

California Environmental Quality Act Reform - (State)

Issue: Reforming CEQA to streamline the approval of development and infrastructure projects and promote job creation in California.

Action: Support measures that clarify and streamline the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to reduce the time and cost of compliance while ensuring that the environment is adequately protected. Support CEQA reform that protects the environment while reducing the current prevalence of frivolous lawsuits that result from inadequate safeguards written into CEQA regulations.

Background: Despite stringent environmental laws and local planning requirements, public and private projects throughout the state are commonly challenged under CEQA even when a project meets all other environmental standards of existing laws. Many lawsuits are brought or threatened for non-environmental reasons and often times these lawsuits seek to halt environmentally desirable projects like clean power, infill and transit. It is time to modernize CEQA to conform to California's comprehensive environmental laws and regulations. This can be done through legislation that would reform the CEQA process in a way that would eliminate inefficiencies and avenues for abuse while preserving the law's original intent – environmental protection.

Farmworker Housing Assistance Tax Credit Program - (State)

Issue: The California State Treasurer's Office (STO) Farmworker Housing Assistance Tax Credit Program is underutilized due to outdated and inefficient policies. There have not been any housing projects funded under this program since 2008. This underinvestment in farmworker housing has created hardships for this labor force and their families.

Action: Urge California Lawmakers and the Governor of the State of California to support and pass ABx1-5.

Background: The California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (CTAC) administers two low-income housing tax credit programs – a federal program and a state program. Two types of tax credits are available and are generally referred to as the nine percent and four percent credits. The nine percent federal tax credits are highly competitive and oversubscribed, however the four percent credits historically have been underutilized. In 1996 legislators authorized the Farmworker Housing Tax Credit Program which is an annual set-aside of state low-income housing tax credits for farmworker housing developments which is a set aside from the California state tax credits. This program is annually allocated \$500,000 for the entire state, which accrues and is carried forward into future years if not awarded to farmworker housing projects. As of 2015, \$5,529,815 has accumulated.

Renewable Energy- (State)

Issue: State RPS portfolio: Equitable cost and best fit.

Action: Riverside County supports Salton Sea Authority request for achieving more accurate accounting of costs for producing energy eligible for consideration in the state Renewable Energy Portfolio as well as best fit for reducing GHG emissions.

Background: The long range revitalization strategy supported by Riverside County and the Salton Sea Authority calls for development of renewable energy resources at the Salton Sea in order to provide potential revenue streams to help fund revitalization projects and activities.

Although geothermal energy has been identified as potentially one of the largest and most reliable resources of renewable energy at the Salton Sea, it has not been procured by California utilities due to inequities associated with the state's policies.

The current RPS purchasing policy directs power purchasers to consider only the "best fit, lowest cost" when buying power from renewable energy sources. Because the formula does not account for the need to have baseload reliability, the 24/7 around the clock costs for a particular source are not fully accounted on some intermittent sources like wind and solar power, thus creating an inequitable cost accounting that eventually affects the viability of bringing other power sources to market that may be more capital intensive for start-up, but less costly to operate in the long run.

As it impacts the component of the Salton Sea Restoration and Renewable Energy Initiative, the current RPS formula undermines geothermal power development while favoring intermittent power sources because the intermittent sources do not include costs such as backup power provided by gas-fired generating plants.

Salton Sea Authority and its partnering agencies successfully supported passage of AB 2363 (Dahle) a bill that directs the California Public Utilities Commission to re-examine the cost formulas for calculating cost of energy production in the Renewable Portfolio Standard to include the currently unaccounted integration costs associated with power generation from intermittent sources. Salton Sea Authority needs to remain engaged in the CPUC policy review of these inequities that was successfully initiated by passage of AB 2363.

Proposition 1 (Water Bond) - (State)

Issue: Implementation: Fair share

Action: Salton Sea Authority needs to assert a leadership role in developing Prop 1 Water Bond implementation language expediting expenditure of fair share of funding for Salton Sea revitalization as part of the \$475 million provision related to state obligations in water right settlements including the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) of Colorado River water supplies.

There is an urgent need for state investment in mitigation measures that can produce immediate benefits to relieve economic and environmental suffering at the Salton Sea.

Background: The Salton Sea Authority has successfully secured provisions in the Prop 1 Water Bond that call for timely expenditure of funding for Sea revitalization projects. Specifically, Salton Sea Authority and the partnering member agencies succeeded in securing \$475 million provision to help fulfill the State's obligations in water-related settlements, including the QSA. The \$475 million is a pot of money that must be distributed fairly amongst several water settlement regions and projects in the state.

The provision of Prop 1 funding for QSA related settlement agreements was successfully broadened to explicitly include efforts to restore habitat and provide air quality mitigation at the Salton Sea, in order to assist the State in meeting critical habitat replacement needs and to fulfill legislative promises that were made to address the State's last water crises. The QSA water transfers are the linchpin of the California Water plan to live within California's Colorado River allocation. In proceedings to authorize the QSA transfers, it became clear that the transfers would have a large impact on the Salton Sea. In order to facilitate a resolution of the disputes, and solidify support for the locally- unpopular transfers, the state agreed in the QSA settlement agreements to mitigate QSA related impact to the extent that they exceeded the \$133 million contributed by QSA participants.

The QSA enabling legislation also commits the State to assist in the Sea's restoration - (State)

SB 654, Machado (2003).

Restoration of the Salton Sea is in the state and national interest.

The Legislature further finds that it is important that actions taken to reduce California's Colorado River water use are consistent with its commitment to restore the Salton Sea, which is an important resource for the state.

SB 1214, Kuehl (2004).

2931. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature that the State of California undertake the restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem and the permanent protection of the wildlife dependent on that ecosystem.....

3) Existing law declares the intent of the Legislature that the State of California undertake the restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem and the permanent protection of the wildlife dependent on that ecosystem..... The proposed funding plan shall include a determination of the moneys that are, or may be, available to construct and operate the preferred project, including, but not limited to, all of the following moneys:

(i) Moneys in the Salton Sea Restoration Fund established by Section 2932.

(ii) State water and environmental bond moneys.....

The Prop 1 Water Bond provides that bond funds be available to accomplish those purposes identified in the statues cited above.

Compounding the benefit, of course, is the potential reduction in state costs to mitigate destruction to the environment, human health and the economy in the absence of timely state contributions to meet its legal obligation under QSA.

It should be further noted that the SSA and its partnering agencies continues marching forward with a restoration approach designed to deliver significant matching funding opportunities that can leverage state bond moneys as much as threefold. Coupled with investment from private sector, this strategy is ultimately destined to establish a sound environmental restoration plan that can be considered financially sustainable.

A synergistic approach to the Water bond, as requested above, should be developed as a means to responsibly manage the financial obligation on the state for water transfer mitigation and related restoration.

Prop 1 Action Plan - (State)

- Fund habitat projects identified in the Salton Sea Restoration and Renewable Energy Initiative
- Fund remainder of Species Conservation Habitat projects
- Fund project at New River (these are a series of treatment wetlands- i think Tetra-Tech did the Master Plan). The New River Wetland Committee would be the leader in these projects and it would be nice to have them as a partner with SSA. We could include a pilot treatment facility for selenium as one of the wetlands (CH2MHILL has a successful prototype as do others).
- Wherever possible, consistent with SSA Guiding Principles for Legislative Action, public investment dollars should produce as many additional benefits as possible from a single investment. For instance, habitat mitigation projects should also consider ways and means to produce air quality improvements.
- Stabilize the watershed feeding the Salton Sea by integrating upstream needs with opportunities in grant funding through Salton Sea, IRWM and other categories of funding under Prop 1
- After three years, any funds remaining in the \$475 pot of funding previously allocated to other projects or programs in the state that has not been spent shall be reappropriated to eligible Actionable projects at the Salton Sea.

Workforce Development Board & Workforce Development Activities - (State)

Issue: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) presents challenges in implementation and service provision to a labor force of over one million members who utilize workforce services in Riverside County. Shifts in governing, administrative and programmatic infrastructure require a fixed set of regulations to ensure the least disruption to our customers.

Action:

- Under WIOA, § 107 (d)(7) Recommend the development of strategies to maximize accessibility and effectiveness of local system technology through universal intake mechanisms.
- Under WIOA, § 107 (g) Recommend that the Governor and CLEO (Chief Local Elected Official) agree to designate or certify as One-Stop Operator the currently designated operator under WIA to ensure consistency of infrastructure and services.
- Under WIOA, § 116 (d) Recommend that Performance Reporting as it relates to contents of the Eligible Training Providers Report (ETPL) be developed with all stakeholders involved to ensure accountability and transparency.
- Redirect funds when available (15% Governor's Set-Aside) to build economic and workforce capacity in the Inland Empire.

