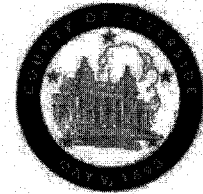


SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM  
3.9  
(ID # 8710)

**MEETING DATE:**

Tuesday, January 15, 2019

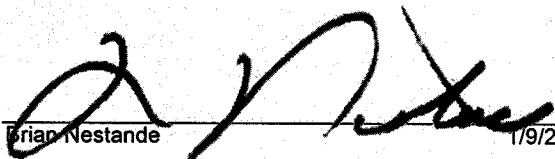
**FROM :** EXECUTIVE OFFICE:

**SUBJECT:** EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Approval of the County of Riverside 2019 Legislative Platform, All Districts. [\$0]

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the 2019 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.

**ACTION:** Policy

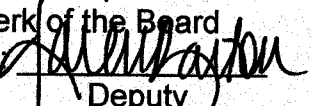
  
Brian Nestande 1/9/2019

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**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

On motion of Supervisor Perez, seconded by Supervisor Hewitt and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Hewitt  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Date: January 15, 2019  
xc: E.O.

Kecia Harper  
Clerk of the Board  
By   
Deputy

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

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	<b>Current Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Next Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Ongoing Cost</b>
<b>COST</b>	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>NET COUNTY COST</b>	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b>			<b>Budget Adjustment:</b>	No
			<b>For Fiscal Year:</b>	

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:** Approve

**BACKGROUND:**

**Summary**

In accordance with Policy A-27, each year, the Riverside County 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 and departments, developed the platform to address a variety of crucial issues facing the County.

The 2019 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.

2019 will begin the new two-year term for the Legislative Platform, The first year of the new term will bring forward specific State and Federal legislative proposals pursued during the next two years. The Legislative Platform for the second year of the current term will bring forth only new additions.

The full version of the Legislative Platform has been attached to this Form 11. Below you will find the Executive Summar. After approval from the Board of Supervisors, the 2019 Legislative Platform will be accessible through the County of Riverside's Legislative Affairs website.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Executive Summary highlights issue of particular concern to the county. Furthermore, these issues are always not specific to a department or in some cases cross jurisdictions of departments.

**FUNDING INEQUITIES**

Issue: Riverside County is financially disadvantaged through funding formulas and grant requirements set by state agencies. These monetary harms in turn become chronic social discriminations.

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

The following three programs have funding allocations that egregiously disadvantage Riverside County: **Behavior Health, Child Support Services, and Cap & Trade**. In total, these funding inequities amount to an **annual shortfall of approximately \$100 million** for Riverside County. The county will advocate for legislation and budget adjustments to equalize funding among all counties and provide fair distribution formulas for the above mentioned programs.

The Department of Behavioral Health is the most severe example of the inequities. Lack of adequate funding has resulted in a suboptimal network of care for county residents in need of Behavioral health services which is funded by the 1991 realignment formula. An individual in Riverside County does not have access to the same level of care as individuals in other counties.

In numerous reports, the Legislative Analyst Office has documented funding inequities in the programs funded with 1991 allocations. The most recent report, "Rethinking the 1991 Realignment," was released on October 15, 2018. The document details that counties receive different amounts of funding for the services covered by the 1991 realignment formulas. The report concludes with options for curing the funding inequities. Riverside County endorses the proposed option titled, "Update Counties Growth Allocations for Health and Mental Health Responsibilities." The report describes the recommended process and states, "Under this option, the amount of funding each county receives for health and mental health services would be updated to reflect counties' current populations (rather than being based on what counties provided in the 1990s)." Riverside County believes that adjusting revenue on a per capita basis is the fairest way to end the discrimination.

**SALTON SEA:**

**Issue:** The Salton Sea is the largest lake in California. Unfortunately, lower inflows due to a water transfer between the Imperial Irrigation District and San Diego Water District are causing an increase in salinity and exposing the shoreline. The deteriorating water quality and exposed shoreline is causing significant ecological damage. The federal and state governments have long ignored the looming problems. However, within the last year, Riverside and Imperial Counties signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreeing on a course of action to restore the sea. The MOU describes a financial commitment from both counties through the implementation of enhanced infrastructure finance districts (even though the state has accepted full responsibility for the costs of mitigation).

The state has access to bond measure moneys dedicated to the Salton Sea. However, the state has not committed to fund the restoration design described in the MOU. The county is asking our legislators and the administration to direct the Department of Water Resources to fund the counties preferred plan. Riverside County will advocate for streamlining of state and federal permitting and process in order to begin construction of the restoration.

**HEALTHCARE FUNDING FOR INMATES:**

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

**Issue:** When a person enters jail, their insurance coverage is suspended and the county is responsible for the cost of care. The County supports legislation that repeals the prohibition of medical insurance coverage for inmates. Similar legislation was introduced by Rep. Hastings, [D-FL-20] H.R. 4201 Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Costs Act. The County supports Medicaid dollars to continue covering the unadjudicated and convicted population

**PROP 64 TAX RATES:**

**Issue:** On November 8, 2016, California voters approved Proposition 64, Control, Regulate and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act. Two taxes apply to cannabis businesses, and in some jurisdictions three:

1. A **15 percent** excise tax imposed upon purchasers of cannabis and cannabis products.
  2. A cultivation tax imposed upon cannabis cultivators on all harvested cannabis that enters the commercial market. The rate of the cultivation tax: **\$9.25** per dry-weight ounce of cannabis flowers that enter the commercial market, and
  3. Any city or county special tax on cannabis sales (San Diego city)
- ❖ Cumulative Tax Rate= 23%

Cumulatively, these taxes bring the existing baseline to 23%, before any local taxes are applied. After local jurisdictions apply their taxes, the overall tax rate for cannabis is averaging around 30%-40%. Higher tax rates will push some businesses into the black market and will generate less revenue for the state and local jurisdictions.

Colorado, Washington, and Oregon, along with consideration from Alaska, have all taken steps to reduce their marijuana tax rates, after initial rates of 30 percent or more did not reduce the black market sufficiently. More recent ballot initiative proposals across the country propose rates between 10 and 25 percent. There is a growing body of research highlighting that consumers in the legalized cannabis market are strongly price sensitive. Licensed retailers in the first year are struggling to compete because of the high tax rates and the illegal market.

Optimally, revenue from any local tax will prioritize the regulation of legal operations and ensure the closure of the illegal operations. The State Legislature should significantly lower the cumulative tax rate. A 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote from the legislature will be required to amend the tax rates in Proposition 64.

**JUDGESHIPS:**

**Issue:** Support legislation to fund additional Superior Court and Appellate Court Justiceships.

**CALPERS:**

**Issue:** The management board for the state pension system was created in 1932. Until 2000, the pension fund was basically fully funded. Since then, the fund has accrued over a hundred billion dollars in liabilities. Each year the fund sinks further in the hole requiring a bailout from the state budget and local governments. An example of CalPERS

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

investment decisions, they sold at the low point of the Market (2008 to 2010) and the fund lost billions of dollars as the market recovered and grew. In the last 10 years CalPERS has averaged a 4.4% return while the stock market (measured by the S&P 500) has gone up over 100%. Because of this poor investment performance, Riverside County faces an unfunded liability soon to reach \$3 billion. The continuously increasing general fund payment to CalPERS is harming county vital services.

The county supports requiring investment decisions be performed by professional investment firms with a sole purpose of maximizing returns. Currently many investment decisions are made with a strategy that emphasizes social or environmental goals at the expense of financial returns. This strategy has caused the fund significant financial harm in terms of potential missed earnings

**FACILITATING GRANT APPLICATIONS “TRUSTED VENDOR”:**

**Issue:** Our departments constantly monitor and track grants that would benefit the community. Several of our departments are awarded the same grants every year; however, they are required to go through the same screening and application process. This process can sometimes take weeks to months and can sometimes approach \$50,000-\$100,000 to prepare. The duration and cost to finish a grant application can discourage departments to go after available funding. The County supports legislation that would facilitate grant applications in which trusted agencies and departments would have a faster and easier grant process than new applicants.

**PILOT PROGRAM FOR BEST PRACTICES & EFFICIENCIES:**

**Issue:** Currently there are no savings realized to County operations because any savings are required to go back to the State and Federal government.

- ❖ The Board proposes that the pilot program incentivize counties and local governments to reinvest any cost savings to further enhance local programs.
- ❖ The Board advocates for a pilot program whereby federal and state funding guidelines are created to encourage costs savings through a tiered funding approach as well as the use of other models that bring forth best practices and efficiencies.
- ❖ The Board further request that any pilot program be allowed the maximum possible flexibility in design and implementation.

**CHILDREN OF INCARCERTED PARENTS:**

**Issue:** Riverside County is developing a program to connect children who have experienced parental incarceration and their caretakers to improve health and wellness outcomes, as well as reduce intergenerational involvement in the criminal justice system. This funding will be used to connect participants to resources and services that meet emotional, physical, mental, environmental, and social health needs.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

2019 Legislative Platform



2019 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE





# LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION ROSTER

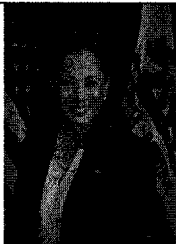
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 UNITED STATES CONGRESS 



SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN

*Representing the state of California*



SENATOR KAMALA HARRIS

*Representing the state of California*



CONGRESSMAN KEN CALVERT

42<sup>nd</sup> DISTRICT

*The 42<sup>nd</sup> District encompasses the western edge of Riverside County including the cities of Eastvale, Norco, Corona, Lake Elsinore, Wildomar, Canyon Lake, Menifee, Murrieta and a portion of Temecula. The district also includes the unincorporated areas of El Sobrante, Woodcrest, Temescal Valley, Lakeview, Nuevo, Homeland, Winchester, and Aguanga.*



CONGRESSMAN MARK TAKANO

41<sup>st</sup> DISTRICT

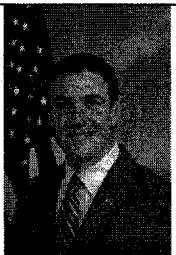
*The 41<sup>st</sup> District encompasses the cities of Riverside, Moreno Valley, Jurupa Valley and Perris*



CONGRESSMAN RAUL RUIZ, M.D

36<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT

*The 36<sup>th</sup> District encompasses the entire Coachella Valley, as well as the cities of Banning, Beaumont, Blythe, Hemet and San Jacinto*



CONGRESSMAN DUNCAN HUNTER

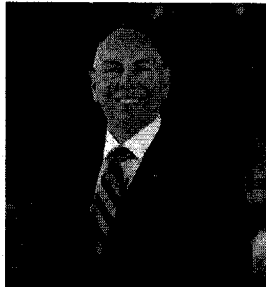
50<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT

*The 50<sup>th</sup> District consists of portions of Riverside County and San Diego County. Riverside County regions consist of Temecula.*





# CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE



SENATOR  
RICHARD ROTH

31<sup>st</sup> DISTRICT

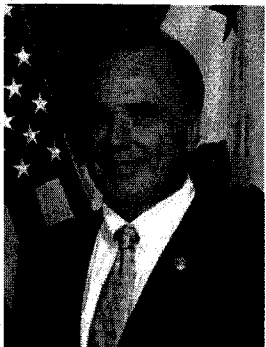
*The 31<sup>st</sup> State Senate District covers all or portions of the following communities: Corona, Moreno Valley, Norco, Eastvale, Jurupa Valley, Riverside, and Perris.*



SENATOR  
JEFF STONE

28<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT

*The 28<sup>th</sup> District stretches from the vineyards of the Temecula Valley to the Colorado River and includes the cities of Blythe, Canyon Lake, Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Indian Wells, Indio, Lake Elsinore, La Quinta, Murrieta, Temecula, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, and Wildomar.*



SENATOR  
MIKE MORRELL

23<sup>rd</sup> DISTRICT

*The 23<sup>rd</sup> State Senate District covers portions of Riverside County and San Bernardino County. The Riverside county portions are Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Cherry Valley, Homeland, Hemet, Highland, Menifee, Nuevo, and San Jacinto.*



# CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY



	<p><u>ASSEMBLYMEMBER</u> <u>SABRINA CERVANTES</u> 60<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT</p>	<p><i>The 60<sup>th</sup> Assembly District comprises of the cities of Corona, Eastvale, Jurupa Valley, Norco, a portion of Riverside, and unincorporated communities of Home Gardens, El Cerrito, and Coronita.</i></p>
	<p><u>ASSEMBLYMEMBER</u> <u>EDUARDO GARCIA</u> 56<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT</p>	<p><i>The 56<sup>th</sup> Assembly District comprises a number of cities and unincorporated communities in eastern Riverside County and Imperial County, including Blythe, Brawley, Bermuda Dunes, Calexico, Calipatria, Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, El Centro, Holtville, Imperial, Indio, Mecca, Oasis, North Shore, Salton Sea, Thermal, Thousand Palms, and Westmorland.</i></p>
	<p><u>ASSEMBLYMEMBER</u> <u>JOSE MEDINA</u> 61<sup>st</sup> DISTRICT</p>	<p><i>The 61<sup>st</sup> Assembly District consists of Riverside, Moreno Valley, Perris and Mead Valley.</i></p>
	<p><u>ASSEMBLYMEMBER</u> <u>MELISSA MELENDEZ</u> 67<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT</p>	<p><i>The 67<sup>th</sup> Assembly District consists of Canyon Lake, East Hemet, El Sobrante, French Valley, Good Hope, Homeland, Lake Elsinore, Lake Mathews, Lakeland Village, Menifee, Murrieta,, Nuevo, Temescal Valley, Wildomar and Woodcrest.</i></p>
	<p><u>ASSEMBLYMEMBER</u> <u>CHAD MAYES</u> 42<sup>nd</sup> DISTRICT</p>	<p><i>The 42<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District consists of Banning, Beaumont, Cabazon, Calimesa, Cherry Valley, Hemet, Indian Wells La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs Rancho Mirage, San Jacinto, Whitewater.</i></p>
	<p><u>ASSEMBLYMEMBER</u> <u>MARIE WALDRON</u> 75<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT</p>	<p><i>The 75<sup>th</sup> Assembly District consists of portions of Riverside County and San Diego County. Riverside County regions consist of De Luz and Temecula.</i></p>
	<p><u>ASSEMBLYMEMBER</u> <u>RANDY VOEPEL</u> 71<sup>st</sup> DISTRICT</p>	<p><i>The 71<sup>st</sup> Assembly District consists of portions of Riverside County and San Diego County. Riverside County regions consist of Aguanga, Anza, Idylwild- Pine Cove, Pinyon Pines, and Valle Vista.</i></p>

# RIVERSIDE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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## Board Chair



Kevin Jeffries  
First District

District1@rcbos.org  
(951) 955-1010

Represents the cities of Wildomar, Lake Elsinore, Canyon Lake, and most of the city of Riverside.

Unincorporated communities include DeLuz, Gavilan Hills, Good Hope, Lake Hills, Lake Mathews, LaCresta, Mead Valley, Meadowbrook, Spring Hills, Temescal Valley, Tenaja, Warm Springs, and Woodcrest.

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Karen Spiegel  
Second District

District2@rcbos.org  
(951) 955-1020

Represents the cities of Corona, Norco, Jurupa Valley, and Eastvale. It also includes approximately 1/3 of the City of Riverside, including the following city of Riverside neighborhoods: Northside, Downtown, Wood Streets, Magnolia Center, Grand, and the northern half of Arlanza and La Sierra Acres.

Unincorporated communities include Home Gardens, El Cerrito, Coronita, and Highgrove

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Chuck Washington  
Third District

District3@rcbos.org  
(951) 955-1030

Represents constituents from Idyllwild to Anza Borrego Desert State Park, and from Temecula to San Jacinto. Representation includes the cities of Hemet, Murrieta, San Jacinto, and Temecula, and the communities of Aguanga, Anza Valley, Cahuilla, East Hemet, Gilman Hot Springs, Homeland, Idyllwild, Lake Riverside, Mountain Center, Murrieta Hot Springs, Pine Cove, Pine Meadow, the Pinyon Communities, Poppet Flats, Rancho California, Soboba Hot Springs, Valle Vista, and Winchester.

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V. Manuel Perez  
Fourth District

District4@rcbos.org  
(760) 863-8211

Represents the cities of Blythe, Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, and Rancho Mirage.

Unincorporated communities include Bermuda Dunes, Chiriaco Summit, Colorado River communities, Desert Center, Desert Edge, Eagle Mountain, Indio Hills, Lake Tamarisk, Mecca, Mesa Verde, North Shore, Oasis, Ripley, Sky Valley, Sun City, Palm Desert, Thermal, Thousand Palms, and Vista Santa Rosa.

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Jeff Hewitt  
Fifth District

District5@rcbos.org  
(951) 955-1050

Represents the cities of Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Menifee, Perris, and Moreno Valley, March Air Reserve Base and the easterly portion of the March Joint Powers Authority. The district also encompasses tribal lands of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, and the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians.

Unincorporated areas include the Banning Bench, Cabazon, Cherry Valley, Desert Hot Springs, El Nido, Juniper Flats, Lakeview, Mission Lakes, Nuevo, Romoland, North Palm Springs, Painted Hills, Quail Lake, Reche Canyon, San Timoteo, Snow Creek, Twin Pines, West Garnet, Windy Point, and Whitewater

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The executive summary highlights issue of particular concern to the County. Furthermore, these issues are not always specific to a department or in some cases cross jurisdictions of departments.

## FUNDING INEQUITIES

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### ISSUE

Riverside County is financially disadvantaged through funding formulas and grant requirements set by state agencies. These monetary harms in turn become chronic social discriminations.