Background: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), signed in 2014 and in effect for the next five years (2015-2020) provides workforce investment activities through Workforce Development Boards (WDB) and statewide and local systems that increase the employment, retention, and earnings of participants, and increases attainment of recognized credentials by participants. As a result, WIOA will improve the quality of the workforce, and reduce welfare dependency. These recommendations for a planned and methodical shift in the workforce system are supported by the following:

- 65% of California's WDBs are housed within local government entities and currently operate one-stop centers, staffed by labor represented members. To require an immediate system change will shift energy and efforts from ramping up a new system and service to customers to a focus on administrative and procurement activities, and stakeholder negotiations.
- California's one-stop system leverages non-federal funds through its many partners to support workforce programs and services. The leveraged funds from facilities costs alone would make most external bids non-competitive.

Low Income Housing Tax Credit - (State)

Issue: The current regulations of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program group the Inland Empire region to include San Bernardino County, Riverside County and Imperial County into one geographic set-aside which accounts for 12% of the state of California's population.

Action: Urge local and state legislators to support regulatory changes to the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program so as to align the allocation of Low Income Tax Credits with the region's population.

Background: The California Tax Credit Allocation Committee has established ten geographic regions and allocated a percentage of available low income housing tax credits to each region. The County of Riverside, San Bernardino, and Imperial are grouped together to form one of the ten regions defined as the Inland Empire Region. The current Inland Empire population is 4,620,981 residents, which represents 12% of the current statewide population. The Inland Empire region receives only 8% of the geographic apportionments; the current regulations of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program unjustly disadvantage the Inland Empire region with a disproportionate allocation of low income housing tax credits by geographic areas.

Housing Trust Fund - (State)

Issue: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Housing Trust Fund

Action: Urge the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to allocate Housing Trust Funds to local HOME Participating Jurisdictions

Background: The Housing and Economic Recovery Act (HERA) of 2008 establishes a Housing Trust Fund (HTF) to be administered by HUD. The purpose of the HTF is to provide grants to State governments to increase the supply of affordable housing. Funds deposited into the HTF are from the Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSE), Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae. Since the HERA Act the GSE's have been under a conservatorship and therefore were not required to deposit funds into the HTF. 2016 is the first year that proceeds from the GSE will be deposited into the HTF.

HUD has given the State government agencies the authority to administer the funds at the state level or grant the funds to a general unit of local government. Further California Assembly Bill 90 was introduced on January 7, 2015 which designates HCD as the state agency responsible for administering the funds and determining how the funds will be distributed. HUD has designed the HTF program to mirror the HOME program. General units of local government that are already a designated HOME participating jurisdiction have experience in running this program and can use these funds in connection with their allocation of HOME funds. Federal regulations require that the HTF's expenditure timeline mirror the HOME program. By allocating these funds to the local HOME Participating Jurisdiction's it allows for the application process to be streamlined with the local HOME program to ensure a timely commitment and expenditure of the funds.

EB-5 Permanent Reauthorization - (Federal)

Issue: EB-5 permanent reauthorization.

Action: permanent authorization of the EB-5 Program by Congress after 23+ years of bipartisan support and current record breaking economic impact statistics.

Background: EB-5 investments in FY2013 alone contributed over \$3.58 billion to U.S. gross domestic product, supported over 41,200 American jobs, and generated over \$805 million federal/state/local tax revenue - all at no cost to the US. taxpayer. The current record-breaking investor demand ensure an even greater contribution reported in 2014, which will be published once currently pending studies are completed.

The interconnected world we live in today demands public policy that takes advantage of the fact that economic opportunity, capital, and people are crossing national borders at a record-setting, and seemingly ever-increasing, rates. "Immigrant investor programs" exist all around the world, all competing for the same economic benefit of attracting entrepreneurial investors to their shores and each with a unique purpose once the capital is attracted. The U.S. designed the EB-5 Regional Center Program to allocate capital to regional economic development and U.S. job creation, and it is now delivering on its promise in a major way.

Workforce Development Board & Workforce Development Activities - (Federal)

Issue: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) presents challenges in implementation and service provision to a labor force of over one million members who utilize workforce services in Riverside County. Shifts in governing, administrative and programmatic infrastructure require a fixed set of regulations to ensure the least disruption to our customers.

Action:

Governance

- Maintain and fund an effective national workforce development system at levels originally allocated when the Act was passed which addresses the workforce needs of job seekers including youth, incumbent workers, and employers.

Structure

- Under WIOA, § 106 (b) Recommend that the Governor approve local area designation requests from areas formerly designated under WIA to ensure consistency of infrastructure and services.
- Under WIOA, § 107 (g) Recommend that the Governor and CLEO (Chief Local Elected Official) agree to designate or certify as One-Stop Operator the currently designated operator under WIA to ensure consistency of infrastructure and services.

Funds & Leveraged Resources

- Redirect available funds when available to build economic and workforce capacity in the Inland Empire.

Eligibility

- Streamline the eligibility determination process and align eligibility with other federally funded programs such as TANF.

Innovation & Technology

- Enhance Congressional and administrative action that hastens the deployment of high-speed broadband technology in the region to close the digital divide and improve digital literacy.

Background: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), signed in 2014 and in effect for the next five years (2015-2020) provides workforce investment activities through Workforce Development Boards (WDB) and statewide and local systems that increase the employment, retention, and earnings of participants, and increases attainment of recognized credentials by participants. As a result, WIOA will improve the quality of the workforce, and reduce welfare dependency.

Support for Small Business and Entrepreneurship - (Federal)

Issue: Access to capital remains a top area of concern for economic developers as a reflection of a near constant need for more readily accessible financing to start or expand small businesses.

Action: Improve access to capital for businesses by supporting the implementation of crowdfunding regulations, streamlining federal small business financing programs, and improving access to private loans through implementing legislation such as the Jumpstart Our Business Act of 2011, Startup Act 2.0 (H.R.5893), Small Business Lending Enhancement Act (S.2231), and the Bipartisan Tax Simplification and Fairness Act (S. 727).

Background: It should be noted that while there might not necessarily be a credit crunch limiting the availability of financing for entrepreneurs and small businesses – this point is often debated to a great extent – what is more universally understood is that requirements and processes for obtaining financing are cumbersome and onerous, ripe for review and corresponding reform. As new alternatives such as crowdfunding become available, it will be critical for the federal government to review financing opportunities through agencies such as Small Business Administration (SBA) and Department of Agriculture (USDA) for relevance and cohesion in order to efficiently and effectively leverage federal resources.

Technical Assistance and Capacity Building - (Federal)

Issue: Expansion of resources for mentoring, counseling, training, and transferring technology are critical for small business owners, particularly those faced by challenging business conditions.

Action: Provide resources beyond current levels to support technical assistance and capacity building initiatives for small businesses and entrepreneurs. These resources could include accounting and tax training, human resources topics, technological resources, and physical workspace, to name a few. Existing federal agencies likely have networks in place to enact new or expanded programs in this area, lacking only the necessary funding to fully engage.

Background: Resources for mentoring, counseling, training, and transferring technology are critical for small business owners, particularly those faced by challenging business conditions. By supporting the initiation, stabilization, and expansion of small firms, these resources also significantly contribute to economic development, generating increased job growth, business sales, and tax revenues.

Currently, public-private partnerships operate a vast network of programs to provide services to entrepreneurs in communities across the country. The Small Business Administration's Office of Entrepreneurial Development programs provide a significant proportion of the funding and operational framework, with contributions from state governments, private entities, higher education, and local nonprofit economic development organizations. Additional programs are administered through agencies including the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the Minority Business Development Agency, as well as the USDA programs such as the Rural Business Opportunity and Rural Technology Transfer grants.

Support for Salton Sea - (Federal)

Issue: Riverside County supports Salton Sea efforts to secure appropriations from existing Bureau of Reclamation revolving loan fund

Action: Riverside County will support Federal funding and cooperation with US Bureau of Reclamation to reduce liability for environmental destruction and human health impacts from soon-to-be exposed seabed, of which nearly half is federally owned.

Background: The US Bureau of Reclamation under P.L. 984- Small Reclamations Project Act currently has nearly \$330 million in unspent federal funding authorized under a BOR revolving loan fund that could be applied to agriculture-related projects delivering storm drain improvements and wildlife enhancements at the Salton Sea.