The following three programs have funding allocations that egregiously disadvantage Riverside County: Behavior Health, Child Support Services, and Cap & Trade. In total, these funding inequities amount to an annual shortfall of approximately \$100 million for Riverside County. The county will advocate for legislation and budget adjustments to equalize funding among all counties and provide fair distribution formulas for the above-mentioned programs.

The Department of Behavioral Health is the most severe example of the inequities. Lack of adequate funding has resulted in a suboptimal network of care for county residents in need of Behavioral health services, which is funded by the 1991 realignment formula. An individual in Riverside County does not have access to the same level of care as individuals in other counties.

In numerous reports, the Legislative Analyst Office has documented funding inequities in the programs funded with 1991 allocations. The most recent report, "Rethinking the 1991 Realignment," was released on October 15, 2018. The document details that counties receive different amounts of funding for the services covered by the 1991 realignment formulas. The report concludes with options for curing the funding inequities. Riverside County endorses the proposed option titled, "Update Counties Growth Allocations for Health and Mental Health Responsibilities." The report describes the recommended process and states, "Under this option, the amount of funding each county receives for health and mental health services would be updated to reflect counties' current populations (rather than being based on what counties provided in the 1990s)." Riverside County believes that adjusting revenue on a per capita basis is the fairest way to end the discrimination.

## SALTON SEA (STATE & FEDERAL)

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### ISSUE

The Salton Sea is the largest lake in California. Unfortunately, lower inflows due to a water transfer between the Imperial Irrigation District and San Diego Water District are causing an increase in salinity and exposing the shoreline. The deteriorating water quality and exposed

shoreline is causing significant ecological damage. The federal and state governments have long ignored the looming problems. However, within the last year, Riverside and Imperial Counties signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreeing on a course of action to restore the sea. The MOU describes a financial commitment from both counties through the implementation of enhanced infrastructure finance districts (even though the state has accepted full responsibility for the costs of mitigation).

The state has access to bond measure moneys dedicated to the Salton Sea. However, the state has not committed to fund the restoration design described in the MOU. The county is asking our legislators and the administration to direct the Department of Water Resources to fund the counties preferred plan.

#### ACTION

- ❖ Riverside County will advocate for streamlining of state and federal permitting and process in order to begin construction of the restoration.

## HEALTHCARE FUNDING FOR INMATES (FEDERAL)

#### ISSUE

When a person enters jail, their insurance coverage is suspended and the county is responsible for the cost of care.

#### ACTION

- ❖ The County supports legislation that repeals the prohibition of medical insurance coverage for inmates. Similar legislation was introduced by Rep. Hastings, [D-FL-20] H.R. 165 Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Costs Act of 2017.
- ❖ The County supports Medicaid dollars to continue covering the unadjudicated and convicted population.

## PROP 64 TAX RATES (STATE)

#### ISSUE

On November 8, 2016, California voters approved Proposition 64, Control, Regulate and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act. Two taxes apply to cannabis businesses, and in some jurisdictions three:

1. A **15 percent** excise tax imposed upon purchasers of cannabis and cannabis products.
  2. A cultivation tax imposed upon cannabis cultivators on all harvested cannabis that enters the commercial market. The rate of the cultivation tax: **\$9.25** per dry-weight ounce of cannabis flowers that enter the commercial market, and
  3. Any city or county special tax on cannabis sales (San Diego city)
- ❖ Cumulative Tax Rate= 23%

Cumulatively, these taxes bring the existing baseline to 23%, before any local taxes are applied. After local jurisdictions apply their taxes, the overall tax rate for cannabis is averaging

around 30%-40%. Higher tax rates will push some businesses into the black market and will generate less revenue for the state and local jurisdictions.

Colorado, Washington, and Oregon, along with consideration from Alaska, have all taken steps to reduce their marijuana tax rates, after initial rates of 30 percent or more did not reduce the black market sufficiently. More recent ballot initiative proposals across the country propose rates between 10 and 25 percent. There is a growing body of research highlighting that consumers in the legalized cannabis market are strongly price sensitive. Licensed retailers in the first year are struggling to compete because of the high tax rates and the illegal market.

Optimally, revenue from any local tax will prioritize the regulation of legal operations and ensure the closure of the illegal operations.

#### **ACTION**

The State Legislature significantly lower the cumulative tax rate. A 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote from the legislature will be required to amend the tax rates in Proposition 64.

### **JUDGESHIPS (STATE)**

#### **ISSUE**

Support legislation to fund additional Superior Court and Appellate Court Justiceships.

### **CALPERS (STATE)**

#### **ISSUE**

The management board for the state pension system was created in 1932. Until 2000, the pension fund was basically fully funded. Since then, the fund has accrued over a hundred billion dollars in liabilities. Each year the fund sinks further in the hole requiring a bailout from the state budget and local governments. An example of CalPERS investment decisions, they sold at the low point of the Market (2008 to 2010) and the fund lost billions of dollars as the market recovered and grew. In the last 10 years CalPERS has averaged a 4.4% return while the stock market (measured by the S&P 500) has gone up over 100%. Because of this poor investment performance, Riverside County faces an unfunded liability soon to reach \$3 billion. The continuously increasing general fund payment to CalPERS is harming county vital services.

#### **ACTION**

Require investment decisions be performed by professional investment firms with a sole purpose of maximizing returns. Currently many investment decisions are made with a strategy that emphasizes social or environmental goals at the expense of financial returns. This strategy has caused the fund significant financial harm in terms of potential missed earnings



## **FACILITATING GRANT APPLICATIONS "TRUSTED VENDOR" (STATE & FEDERAL)**

### **ISSUE**

Our departments constantly monitor and track grants that would benefit the community. Several of our departments are awarded the same grants every year; however, they are required to go through the same screening and application process. This process can sometimes take weeks to months and can sometimes approach \$50,000-\$100,000 to prepare. The duration and cost to finish a grant application can discourage departments to go after available funding.

### **ACTION**

Support legislation that would facilitate grant applications in which trusted agencies and departments would have a faster and easier grant process than new applicants.

## **PILOT PROGRAM FOR BEST PRACTICES & EFFICIENCIES (STATE & FEDERAL)**

### **ISSUE**

Low NCC County Departments that achieve savings by year end, are required to revert their savings back to the State & Federal government.

### **ACTION**

- ❖ The Board proposes that the pilot program incentivize counties and local governments to reinvest any cost savings to further enhance local programs.
- ❖ The Board advocates for a pilot program whereby federal and state funding guidelines are created to encourage costs savings through a tiered funding approach as well as the use of other models that bring forth best practices and efficiencies.
- ❖ The Board further request that any pilot program be allowed the maximum possible flexibility in design and implementation.

## **CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENT'S PROGRAM (STATE)**

### **ISSUE**

Riverside County is developing a program to connect children who have experienced parental incarceration and their caretakers to improve health and wellness outcomes, as well as reduce intergenerational involvement in the criminal justice system.

### **ACTION**

The County is requesting a pilot program which will connect participants to resources and services that meet emotional, physical, mental, environmental, and social health needs.



AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER &  
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES

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## AGRICULTURE FUNDING (STATE)

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### ISSUE

Reductions in funding and services, or increased costs to agricultural businesses.

### ACTION

- ❖ Support efforts to prevent the introduction and potential spread of invasive pests and diseases harmful to agriculture, including strengthening inspections at borders.
- ❖ Support incentives to encourage counties to preserve farmland and open space.
- ❖ Support Williamson Act subventions to encourage farmland preservation.

### BACKGROUND

The Agricultural Commissioner protects the environment, public health, and Riverside County's \$1.3 Billion Agricultural industry. Any reductions in funding will harm the mission of promoting and protecting the agricultural industry of the county and its environment, ensuring the health and safety of the county's citizens, and fostering confidence and equity in the marketplace.

## SB 1 FUNDING (STATE)

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### ISSUE

Transportation Funding

### ACTION

- ❖ Support the Director of Transportation and the Secretary of Food and Agriculture to amend the report to the Legislature setting forth the current estimate of the amount of money in the Motor Vehicle Fuel Account attributable to agricultural off-highway use of motor vehicle fuel for calendar year 2018.
- ❖ Oppose Legislation that would redirect SB1 funds out of the Agricultural programs.
- ❖ Support the use of agricultural off-highway use of motor vehicle fuel funds at the local level for agriculture commissions for agricultural code programs under the direction of the Secretary of Food and Agriculture.

### BACKGROUND

SB1 created the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program to address deferred maintenance on the state highway system and the local street and road system. The law provides for the deposit of various funds for the program in the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation account, which is created in the State Transportation Fund, including revenues attributable to a \$0.12 per gallon increase in the motor vehicle fuel (gasoline) tax and a \$0.20 per gallon increase in the diesel excise tax. The Law provided that the fuel excise tax increases take effect on November 1, 2017.



## CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

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## FUNDING (STATE)

### ISSUE

Continued funding with is needed to bring the Department of Child Support Services (RCDCCS) into parity with other child support agencies around the state.

### ACTION

- ❖ Support proposals that result in increased State funding to RCDCCS that will adequately meet the growing costs of administering mandated child support, paternity, and medical needs services.
- ❖ Advocate and support legislative, administrative and budgetary efforts to revise the California Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) funding allocation methodology to ensure that the Riverside County child support program receives proper funding that will directly benefit Riverside County families and children.

### BACKGROUND

The Riverside County Department of Child Support Services has received only one annual funding increase since 2000. During this timeframe, the cost of providing services has increased substantially. Because of these two dynamics, RCDCCS struggles to maintain high performance levels in measures tracked by the State Health and Human Services. The August 2018 Federal Performance Measures rank Riverside County at, or near, the bottom in two of four measures: Cases with Support Orders Established and Collections on Current Support.

## REDUCE INTEREST RATE (STATE)

### ISSUE

Decrease or eliminate interest on child support arrears from the current ten percent per annum.

### ACTION

- ❖ Advocate and support legislation that would allow an exception to California Code of Civil Procedure §685.010 (Interest accrues at the rate of ten percent per annum on the principal amount of a money judgment remaining unsatisfied).

### BACKGROUND

Currently, interest on child support arrears accrues at ten percent as each payment becomes overdue (that is, if a monthly child support payment is not made by the last day of the month, any unpaid amount(s) begin to accrue interest – at ten percent – the first day of the following month). Many low-income child support payors find it difficult to consistently meet their court ordered support payments and often fall behind in their obligations. It is not uncommon for this scenario to go on for years. Although a payor may eventually get caught up on the principal owed, a large interest balance may persist – even after the payor's children have emancipated. Compared with other laws that address unpaid child support (license suspension, passport denial, and even incarceration), charging interest does not directly

promote compliance with support orders, and thus, may be considered unnecessary and overly punitive

Beginning July 1, 1983, legally mandated per annum interest on money judgments increased from seven percent to ten percent. This increase was reasonable, and justified, since the United States Fed Funds Rate in 1983 was above eight percent. In fact, at that time, interest rates were on the increase (peaking at almost twelve percent in August 1984). However, since 1984, interest rates have decreased dramatically. And in 2009, the Fed Funds Rates dropped to zero. This rate has since increased (currently at 2.25 percent), but it is still significantly lower than the 8+ percent it was in 1983. Simply stated, the law regarding interest on unpaid money judgments has not kept up with the times – especially when it comes to child support arrears.



ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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## HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP ACT PROGRAM FUNDING (FEDERAL)

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### ISSUE

Over the years, Congress has significantly cut funding for the HOME Investment Partnership Act Program by nearly 50%.

### ACTION

Urge Congress to increase funding to the HOME Investment Partnerships Act HOME Program

### BACKGROUND

The HOME program is the only federal community development block grant left at the state and local level designed to create and preserve affordable housing that meets the specific population needs of states, cities and counties. The County of Riverside is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest populated county in the United States consisting 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 3,500 units, provided rental assistance to more than 1,500 households, and provided down payment assistance to more than 800 First Time Home Buyers. Occupancy within these units often consists 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 detrimentally impact new construction of needed affordable housing. 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 an increase in HOME program funding is needed to address the creation and preservation of affordable housing.

## LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT (STATE)

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### ISSUE

California's shortfall of affordable homes and the continued dramatic rise in rents has attributed to California's rising poverty rates.

### ACTION

Urge California Lawmakers and the Governor of the State of California to expand the State's Low Income Housing Tax Credit to \$500 million.

### BACKGROUND

Existing law established a low-income housing tax credit program operated by the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (TCAC). Existing law also limits the total annual amount that the committee may allocate to \$70 million. It is anticipated that Assemblyman David Chiu will introduce legislation in the 2019 legislative session to expand the existing State Low Income Housing Tax Credit to \$500 million. If expanded this potentially could leverage an additional



\$1 billion in federal resources that would otherwise go unclaimed. Once introduced it is also recommended to advocate for an increase the allocation for farmworker housing projects from \$500,000 to \$25,000,000 per year. Increasing the amount of State credits would have a positive impact on the overall Tax Credit program by reducing the amount of Federal credits needed for a project. Currently for a project to be financially feasible state tax credits are combined with federal tax credits, which provide financing for three to four project funded annually in the Inland Empire (San Bernardino, Imperial and Riverside Counties). An expansion of the State's Low Income Housing Tax Credit directly responds to California's shortfall of affordable homes and continued rise in rents and poverty rate by leveraging hundreds of millions in federal and private funds to create thousands of new affordable homes and well-paying jobs.

## SOURCE OF INCOME PROTECTION FOR SECTION 8 VOUCHERS (STATE)

### ISSUE

Currently the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) source of income protection has created a barrier of entry for families seeking a place to live with Section 8 Vouchers. The ability to discriminate simply by the source of income is exacerbating the affordable housing crisis in the County of Riverside.

### ACTION

The County of Riverside supports the expansion of FEHA's source of income protection to include income paid to a housing owner or landlord on behalf of a tenant, including federal, state, or local public assistance and federal, state, or local housing subsidies, such as federal housing assistance vouchers issued under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937.

### BACKGROUND

FEHA prohibits employment and housing discrimination based upon such characteristics as race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, ancestry, familial status, or disability, and provides that it is a civil right to be able to pursue and maintain housing or employment without facing discrimination.

In recent years the Legislature has expanded the protective scope of FEHA to prohibit housing discrimination based on a person's source of income, at first for a limited period of time with SB 1098 (Burton, Ch. 590, Stats. 1999), and then permanently with SB 1145 (Burton, Ch. 568, Stats 2004). Beyond the general prohibition against discriminating on the basis of one's source of income, FEHA also declares it unlawful to use a financial or income standard in the rental of housing that fail to account for the aggregate income of co-tenants on the same basis as is given married persons, or to use a financial or income standard in assessing eligibility for the rental of housing that is not based on the portion of the rent paid by a tenant when the tenant is the recipient of a government rental subsidy. The Legislature has limited FEHA's source of income protection to include only that "lawful, verifiable income paid directly to a tenant or paid to a representative of a tenant," and has stated that "a landlord is not considered a representative of a tenant" for the purpose of this provision. (Gov. Code Sec. 12955 (p).)

The County of Riverside Housing Authority has seen a growing number of recipient of the Housing Choice Voucher, commonly known as Section 8, unable to use their voucher. This has resulted in more homeless families who have a voucher. An apartment owner in the City of Indio, that has more than 30 Section 8 recipients living there, has stated that they will no longer rent to Section 8 families. Additionally, the ability of landlords to discriminate based on the source of income results in seniors, veterans and families having to move into less desirable areas as those are the only landlords that will accept a Section 8 voucher.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (FEDERAL)

### ISSUE

1. Increased annual appropriations for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to allow grantees to effectively plan, administer and utilize funding allocations;
2. Regulatory reform of the CDBG program to ensure long-term sustainability and effectiveness; and
3. Supplemental CDBG appropriations to encourage and expand use of CDBG for economic development and infrastructure revitalization.

### ACTION

1. Oppose the drastic reductions to CDBG funding as previously proposed by the Administration;
2. Support increased appropriations for CDBG to assist state and local government's efforts to address chronic poverty, unemployment, and deteriorating infrastructure;
3. Support regulatory reform of the CDBG Entitlement Program to modify thresholds for grantee entitlement status to ensure long-term viability; and
4. Support supplemental CDBG appropriations for economic and infrastructure development activities and modify public benefit/job creation requirements and other regulatory requirements.

### BACKGROUND

**Stable Funding:** Previous funding reductions together with stagnant funding levels in recent years continue to leave the CDBG program at its lowest funding level, when adjusted for inflation, since the program's beginning. It is imperative that the funding for CDBG remain stable, or preferably increase, to account for increasing program administrative costs that must be incurred by grantees, and sub-recipients, and HUD to appropriately and effectively administer these valuable programs.

**Entitlement Reform:** The CDBG regulations must be modified to change the "formula" or thresholds for grantees to attain "entitlement" status. In 1984, there were 795 grantees dividing up a \$3.486 billion CDBG allocation. For FY 2017, there are more than 1250 grantees dividing up \$3 billion. The effectiveness and viability of the CDBG program is at risk and cannot be sustained. Therefore, the County should advocate for legislation that corrects and adjusts the number of grantees to ensure program viability.

**Economic Development and Infrastructure:** Encourage special supplemental appropriations of CDBG funds aimed at sustainable, community-based economic development, as well as infrastructure revitalization. The funding would be used to target job creating economic

development and infrastructure improvement activities in areas with higher percentages of poverty, unemployment, and other barriers to economic opportunity, and inadequate and deteriorating infrastructure. To encourage grantee participation, CDBG regulations pertaining to job creation (CDBG \$ per job), public benefit, and other performance issues need to be amended.

## HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS (FEDERAL)

### ISSUE

There are over 73,000 households registered for the Section 8 waiting list in Riverside County and an additional 418 chronic homeless individuals awaiting an affordable or supportive housing unit. Riverside County's Section 8 program is at maximum capacity and cannot serve any additional households.