Because the federal government owns a significant portion of the land around and under the Sea that will be exposed as dry lakebed due to water transfers accelerating in 2017, the federal government is a major stakeholder in partnerships that can generate positive outcomes in lieu of liabilities for deteriorating environment and deadly human health impacts. In particular, Title II – “Partnership Programs” states that the state and local government have the same obligations to be involved in these small projects that focus on revitalization efforts. It is imperative that the federal/state/local government involve itself with private enterprise investments that focus on water conservation and fish and wildlife enhancement.

The top priority for the Salton Sea Authority at the federal level is securing appropriations from existing authorized sources plus new funding for public/private partnerships (“P-3”) in renewable energy development at the Sea. Under the Small Reclamations Project Act, Section 102, subsection C, it states that there are still revolving loan funds available for these small reclamation projects. Thus, the Salton Sea Authority seeking appropriations from these available revolving loan funds would be consistent with the goals of this federal program.

Local Government Revenue Sharing: Energy and Mineral Extraction on Federal Lands - (Federal)

Issue: Federal – Local Government revenue sharing: Energy and Mineral extraction on federal lands.

Action: Riverside County federal legislation enabling federal agencies to negotiate revenue sharing agreements with local governments for funds generated on federal lands as a result of energy production and/or mineral extraction.

Background: Riverside County supports Salton Sea Authority and its board-adopted Guiding Principles for Legislative Action, which call for local leadership to assert defense of local resources from predation by entities that would extract the resources without compensation to the impacted communities.

Specifically, the principles call for opposition to financial arrangements that enable state/federal or other entities outside the region to extract – without remuneration to locals and the Salton Sea restoration effort -- revenues from the local area derived from local resources on public lands overseen by publicly agencies.

As a corollary, the Salton Sea Authority supports revenue sharing agreements that are mutually acceptable to all concerned warrant support, along with legislation that will enable such arrangements.

Further, the federal government shares an interest in this approach in that the domestic supply chain of certain rare earth metals should be developed as an alternative to undue dependence upon foreign sources for these metals of strategic significance to the tech economy and military defense. Cooperative ventures between the federal government and mineral rich counties in the Salton Sea region where one of the world's largest and purest deposits of lithium has been discovered hold promise for equitable arrangements that address federal and local priorities with new resources.

Riverside County in partnership with Salton Sea Authority seeks appropriations from existing WRDA authorization - (Federal)

Issue: Riverside County in partnership with Salton Sea Authority seeks appropriations from existing WRDA authorization

Action: Riverside County will support Federal funding and cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers to reduce liability for environmental destruction and human health impacts from soon-to-be exposed seabed, of which nearly half is federally owned.

\$30 million in federal funding for Salton Sea restoration was authorized in 2007 under the federal Water Resource Development Act (WRDA), but never spent. Additionally, large sums of funding (\$100 M) have been designated for alternative energy research in the Defense budget – funds that should be spent where multiple benefits can be achieved in addition to renewable fuel development as a national security priority.

Support federal legislation to appropriate maximum funding to Salton Sea Authority and member agency projects while also supporting federal safe harbor provisions and incentives for private investors to partner with public entities on renewable energy projects at the Sea, conditional to cooperation with local restoration efforts under auspices of the Salton Sea Authority.

Background: The Salton Sea provides a nexus of multiple Federal interests: renewable energy development, Environmental protection and endangered species recovery, protection of human health (Clean Air Act) and water security (national and international water right agreements on Colorado River).

Perhaps most important for immediate attention, the federal government owns nearly half of the land under the Sea that will be exposed as dry lakebed due to water transfers. Thus, the federal government has an interest in supporting federal/state/local partnerships that can generate positive outcomes in lieu of liabilities for deteriorating environment and deadly human health impacts.

Top priority for the Salton Sea Authority at the federal level is securing appropriations from existing authorized sources (WRDA). Local government agencies that are members of a Joint Powers Authority party to the QSA have invested millions of dollars already, as a demonstration of the good faith effort of local governments to work in genuine partnership with the federal government.

Specifically, member agencies of the Salton Sea Authority support a legislative platform that seeks appropriation from an existing \$30 million WRDA authorization:

WRDA 2007, signed into law on 11/9/07, included a \$30 million authorization for the Army Corps to fund Salton Sea Restoration Pilot Projects. Funding is limited to \$5 million federal contribution for any individual pilot project and *a non-Federal cost-share of 35 percent is required.*

- Salton Sea provisions:

- The Secretary of the Army will enter into agreement with the State of California, with the consultation of the Salton Sea Authority and the USGS Salton Sea Science Office (SSSO) to carry out pilot projects for improvement of the environment in the area of the Salton Sea.
- In addition to consulting with the SSA and SSSO, the Secretary must also take into consideration the priorities of the State and the SSA.

While funding has been appropriated in the President's budget for annual Energy and Water Appropriations Act budget for the Army Corps, this funding has fallen away during the years when Continuing Resolutions wiped out such necessary adjustments.

The SSA seeks support from Senator Feinstein to move forward with Salton Sea Restoration Pilot Projects. The \$30 million authorization thus remains available, subject to appropriations. Pilot projects could be funded through the Army Corps, if the budget is passed with provision for \$300,000 for completion of Reconnaissance Study.

Low-Income Housing Tax Credit - (Federal)

Issue: The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit rates are currently determined by a formula that is tied to the federal borrowing rates which consistently change. The lower the federal borrowing rates fall, the lower the housing credit rate becomes which reduces the equity available for individual affordable housing developments.

Action: Urge Congress to make the minimum housing credit rates permanent.

Background: Currently the affordable housing rates are established at a minimum 9% for new construction and substantial rehabilitation and 4% for acquisition and moderate rehabilitation. Due to the fact that federal have dropped to historic lows, there is now 15 to 20 percent less housing credit equity available for any given project. Without sufficient equity many projects are impossible to finance. Most of the projects are underwritten with other funding sources; however in the recent years these sources have experienced a significant cut in funding. Without the flexibility to provide increased housing credit equity many projects will be impossible to finance.

HOME Program Funding - (Federal)

Issue: The United States Senate Committee on Appropriations approved the Fiscal Year 2016 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations Bill which proposed to cut the HOME Investment Partnerships Act program by approximately 93%.

Action: Urge the U.S. Senate to amend the THUD Appropriations Bill to fully fund the HOME program to the Fiscal Year 2015 amounts.

Background: The HOME program is the only federal block grant program left at the state and local level designed to create and preserve affordable housing that meets the specific population needs of cities and counties. The County of Riverside, the 10th largest populated county in the U.S. consists of urbanized neighborhoods, suburban cities and rural communities. Since 1994, the County of Riverside has utilized HOME funds for the construction, acquisition, and/or rehabilitation of more than 4,593 units and provided down payment assistance to 770 First Time Home Buyers. Occupancy within these units often times consist of special needs populations including individuals with disabilities, veterans and chronically homeless.

The HOME program is also the only program left at the state and local level that is used to leverage funds to produce the greatest number of affordable units. Newly constructed and rehabilitated units with HOME funds are typically leveraged with private investment dollars through the tax credit program. If the HOME program funding is reduced it will also detrimentally impact this program. When HOME funds are utilized for the new construction or rehabilitation of affordable units it ensures that these units will remain affordable for a minimum of 20 years. Therefore a reduction in HOME funds will require states and local government to cancel First Time Home Buyer programs and drastically reduce the number of new affordable units produced.



Emergency Management Department

Public Health and Medical Emergency Preparedness and Response Funding - (State and Federal)

Issue: Funding local health jurisdiction planning, preparedness and response to acts of terrorism, disasters, or other public health emergencies.

Action: Maintain or increase federal and state funding to offset the local costs associated with planning for and responding to the public health and medical consequences of terrorism, natural disasters and/or other public health emergencies.

Support the removal of restrictions on the utilization of grant funds to fund personnel, including permanent and temporary staff positions and contract personnel.

Support the continued use of grant funds for the infrastructure needed for personnel, including such charges as rent, communications equipment and computer support. Continue to allow these costs to be billed as direct line items.

Support the determination of an indirect rate for grant funds that more accurately reflects the overhead costs of local public health departments.

Background: The terrorist activity on and after September 11th 2001, Hurricane Katrina, the October 2007 fires in Southern California, 2009 H1N1 Pandemic Influenza and the 2014 Ebola response are a few examples of events that have highlighted the impact of terrorism, natural disasters and public health emergencies on local, state, and federal medical/health response capabilities.

Federal and state funding often have restrictions on the amount of personnel that can be supported by emergency preparedness and response grants. Although the grants allow for the utilization of contract staff, these staff are unfamiliar with local policies and procedures, do not necessarily have a vested interest in the community in which they are working, and are often only contracted for a short period of time. In addition, some federal and state grants include contract staff in personnel caps. Grant funds provided by the state should not restrict the funding of personnel at the local level; such restrictions severely impair the ability of the local health jurisdiction to develop and support comprehensive activities to combat the evolving threats of terrorism, natural disasters, and other public health emergencies.

Increases in state and federal funding are needed to augment local programs to prepare for and respond to all forms of terrorism, natural disasters or other public health emergencies. Legislation is needed which increases prevention and response capabilities and strengthens the partnerships between state, federal and local agencies to effectively identify, prevent and respond to the medical/health consequences of terrorism, disasters or other public health emergencies. Funding formulas should consider proximity to high profile, high impact targets in nearby jurisdictions as nearby jurisdictions will likely be severely impacted through the provision of mutual aid or by the influx of large numbers of people seeking shelter and/or treatment.



Flood Control and Water Conservation

Stormwater Funding - (State)

Issue: Local governments lack resources necessary to effectively implement federally mandated stormwater management programs.

Action: Promote legislation that enables local governments to effectively develop stormwater utilities, Joint Powers Authorities (JPA) and/or other innovative local and regional governance structures necessary to develop effective programs for, pool revenue for, and reduce costs of, state and federal stormwater quality mandates.

Promote legislation that allocates state funding resources to local stormwater programs and/or provides local governments with flexibility to develop new revenue streams where appropriate.

Promote legislation that facilitates integrated management of stormwater runoff and other water resources. SB 485 (Hernandez), Chapter 678, Statutes of 2015 provides an example of this approach by demonstrating how stormwater and wastewater can be jointly managed to the benefit of local communities.

Background: For nearly two decades the Regional Water Quality Control Boards have administered federal Clean Water Act stormwater quality programs on behalf of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through permits issued to the joint operators of municipal storm drain systems (cities and Counties). This federally mandated program is exempt from State Mandate claims under the California Constitution.

Municipal stormwater permits initially focused on development and iteration of education programs and best practices to improve management of stormwater quality over time. Starting in 2010, stormwater permits began requiring direct compliance with water quality standards. This created a multi-billion dollar mandate for cities and counties without a commensurate infrastructure to fund, develop and manage programs. Local governments across the state are now looking for creative and innovative ways to refine and address these mandates.

Although local governments broadly support livable communities and healthy environments, the method of regulation imposes a major burden on communities. Legislative actions, such as those identified above, can facilitate compliance efforts and could ease local burdens.

Proposition 1 Funding Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (AB 1471, Chapter 10) - (State)

Issue: Challenges arising from persistent drought and the prospect of El Nino create flood and water conservation project opportunities in Riverside County. Prop 1 guidelines focus upon Northern California and Central Valley needs.

Action: Riverside County needs to compete vigorously for Prop 1 funding to address present and future local community needs. Implementation language should promote “fair share” funding for the allocation of Prop 1 monies. Legislation should be introduced to streamline grant application, award and administration processes, enabling local leaders – including those from disadvantaged communities – to propose and secure grant project funds that provide precise benefit to those communities.

Background: State and federal legislation in recent years has focused on drought relief in the Central Valley and environmental mitigation of drought-related impacts. Discussion of the governor’s California Water Fix occupies center stage. Although Prop 1 funding offers a significant opportunity for infrastructural improvements, the California Water Action Plan objective to deliver “a more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure” may not be successfully realized for stormwater projects in Riverside County. Requirements for ancillary plans and reports, such as Stormwater Management Plans and Groundwater Management Plans, impede local efforts to apply for water bond grants and should be phased in to facilitate compliance.

Accountability for Operators of Subsurface Installations - (State)

Issue: Subsurface Utility operator accountability. There is a lack of competent record keeping and responsiveness to municipal agencies with franchise authority over these underground facilities.

Action: Legislation that imposes significant consequences on subsurface operators for non-compliance with existing "One Call" laws and franchise agreements allowing use of the public right of way is necessary. Increased civil penalties and stronger regulatory language would be of immense public benefit.

Background: Subsurface operators, particularly telecommunications companies, have facilities that interfere with critical new municipal infrastructure, e.g., water, sewer, storm drain, street improvements, etc. These operators often refuse to comply with the terms of the franchise agreements under which they operate. This creates enormous cost increases and delay and public inconvenience when undisclosed interfering subsurface facilities are discovered during project construction.

Water Resource and Environmental Regulation (Water Resource Management) - (State)

Issue: State regulatory approaches do not always balance social, economic and environmental needs. Communities need regulatory requirements to consider capacity to comply.

Action: There is a need to examine and, where indicated, revise regulations to account for differences in communities and their ability to comply. The “one size fits all” approach to regulation is ultimately ineffective in achieving goals uniformly. A “*Serrano v. Priest*” solution – one that measures a community’s ability to comply in terms of tax structure, revenue streams and SES – might provide communities with different timetables to achieve what regulations require.

Background: Agriculture remains the largest user of the state’s water. Competing industrial, municipal and residential use present economic opportunities that demands an ever-increasing amount of water. Environmental protection and mitigation claim, even demand, an irreducible share of fresh water available.

Capture, re-use, conservation and reduction in water usage offer substantial increases in the availability of future water resources. But communities struggling to achieve compliance or reduction goals need a blended regulatory approach that enables them to succeed within their own capacity.

Current regulations impose an unrealistic standard on struggling communities. There needs to be a modification of the regulatory structure to accommodate communities and ensure their success.

Water Resource and Environmental Regulation (Exemptions for Emergency Activities) - (State)

Issue: Regulations are too narrowly drawn, failing to provide exemptions for emergency activities necessary to protect public health and safety.

Action: The list of exemptions should be expanded to include critical flood control and water resource management projects.

Background: There is a list of activities exempt from regulation in the federal Clean Water Act, Section 404(f). California conservation emergency regulations provide an exemption from prohibitions on water use where there is a need to protect public health and safety. A clarification of such exemptions to include critical flood control and water resource management projects would protect public health and safety.



Parks

Safe Neighborhood Parks, Rivers, and Coastal Protection - (State)

Issue: The County of Riverside, partnering with Special Districts and City Park and Recreation Departments, needs to be well positioned to receive a fair share of funding.

Action: Support bills like SB 317 which emphasize how Californians value parks and the natural lands of the state. How demand for local parks has exceeded available funding by a factor of eight to one, with particularly high demand in urban, disadvantaged communities. How many Californians across the state lack access to safe parks and recreation areas, which limits their ability to experience the outdoors, improve their physical and emotional health. How investments to create and improve parks and recreation areas will help ensure all Californians have access to safe places to exercise and recreate. Investments to protect and restore the state's rivers, lakes, streams, and coastal waters and their related watersheds will improve water quality and reliability, enhance fish and wildlife habitats, and provide recreational, economic, and public health benefits to Californians.

Background: In prior voter approved park bond acts, Riverside County has not fared as well as Northern California, primarily due to failure in supporting the Bonds as they work through legislative committees. A two year bill (SB-317) has significant support from Northern entities and legislators; however, Southern California entities are not as well represented.

The Current bill (third reading) would specifically benefit Riverside County with the following:

1. Portion of \$200M for park rehabilitation on a per capita basis
2. Portion of \$200M for regional parks
3. Portion of \$800M for park poor neighborhoods
4. Portion of \$100M for the Santa Ana River Trail
5. Portion of \$150M for expansion of wildlife corridors (specifically those with HCP's)
6. \$50M for the Salton Sea

It is recommended that Riverside County actively support the bill/s and encourage local state representatives to engage in discussions in order to ensure additional line items within the bill specifically benefiting Riverside County.

Santa Ana River Trail (Federal)

Issue: In order to construct a vital segment of the Multi-County Santa Ana River Trail, two dikes must be completed by the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE).

Action: Support funding for the USACE to complete the project.

Background: The Santa Ana River Trail is a 100 mile multi-use trail that begins in San Bernardino County and terminates at the Pacific Ocean in Orange County, traversing through Riverside County in the middle. Funding for the trail has been secured for several years and planning and construction documents are complete. Two critical segments of the trail are planned within USACE lands and permanent dikes must be constructed on these lands in order to place the permanent trail. These dikes (Auxiliary, Alcoa) are planned in future years; however, expediting their placement will protect secured grants to construct the trail. Current estimates to complete the two dikes are \$5 Million (Auxiliary) and \$25 Million (Alcoa).