### ACTION

- ❖ Urge Congress to increase funding to the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8).
- ❖ Replicate the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Program model to provide housing and services to the chronically homeless through the use of targeted Section 8 vouchers.

### BACKGROUND

The Housing Choice Voucher program also known as "Section 8" provides resources essential to ensuring that vulnerable seniors, families, veterans, and people with disabilities have access to decent, safe, and sanitary affordable housing to help stabilize and improve the quality of their lives.

More than 5 million people in more than 2 million low-income families use vouchers to help pay for housing that they find in the private market. About half of the households using vouchers are seniors or people with disabilities; most of the rest are working families with children. These households have incomes of about \$16,100, on average, well below the poverty line.

Vouchers sharply reduce homelessness and other hardships, lift more than 1 million people out of poverty, and give families an opportunity to move to safer, higher income neighborhoods. These effects, in turn, are linked to educational, developmental, and health benefits that can improve children's long term prospects and reduce costs in other public programs.

Vouchers specifically designated for the 418 chronically homeless individuals provides an effective means to quickly end homelessness for these individuals. Supported services would be provided off-site through existing social service programs. In 2016, Riverside County reached a "functional zero", eliminating veteran homelessness. The same can be achieved through these targeted vouchers.

## LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDITS (FEDERAL)

### ISSUE

The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program is the nation's most successful tool in addressing the severe shortage of affordable housing. S. 548 makes significant strides in expanding and strengthening the program.

#### **ACTION**

Urge the U.S. Senate to adopt S.548/ H.R. 1661.

#### **BACKGROUND**

For over 30 years the LIHTC program has been a model program in bringing public/private partnerships together to produce affordable housing.

Since 1986 the program has financed approximately 3,000,000 apartments and provided over 6.7 million low-income households, including special needs populations with housing that is affordable. S. 548/H.R. 1661 would change the LIHTC program in the following ways:

- ❖ **Expand the Housing Credit:** Congress has not permanently increased the Housing Credit authority in the past 17 years, which has caused much needed developments to be denied funding. S. 548/H.R. 1661 proposes to increase the Housing Credit allocation by 50%, phased over a five-year period.
- ❖ **Provide income flexibility for rehabilitation projects:** Current law does not take into consideration existing tenants for a rehabilitation project who are over the allowable income limits when determining eligible basis, often times making it infeasible to rehabilitate an existing tax credit project. S. 548/H.R. 1661 allows tenants who fall under 120% AMI to be counted in determining credit basis as long as the project was a previous tax credit project and the household was determined eligible at the time of occupancy.
- ❖ **Increase the amount of Housing Credits for developments that serve extremely low-income households:** Developments that serve households whose incomes do not exceed 30% of the AMI must substantially reduce or eliminate any debt of the project due to receiving far less rental income from tenants. S. 548 would provide a 50% basis boost for low-income developments that serve 20% or more of their units to homeless populations or individuals whose incomes do not exceed 30% AMI.
- ❖ **Establishes a Minimum 4% Credit Rate:** When the Housing Credit was first created in 1986, Congress set the 9 percent and 4 percent Credit rates to reflect market conditions of the time, but the rates were floating – fluctuating monthly according to a formula related to federal borrowing rates. Consequently, the applicable Credit rates historically have not been 4 percent and 9 percent. Recently, as interest rates have sunk to historic lows, Credit rates have been much lower than originally intended, resulting in less equity available to build affordable housing using the Housing Credit.

Recognizing the issue of declining rates on the program, Congress permanently enacted a minimum 9 percent Credit rate in 2015 with bipartisan support. However, the floating 4 percent Credit rate still limits the equity available to build affordable rental homes. Establishing a 4 percent Credit rate will allow for more subsidy to build affordable housing.

## WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (FEDERAL)

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### ISSUE

Funding for workforce education and training programs continues to be underfunded.

### ACTION

Provide full funding for workforce and career and technical education.

### BACKGROUND

Riverside County has a less skilled and educated workforce than our neighboring counties. This in turn limits economic development opportunities and impacts our residents' ability to obtain high quality jobs that provide pathways to the middle class. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) helps job seekers and workers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and matches employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.

Congress passed WIOA, the first legislative reform of the public workforce system in more than 15 years, by a wide bipartisan majority. Over 15,000 Riverside County residents turn to these programs annually to obtain training and jobs.

## SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (FEDERAL)

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### ISSUE

Youth unemployment remains at a high rate nationally and in Riverside County.

### ACTION

Provide funding for summer employment programs for low-income and disengaged youth.

### BACKGROUND

The national unemployment rate has dropped significantly since the recession, yet youth unemployment remains at a high rate nationally and in Riverside County. Youth employment increases household income for low-income families; provides opportunities for skills development and career exploration; and increases community engagement. A re-implementation of the "summer youth employment program" rooted in career and industry sector pathways would be of significant benefit to high poverty communities and households.

## SHORT HAUL RAIL SERVICE (FEDERAL)

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### ISSUE

There is an increasingly urgent need to reduce road congestion associated with the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, the busiest port complex in the United States. The solution most likely to succeed is the creation of short-haul rail service that would transport containers between the ports and Inland Southern California.

## ACTION

Support for the creation of Federal and State incentives to induce railroad operators to commence short-haul rail service and invest in related improvements such as intermodal facilities and rail/transfer yards.

## BACKGROUND

Most rail shipments are done over long distances--the average rail length of haul is more than 900 miles, a figure that is growing by about 1.6% per year. It was not always this way, but over time the speed and flexibility called for by short distance freight movement lead to trucking industry domination of this sector. The potential for a significant short haul rail market still exists, as truck costs and road congestion have increased, as has the level of concern related to air quality impacts related to goods movement.

Shippers, railroads, and governments have periodically sought to expand short-haul rail's market share or find other solutions that would reduce reliance on trucks for movements out of the port complex. These efforts have been met with essentially no success, and the cancellation of BNSF Railways' Southern California International Gateway (SCIG) project in Los Angeles following a CEQA challenge only exacerbates the potential problems. SCIG was expected to reduce current and future truck traffic within the South Coast Air Basin by approximately 1.3 million trips annually.