Probation

Youth Commitment - (State)

Issue: Youth Commitment

Action: Support legislation that would allow the court some flexibility to order a youth into juvenile hall.

Background: Welfare and Institutions Code 730 provides the authority for a judge to commit a youth to a "juvenile home, ranch, camp, or forestry camp". As noted by a local judge, this statute does not explicitly provide for a commitment to a county operated treatment facility, even though it has probably been assumed a juvenile home is the equivalent to a treatment facility.

This code section also provides authority for the judge to commit a youth to juvenile hall, but only if there are no county operated juvenile homes, ranches, camps, or forestry camps.

In some instances, a youth may have already exhausted local facility options, by cycling in and out with violations, and simply is no longer appropriate for those commitment options. Thus, it is suggested wording be added to allow the court some flexibility to order a youth into juvenile hall even if there are juvenile homes, ranches, camps, or forestry camps in a particular county.

Drones Over Youth - (State)

Issue: Drones and Institutions

Action: Support legislation to add language adding county or state operated juvenile detention or treatment facilities to the list of institutions with no fly zones for drones.

Background: Support legislation against the flying of drones over juvenile detention/treatment facilities. Knowingly or intentionally doing so will now be a misdemeanor. Noting the vulnerability of these types of facilities, and the recent, successful attempt to drop contraband into a prison yard via drone, juvenile institutions should thus be added as they are just as vulnerable to this method of intrusion.



Public Health

Health Realignment (State)

Issue: Health Realignment is not keeping up with county population growth

Action: Support or sponsor legislation that ensures sufficient resources for counties to meet their obligations

Background: Realignment of health funding in 1991 aimed to provide a steady stream of growth by funding it through sales tax and vehicle license fees, two revenue sources that usually have annual growth. However, growth in health and mental health realignment is, in fact, not occurring to any significant degree, and is not keeping up with either inflation or population. Due to the realignment formulas, Riverside County is receiving almost the same amount of funding now as in 2003, despite significant increases in population, and in sales tax and VLF. The system is not working as intended.

Further, a significant change to Health Realignment occurred in 2013. As a result of this legislation (AB 85), funds are diverted from Health Realignment to CalWORKS. With this new legislation, uncertainty exists whether the amount of Health Realignment funds retained by counties will be sufficient to meet its obligations.

Health Screening for H-1B Visa Applicants - (Federal)

Issue: There is a lack of health screening for H-1B work visa applicants, and their families, some of which are already in the United States. This presents a potential health risk due to communicable diseases.

Action: Support legislation that requires that individuals entering the U.S. on H-1B visas from countries that are endemic for TB and other diseases of public health significance have health screening by overseas panel physicians. The health screening should be completed by civil surgeons for individuals already in the United States. The cost of the screening should be covered by the sponsoring employer.

Background: It is estimated that immigration reform will increase the number of H-1B work visas from the current 65,000 to approximately 180,000 annually. These individuals come from countries with high prevalence of TB and drug resistant TB. Screening of the applicants and their families for TB and other communicable diseases of public health significance is an important prevention strategy to reduce potential disease transmission and ensure appropriate treatment and follow-up of infected individuals.

Transportation Funding for Complete Streets - (Federal)

Issue: Complete Streets are designed to be used by everyone: cars, buses, bicyclists and walkers. Complete Streets help create better/healthier communities for people to live, play, work and shop. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transportation users of all ages and abilities are able to safely move along and across a complete street.

Action: Support state and federal funding for Complete Streets which encourages transportation planners and engineers to routinely design and operate the entire right of way to enable safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation.

Background: Often, we do not consider pedestrians or bicyclists when we build our streets making walking or bicycling challenging. Complete streets allow walkers and bicyclists to be active users of roads.

Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Funding - (State and Federal)

Issue: Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization

Action: Support Child Nutrition & WIC Reauthorization to provide full funding which is adequate to maintain current and anticipated Women Infant & Children (WIC) participation levels and assure adequate Nutrition Services and Administration (NSA) funding to maintain clinic costs, education and cost of living increases should the economic recovery take longer than anticipated. Child Nutrition also includes SNAP education for families.

Background: The Inland Empire continues to suffer from the economic recovery in which families utilize these programs to ensure access to healthy and nutritious foods where they live, play and learn. Since fiscal years 2006, more families in Riverside County have turned to WIC. These circumstances have forced WIC to utilize contingency funds to assure that mothers and young children were not turned away. WIC urges Congress and the Administration to carefully monitor WIC participation, food cost inflation, and Nutrition Services Administration (NSA). Funding to assure that the budget request responds to economic conditions. Child nutrition and WIC programs strive to combat childhood obesity and chronic disease prevention and has been part of the President's budget proposals to Eat Healthier, Live Better, and end poverty.

Community Economic Opportunity Act of 2015 - (Federal)

Issue: Community Services Block Grant Act revision and reauthorization through FY 2023 was introduced as H.R. 1655 on 03/26/2015.

Action: Support Community Economic Opportunity Act of 2015 to provide full funding which is adequate to maintain current and anticipated Community Services Block Grant activities and continue to support public eligible entities through adoption of amendment language of legislation which supports public Community Action Agencies.

Background: Community Action Partnership of Riverside County is Riverside County's designated anti-poverty agency, established in 1979, a public agency and a division of the County of Riverside, Department of Public Health. Community Action Partnership is a member of a national network of 1,100 community action agencies (CAAs) created through the 1964 War on Poverty legislation to end poverty. Community Action Partnership is guided by federal regulations and national standards, policies and best practices.

Community Action Partnership receives funding from public and private sources. Its primary funding source is the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) that is funded through the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and administered through the State of California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD).

The agency has embraced the national community action promise that "Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other."

Results from Community Action Partnership's 2015 community needs assessment and community dialogues indicate that there was not a significant change from the 2013 ranking of challenges faced by low-income residents. Riverside County is still facing issues that affect its current economic conditions. Of the 2,292,507 population in Riverside County, 20% of the residents have no high school diploma; 10.3% of residents are unemployed; 8.86% are veterans; 16.2% of the people live below poverty and over 3,000 adults and children are homeless. Approximately one (1) out of every six (6) Riverside County residents lives in poverty.



Public Social Services

Safety of Adult Protective Services Workers - (State)

Issue: Access to California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) for Adult Protective Services (APS)

Action: Support legislation to provide explicit statutory authority for APS programs to request and receive from law enforcement criminal record checks through CLETS for the purposes of conducting elder and dependent adult abuse investigations.

Background: Unlike Child Welfare Workers, APS Workers in California do not have access to essential information that is available through CLETS. As a result, APS Workers conducting required unannounced home visits do not have information about the criminal backgrounds of alleged abusers or clients that are involved with an elder/dependent adult case. The lack of information about criminal activity creates a safety risk for APS Workers. Without this essential information, the worker is not able to accurately assess or prepare for a dangerous situation including requesting police stand-by assistance before entering the home.

Enhanced Penalties for Assaults and/or Battery on a Social Worker - (State)

Issue: Social worker safety

Action: Introduce legislation to add enhanced penalties for assault and/or battery on Child Protective Services or Adult Protective Services Social Workers.

Background: In 2009, West Virginia passed a bill increasing criminal penalties for crimes committed against government employees, enacted in memory of a social worker who was brutally raped and murdered while doing a home visit for an early intervention program.

Riverside County has records of 18 assaults, batteries and threats on Adult Services and Children's Services Social Workers for 2014-15. Our Social Workers were punched, had their hair pulled, been kicked repeatedly, received bloody noses and had families release their dogs on them. Assaults can be so traumatizing that the social worker resigns.

A social worker's activities can be similar to law enforcement activities. However, social workers are frequently placed in emotionally charged situations without a partner, adding to their increased vulnerability. Often making cold calls, they must knock on doors where they do not know what is awaiting them on the other side.

Studies have documented the occurrence of violence to social workers while they are in their workplaces. National prevalence rates for social workers' exposure to client violence indicate that between 65% and 86% of social workers have encountered violence by a client at some time during their career. A study conducted by the National Association of Social Workers found that 55% of 5,000 licensed social workers surveyed said they faced safety issues on the job.

Protecting Commercially Sexually Exploited Children - (State)

Issue: Reunification Services for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children.

Action: Support legislation to add parents and guardians to the list of persons who will not be provided reunification services if they consented or knew of the sexual exploitation of their child.

Background: Existing law does not explicitly provide for the exclusion of reunification services to a parent or guardian when they have knowingly engaged in or consented to the sexual exploitation of their child. State law should be changed to ensure that it provides clear protections for foster youth who have suffered from sexual exploitation.

Non Relative Successor Guardians for Foster Youth - (State)

Issue: Inability to provide a successor guardian for foster youth whose legal guardian is not a relative.

Action: Introduce legislation to allow a guardian who is not a relative of a foster youth to identify a proposed successor guardian with a formal plan (such as a Will or Trust) in place should the Legal Guardian or proposed Legal Guardian die or become incapacitated.

Background: With the passage of Public Law 113-183, the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014, states were encouraged to name a successor guardian for relatives seeking legal guardianship to provide for the continuity of care and permanency for the foster youth. A child/youth placed into any permanent home should have the peace of mind knowing that his or her care has been planned out prior to the termination of his/her dependency case. This provision should apply for all legal guardianships (relative and non-relative).

Modernization of CalFresh Practices - (State)

Issue: Use of electronic and telephonic signatures for CalFresh applicants and recipients.

Action: Support legislation to develop a statewide telephonic and electronic signature system.

Background: Currently, in Riverside County, CalFresh applications may be taken and approved over the internet using the C-IV application. The creation of a statewide telephonic and electronic signature system would assist in the trend towards streamlined electronic applications and verifications in most social services programs, allowing for the efficient use of county resources.

Medicare Part B Support - (State and Federal)

Issue: Reinstate Medicare Part B payments.

Action: Support legislation to restore California's Medicare Part B payments to low income seniors and the disabled.

Background: During the depths of California's budget crisis, the California Legislature and the Governor adopted state law that ended Medi-Cal payments of the Medicare Part B premiums for some low income seniors and persons with disabilities eligible to Medi-Cal. With the improvement in California's financial condition, it is an appropriate time to revisit decisions to balance the budget that impacted vulnerable seniors and persons with disabilities.

Foster Youth Sealed Records - (State)

Issue: Automatic Sealing of Youth's Records by the Courts

Action: Support legislation that would allow Child Welfare Services to view a foster youth's records when requested by the youth.

Background: Previously, when a child turned 18, a juvenile dependent could request their records be sealed. These records may contain criminal history and may also include the records of Child Welfare Service agencies, including their history of being a Foster Child. Previously, a Foster Child's Social worker would make the youth aware that the sealing of records can create a barrier to services and benefits that he or she would be entitled to including, but not limited to, reduced tuition and grants for higher education.

Current statute makes the sealing of a juvenile dependent's records automatic to other systems such as child welfare, not at the youth's request. These records are sealed to the youth and to Child Welfare Service agencies. Without the ability to view these sealed records, Child Welfare Services cannot provide the verifications needed to access benefits and services when requested by the youth.

24 Month CalWORKs Welfare to Work Time Clock - (State)

Issue: The State's Welfare to Work 24 Month time Clock is ineffective in practice and undermines the message and urgency of Self-Sufficiency.

Action: Support legislation to eliminate California's Welfare to Work 24-Month Time Clock and realign it with the states 48-month CalWORKs Time Clock.

Background: SB 1041, legislation chaptered in 2012, established a limited statewide 24-Month Time Clock for persons in receipt of Welfare to Work services. In practice, implementing instructions from the state have provided so many exemptions to the 24-month time clock that very few persons have been terminated (3 in Riverside County). Lack of true consequences has undermined the message and focus. Additionally, the process is administratively burdensome. By aligning States Welfare to Work program requirements with the states CalWORKs program requirements, counties will be better able to assist CalWORKs customers to engage in required activities that lead customers to self-sufficiency through employment.

Emergency Placement of Children - (State)

Issue: Barriers to family members to accept the emergency placement of children

Action: Support legislation to allow person living in 55 and older communities to accept emergency placement of children for a defined period of time

Background: Restrictions in communities for adults age 55 and older (55+) may prohibit the emergency placement of a child with a willing relative resulting in a foster care placement. There is no legal protection for caregiving grandparents living in 55+ communities. Grandparents living in a 55+ community who choose to accept emergency placement of a grandchild in their home may have to break their contract obligation and may face penalty, fines and/or eviction. Management at 55+ communities may feel they are legally bound to compel compliance with Home Owner Association (HOA) regulations to maintain statutory requirements for designation as a 55+ community.

Placing children with relatives has been proven to reduce trauma for children removed from their parents or separated from their parents due to their death or extended hospitalization. We want to afford every child the option to be cared for by a relative.

Mental Health Services for Foster Youth - (State)

Issue: Mental Health and Foster Care Services to children with serious emotional disturbances served through school systems.

Action: Support legislation that would require a Local Education Agency (LEA) to participate with Child Welfare Services in meetings to address the unique educational needs of children with Serious Emotional Disturbances (SED) and share in the cost of specialized education placements.

Background: Currently, when a child is identified with SED, and has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or has been assessed as likely to need an IEP, Child Welfare Services schedules a meeting with the LEA to review the specialized education placements the child will be receiving. The LEA's are not required to attend and frequently choose not to. This results in an incomplete assessment of the SED's child's education plan.

Aged and Disabled Federal Poverty Level Eligibility - (State and Federal)

Issue: Alignment of Income Eligibility for the Medi-Cal Aged and Disabled Federal Poverty Level program with Medi-Cal Health Care Reform.

Action: Support legislation that aligns current eligibility to the Aged and Disabled Federal Poverty Level program from the current 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 138% of the FPL as established by Health Care Reform.

Background: Currently, a person who is 19 to 64 is eligible to Health Care Reform Medi-Cal with incomes up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level. Upon turning 65, the person's eligibility is changed to 100% of the FPL. This sudden change results in a drastic and disproportionate share of cost increase to the elder (typically \$500 to \$600 a month). Aligning these two program income requirements will allow for income continuity between the two programs, resulting in fewer terminations and increased eligibility for the aged and disabled in receipt of Medi-Cal benefits.



Registrar of Voters

Elections – Special Vacancy Elections - (State)

Issue: The State does not pay for Special Elections to fill vacancies in the offices of United States Representative, State Senator, or Member of the State Assembly.

Action: Pursue state legislation to amend the California Elections Code to require the State to reimburse counties for the cost of conducting special elections to fill vacancies in the offices of United States Representative, State Senator, or Member of the State Assembly or allow the vacancies to be filled by appointment rather than election. Also, have the option of conducting special vacancy elections by mail ballot rather than polling place elections.

Background: In 2014 Riverside County was required to conduct a special election to fill a vacancy in State Senate District 23. The cost of the election was approximately \$340,000. In 2013 Riverside County was required to conduct a special election to fill a vacancy in State Senate District 40. The cost of the election was approximately \$200,000. Both of these elections were paid for from the general fund. The California Elections Code needs to be amended to either have the State reimburse counties for the cost of conducting special vacancy elections or allow the vacancies to be filled by appointment rather than election or allow all mail ballot elections for special vacancies.

Elections – Vote Counting - (Federal)

Issue: Expedite vote counting for future elections which is necessary due to state decertification of electronic voting system.

Action: Pursue state and federal funding to purchase a certified voting system.

Background: Riverside County was the pioneer and gained national recognition when it transitioned to a fast and accurate electronic voting system that was federally and state certified. The California Secretary of State's August 3, 2007 decision to decertify electronic voting forced Riverside County to transition to a cumbersome paper ballot system that was never intended to be used as a principal voting system at polling places. Currently, only five voting systems are certified for use in California, and most of those systems have not been upgraded since the 2007 decertification order by the state. Options for expediting election night ballot counting will continue to be a challenge for Riverside County until a new voting system is approved by the Secretary of State and funds are secured for the purchase of a new voting system.



Waste Resources

Local Solid Waste Diversion Mandate - (State)

Issue: California has adopted a Statewide 75% waste recycling goal for the year 2020 (AB 341). AB 341 included language saying the State “shall not establish or enforce a diversion rate on a city or county that is greater than the 50 percent diversion rate established pursuant to Section 41780” (from Section 41780.01 (b) of the Public Resources Code). Local jurisdictions are concerned that the 75% statewide recycling goal might one day be a mandate for them before they are capable of complying with it.

Action: Support legislation that keeps the local diversion mandate of 50% in place until the recycling and composting infrastructure is more developed, additional tools are available to local governments to increase diversion, including recycling options (i.e. compost facilities, material recovery facilities, anaerobic digestion facilities, etc.), and the additional markets necessary to utilize the reclaimed resources are in place.

Background: Local jurisdictions in California are currently mandated to divert 50% of all solid waste from disposal in landfills. The language in Section 41780.01 (a) of the PRC regarding the 75% recycling goal reads as follows: “The Legislature hereby declares that it is the policy goal of the state that not less than 75 percent of solid waste generated be source reduced, recycled, or composted by the year 2020, and annually thereafter.” It is believed that forcing the diversion of solid waste that is “source reduced, recycled or composted” by an arbitrary deadline does not allow time for sustainable solutions to be developed. Additionally, foreclosing on the utilization of any diversion opportunities that might develop elsewhere, such as with conversion technologies, is short-sighted. Diverse strategies are needed to create additional tools for increased diversion and market development.

The local diversion mandate of 50% should remain in place until the recycling and composting infrastructure is more developed, additional tools are available to local governments to increase diversion, including recycling options (i.e. conversion technologies), and the additional markets necessary to utilize the reclaimed resources are in place.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) - (State)

Issue: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) – Requires producers of goods that contain materials requiring special handling (i.e. mercury, etc.), and are harmful to the environment, to be accountable for products during their lifespan (from “cradle to the grave”).

Action: Support legislation that places responsibility for product design, distribution for sale, and collection for recycling or disposal on the producer of said product and, thereby, relieves local jurisdictions from having to bear the cost of product collection for recycling and disposal programs.

Background: The California law that banned the landfill disposal of items commonly referred to as Universal Wastes that are considered harmful to the environment went into effect on February 8, 2006 (CCR, Title 22, Division 4.5, Chapter 23). Universal Wastes include household batteries, fluorescent light bulbs and tubes, thermostats and other items that contain mercury, and electronic devices such as video cassette recorders, microwave ovens, cellular and cordless phones, printers, computers and radios. Since that time, Sharps (needles) have also been banned from landfill disposal.

As a result of these unfunded mandates, local governments have had to develop new programs to handle the disposition of such wastes. The County of Riverside Department of Waste Resources collects and processes these waste items through its hazardous waste collection and landfill load check programs. The two programs cover the entire County and are funded with a combination of landfill fees and grant monies. The use of public monies for the final disposition of these products equates to subsidies in favor of the producers.

Extended Producer Responsibility makes the final handling of such products a cost of doing business for the producer, which more accurately reflects the true cost of the product. The costs are then incorporated into the purchase price and only borne by the user of the product rather than by all rate payers. Local governments (and the rate payer) will no longer have to fund costly programs for this purpose. By placing the life cycle burden on producers, better products are designed, which will reduce the toxicity of products, lessen the amount of packaging, and better plans for final disposition of the product (whether it be recycling or disposal).

The concept of extended producer responsibility has also been applied to other products not in the lists above. For instance, the Governor signed bills from the 2010 legislative session into law that involved Extended Producer Responsibility for paint and carpet. The paint program is already saving the County \$300,000 per year and has increased re-use of paint.

Development of Conversion Technologies - (State)

Issue: Conversion Technologies – Those technologies that process through thermal (without combustion), chemical or biological means the organic portion of municipal solid waste, that remains after recycling, into useable products such as electricity and fuel, and as a result decrease the amount of solid waste disposed in landfills.

Action: Support legislation that encourages the development of conversion technologies by removing legislative/regulatory barriers to them and by granting diversion credit on behalf of those jurisdictions that make use of them.

Background: The statewide level of recycling and composting in the State of California is estimated to be 65% (for 2009, per California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery). Still, seventy (70%) to eighty (80%) percent of all refuse landfilled each year is characterized as biomass or organic. This material could be feedstock for a number of different technologies commonly known as conversion technologies: gasification, pyrolysis, anaerobic digestion, hydrolysis, distillation, plasma arc, and fermentation. Such facilities provide additional opportunities to keep recoverable materials out of the landfill.

There have been no conversion facilities developed in the United States. Part of the problem has been government regulations. In California, pyrolysis and distillation are considered forms of “Transformation” (which is considered disposal) and are limited in terms of how much of the processed material can count toward a jurisdiction’s diversion total. Feedstock sent to a transformation facility can count for no more than 10% of a jurisdiction’s 50% requirement. Conversion Technologies are expensive to develop and local governments will need a number of positive factors in their favor to justify their development. Generous credit toward a jurisdiction’s State mandated diversion requirement is one important factor. Conversion technologies do not incinerate the feedstock so they should not be considered transformation facilities.

It is widely accepted by stakeholders that jurisdictions should send feedstock to a conversion facility only after the waste stream has been subjected to recycling and other diversion programs (i.e. curbside recycling, Material Recovery Facility (MRF) processing, and commercial recycling, etc.). Though conversion facilities produce worthwhile products, including some technologies producing energy, the existing infrastructure is seen as getting recyclable materials to higher and more beneficial uses. Conversion technologies can make good use of solid waste materials not appropriate for these other diversion programs.

Numerous conversion technology facilities are in operation in Europe and Japan. There should be more than enough cases to review in making sure the technologies can meet California’s stringent environmental regulations.

Development of Compost Facilities - (State)

Issue: Compost – The product resulting from the controlled biological decomposition of organic material (i.e. grasses, paper, food, etc.), which can enhance soils and decrease the amount of solid waste disposed in landfills.

Action: Support legislation that encourages the development of, and/or removes barriers to, compost facilities so jurisdictions have additional outlets (other than disposal) for organic materials and have an additional tool to increase their diversion rate.

Background: A 2010 California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) assessment of the State's Compost and Mulch-Producing infrastructure estimated that 9.3 million tons of compostable materials were processed into an estimated 13 million cubic yards of products in 2008. Even so, it is believed that approximately 30% of all materials disposed of annually in California landfills can be processed into compost or mulch.

Composting as an industry, and a waste management process, is not using more of the compostable material available because of the difficulty in establishing markets and the sometimes constraining impact of government regulations. Regulations can impair the use of additional compostable material at processing facilities. For instance, current regulations call for green material to have no more than 1.0% contaminants by weight. Material collected in curbside collection programs often times have a higher level of contaminants when delivered to facilities. Regulations can be changed to increase the level of contamination permissible in green waste received at processing sites and add a maximum contamination level for material leaving compost sites. The contaminant level for material leaving a facility would have to be consistent with standards for determining when it can be used, where it can be used, or when it is to be disposed. Another regulation related issue is that rules of multiple agencies can be redundant and/or inconsistent and cause uncertainty on the part of prospective operators. Efforts to clear up conflicting requirements among regulatory agencies can assist in the development of compost facilities and the industry.

Composting is very important to local communities. It is beneficial to the environment because it replenishes soils with needed nutrients. The amount of compostable material still available for processing underscores the importance of the industry in helping jurisdictions meet, and maintain, the required diversion level of 50%. Legislation that helps develop compost markets, eliminates barriers/obstacles to the industry, and enhances jurisdictions' ability to achieve/maintain a 50% diversion level must be supported by Riverside County.



Veteran Services

Veterans Services Support - (State)

Issue: To educate the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and the public on the importance and value of the County Veterans Service Offices (CVSOs).

Action: Support efforts to educate the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and the public on the importance and value of the County Veterans Service Offices (CVSOs) with the eventual goal to fully fund CVSOs by permanently appropriating the full \$11 million in local assistance funding as reflected in Military and Veterans Code Section 972.1(d).

Background: California is home to approximately two million veterans. Currently, the state budget allocates \$5.6 million in funding to the County Veterans Service Offices (CVSOs) in 58 counties. CVSOs are the first contact for most veterans and are historically able to bring in \$100 of federal veterans benefits for every \$1 spent by the state. Without full funding, California's veterans will not get the government benefits for which they earned through their service in the military. The eventual goal is to fully fund CVSOs by permanently appropriating the full \$11 million in local assistance funding as reflected in Military and Veterans Code Section 972.1(d).

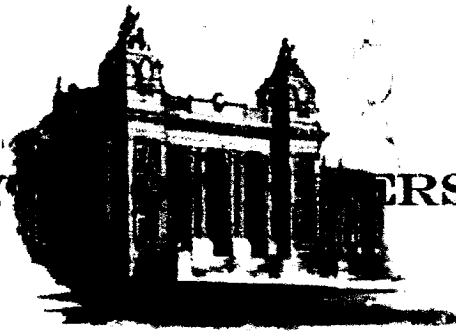
Veteran Services Improvement - (Federal)

Issue: The need for improved coordination of departments especially when service is being provided to veterans.

Action: Support legislation that would require state agencies to coordinate with CALVET to improve state services provided to veterans.

Background: There are many services that are offered to veterans. Many state agencies are involved in administering these services. Improved coordination between agencies would allow veterans to more easily access these services, and would also allow the CVSOs to better assist the veteran. An example would be for the CA Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to collect data on incarcerated veterans and provide that data to CALVET. CALVET could then provide that data to the CVSOs who could then provide assistance to those incarcerated veterans.

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



Board of Supervisors

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District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Marion Ashley 951-955-1050

June 12, 2017

The Honorable Mike McGuire, Chair
Senate Governance and Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer): Counties and Cities: Contracts for Personal Services
As proposed to be amended – Senate Governance and Finance Committee
County of Riverside: OPPOSE – Per Legislative Platform**

Dear Senator McGuire:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our opposition to AB 1250, by Assembly Member Reggie Jones-Sawyer, which would impose onerous standards for the use of personal services contracts by counties. AB 1250 would severely impact the County's ability to provide much-needed community services – health, mental health, and rehabilitative services to those in the court-involved population, to name a few – at a time when demand for such services is significant.

As just one example of the real-world impact of AB 1250, Riverside County is the recent recipient of a Proposition 47 recidivism reduction grant administered by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). The County, as an applicant entity, is required to pass through at least half of their grant amount to community-based service providers; additional preference points were given if the 50% threshold were exceeded. On June 8, the BSCC approved grant awards, including \$6 million for Riverside University Health System and Behavioral Health (RUHS-BH). RUHS-BH proposed two Integrated Care Behavioral Health Full Services Partnership (FSP) programs that will provide integrated mental health, substance use and primary care services in the Coachella Valley (Desert Region) and in the area of Perris/Moreno Valley in order to serve Western/Mid-County residents. The County's implementation efforts would be significantly delayed and constrained by the requirements in AB 1250.

Regrettably, there are numerous vague and burdensome provisions in AB 1250 that would hinder the County's ability to attract high quality contractors with the expertise necessary to provide specialized services that our communities expect and deserve. This aspect of the measure, coupled with the potential financial impact of AB 1250, has the potential to actually reduce county services, a consequence that the author and sponsors could not possibly intend.

1/5/16 3-4

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



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In summary, AB 1250 is detrimental to our considerable efforts toward improving the well-being of our communities. We value our public employees and work hard to strike a balance between contracted work and work performed in-house. AB 1250 upends that balance to the detriment of Riverside County and its residents. For these reasons, we are strongly opposed. Should you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact Deputy County Executive Officer Brian Nestande at (951) 955-1110 or bnestande@rceo.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John F. Tavaglione". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, prominent loop at the end.

John F. Tavaglione
Chairman, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Reggie Jones-Sawyer, California State Assembly
Members and Consultants, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
County of Riverside Delegation

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



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June 28, 2017

The Honorable Henry Stern, Chair
Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee
State Capitol, Room 3070
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SCA 12 (Mendoza) – Counties: governing body: county executive
As amended June 27, 2017
Set for hearing July 12, 2017 - Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee
County of Riverside: OPPOSE – Per Legislative Platform**

Dear Senator Stern:

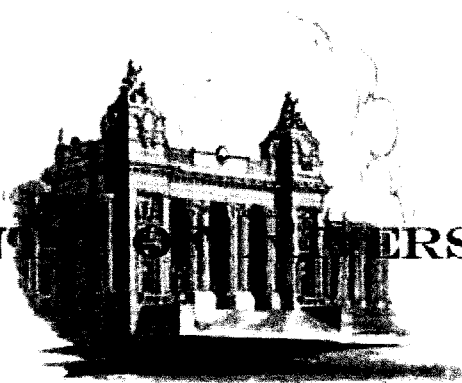
On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully express our strong opposition to SCA 12, a measure by Senator Tony Mendoza that seeks voter approval to expand the number of supervisorial districts and to create a directly elected county executive officer in a county with a population of five million or more after the 2020 census. Currently, these provisions would only apply to the County of Los Angeles. While SCA 12 does not have an immediate impact on the County of Riverside, we are concerned about the setting of precedent by which the Legislature authorizes a statewide vote on matters that are explicitly local in nature. Our view is that decisions about the structure of county government should reside squarely with its residents, not voters in unaffected jurisdictions.

The County of Los Angeles is governed under a county charter, the contents of which are voter-approved. We understand that the County has considered both expansion of the board of supervisors and directly electing a county executive on numerous occasions over many years. In all instances, these efforts have failed. Regardless of the reasons for those failures, the question was properly posed to the appropriate electorate. The process for a charter amendment remains available to supporters of SCA 12 and should be utilized before seeking legislative approval for such an unconventional approach.

We have additional concerns about the concept of an elected chief executive officer for California counties. County chief executives currently provide important administrative functions to implement policies set forth by the board of supervisors; they are trained managers who operate in a non-partisan manner to administer a wide variety of programs and services to Californians. Simply substituting an appointed chief executive with an elected one will result in a scenario where political dynamics will likely take priority over expertise and doing so may not, in fact, result in improved results or performance.

1/5/17 3-4

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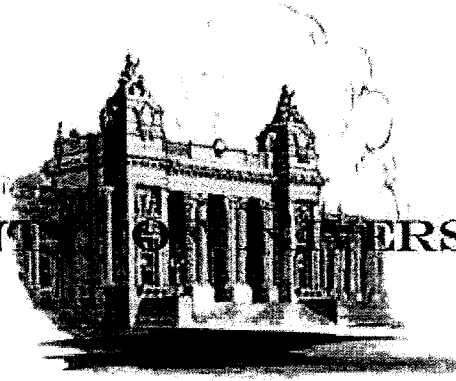
For these reasons, we are gravely concerned about the near- and long-term implications of SCA 12. Should you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact Deputy County Executive Officer Brian Nestande at (951) 955-1110 or bnestande@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

John F. Tavaglione
Chairman, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Tony Mendoza, California State Senate
Members and Consultants, Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee
County of Riverside Delegation

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August 10, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SCA 12 (Mendoza) – Counties: Governing Body: County Executive
As amended June 27, 2017
Set for hearing August 21, 2017 - Senate Appropriations Committee
County of Riverside: OPPOSE – Per Legislative Platform**

Dear Senator Lara:

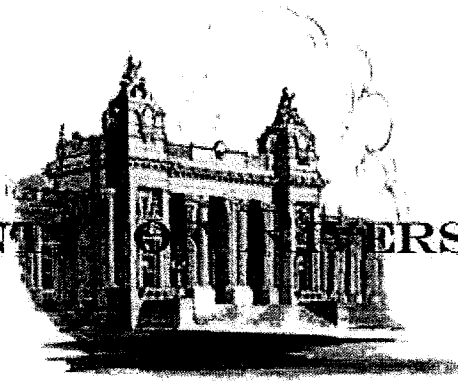
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We have additional concerns about the concept of an elected chief executive officer for California counties. County chief executives currently provide important administrative functions to implement policies set forth by the board of supervisors; they are trained managers who operate in a non-partisan manner to administer a wide variety of programs and services to Californians. Simply substituting an appointed chief executive with an elected one will result in a scenario where political dynamics will likely take priority over expertise and doing so may not, in fact, result in improved results or performance.

1/5/16 3-4

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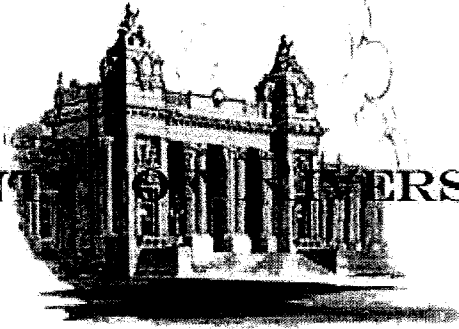
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Sincerely,

John F. Tavaglione
Chairman, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Tony Mendoza, California State Senate
Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee
County of Riverside Delegation

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August 10, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer): Counties and Cities: Contracts for Personal Services
As amended June 21, 2017
Set for hearing August 21, 2017– Senate Appropriations Committee
County of Riverside: OPPOSE – Per Legislative Platform**

Dear Senator Lara:

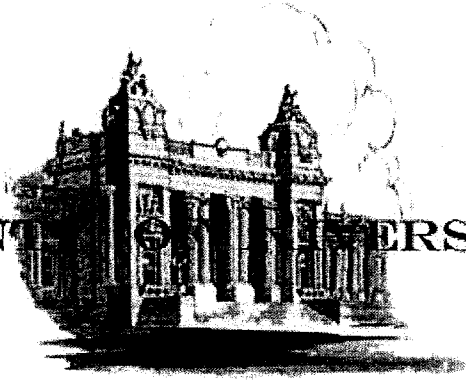
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Sincerely,

John F. Tavaglione
Chairman, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Reggie Jones-Sawyer, California State Assembly
Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee
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