The primary difficulty in establishing short haul service on the part of the two Class I railroads (BNSF Railway and Union Pacific Railroad) serving the region is the extremely low margins currently afforded by short haul service, particularly in the face of introducing a type of rail service that is likely to be complex from an operational standpoint. Complicating matters is the cost associated with operations through the Alameda Corridor, which likely contributes to the fact that the Corridor is operating at just 25% of its capacity.

Were short haul rail service to be introduced, there are a number of benefits that would likely accrue to the Inland Southern California region, including:

- ❖ Reduced truck traffic along the region's freeways, which are heavily impacted by truck-related congestion
- ❖ Improved air quality
- ❖ Investment and job growth related to the creation of new rail/transfer yards and intermodal facilities



## FLOOD CONTROL

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## WATER QUALITY RESOURCES & INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING (FEDERAL)

### ISSUE

Promote legislation to fund the planning, construction, operation and maintenance of integrated water resource projects, and support legislation that would eliminate conflicting State regulations that hinder integrated water and flood risk management.

### ACTION

- ❖ Ensure that the implementation of the Clean Water Act, Water Resources Development Act and the Porter-Cologne Act benefits Riverside County issues, projects and programs.
- ❖ Support clarification of and oppose expansions to the definition of "Waters of the US."
- ❖ Support funding and completion of vital flood and water infrastructure projects.
- ❖ Support legislation that would amend Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to provide a narrow exemption for maintenance activities involving the removal of sediment, debris and vegetation from flood control channels and basins.

### BACKGROUND

New methodologies include greener approaches with less impervious surfaces that allow stormwater to percolate into the ground, recharge aquifers and reduce urban runoff. A significant challenge for many municipalities is the ability to address existing infrastructure that was not optimally designed for resource management and to identify funding sources and partners.

## WATERSHED MANAGEMENT (FEDERAL)

### ISSUE

The Stormwater Resources Planning Act created a new framework for municipalities to put stormwater to beneficial use and mitigate impacts. The bill encouraged municipalities to manage stormwater as a source for water supply, with attention to flood prevention, stormwater pollution mitigation and habitat restoration.

### ACTION

- ❖ Support grant funding opportunities at the state and federal levels.
- ❖ Support planning efforts and projects that promote multiple benefits to our region, such as improving stormwater quality, increasing water supplies, and the provision of flood management, environmental benefits to the community.

### BACKGROUND

The Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Prop 1) was approved by California voters in the general election on November 4, 2014. Among other funds, Prop 1 provided \$200 million for a Storm Water Grant Program, which provides matching grants to



public agencies, nonprofit organizations, public utilities, state and federally recognized Native American tribes, and mutual water companies for multi-benefit stormwater management projects.

## UNFUNDED MANDATES- REGULATORY REFORM & STREAMLINING (FEDERAL & STATE)

### ISSUE

Current federal, state and local regulations treat stormwater as a pollutant with strict management requirements, and these regulations are not cost effective in addressing the underlying environmental, flood control and water supply goals for stormwater.

### ACTION

- ❖ Support streamlining and simplification of regulatory review processes, permitting and oversight at state and federal levels and increased coordination among state and federal agencies.
- ❖ Support rulemaking that minimizes burdensome requirements and legal obstacles, takes into consideration the various environments of the state and minimizes duplication of regulations by multiple agencies.
- ❖ Support evaluation procedures by the State Water Board to estimate the cost and economic feasibility of compliance with MS4 permits.
- ❖ Engage other permit holders, such as agriculture, businesses and water Districts, to promote efficient and cost effective implementation measures for stormwater regulations.

### BACKGROUND

Currently, there are not enough funding sources for stormwater management, and local governments are faced with competing for sources from the general fund. As increasingly complex regulations are layered over existing ones, the growing mountain of red tape generates skyrocketing compliance costs that stifle business investment and harm consumers.

## WATERBOND FUNDING & INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS (STATE)

### ISSUE

Challenges arising from persistent drought and the threat of heavy rains highlight the need for flood protection and water conservation projects in Riverside County. Existing water bond funding, such as Proposition 1 and 68, largely focuses flood control resources on northern California and Central Valley. Stormwater grants come with many regulatory preconditions and overly complicated application processes that unduly reduce the value of grant funds.

## **ACTION**

Future bonds should include implementation language promoting "fair share" funding based on current population/land use for grant funds to increase funding in southern California. Grant application, award and administration processes should be streamlined. This could be achieved by enabling local leaders, through Integrated Regional Water Management programs, to prioritize local projects, and secure grant funds that provide real 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 offered a significant funding for infrastructure improvements, the California Water Action Plan objective to deliver "a more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure" was not successfully realized for flood control and stormwater management 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. Grant applications can sometimes approach \$50,000-100,000 to prepare, creating entry burdens for local governments and agencies, particularly in areas with disadvantaged communities.

# **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SHORTENED CONSULTATION PERIOD FOR MAINTENANCE (FEDERAL)**

## **ISSUE**

Endangered Species Act Section 7 Regulations protecting endangered/threatened species are too vague. Interpretations of the time allowed to complete the Section 7 consultation can be lengthened by regulators. This may prevent or delay necessary actions to ensure the resilience of existing flood facilities and provide intended and expected public health and safety benefits.

## **ACTION**

The prescribed time frames in Section 7(b) of the Federal Endangered Species Water Act should clearly define the time limit to complete the Section 7 consultation. The time frames should be shortened for emergency work and maintenance of existing flood control facilities, and activities that are consistent with an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan.

## **BACKGROUND**

Section 7 and federal regulations poorly define the time limits to finish the consultation process, and do not provide emergency work or maintenance exemptions. Section 7 and the related regulations do not provide shortened consultation periods for signatories to adopt Habitat Conservation Plans such as the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. Lengthy Section 7 consultation periods can delay necessary flood control infrastructure to protect public health and safety.

## ACCOUNTABILITY FOR OPERATORS OF SUBSURFACE INSTALLATIONS (STATE)

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### 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 noncompliance 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.

## NON-FEDERAL IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERAL PROJECTS (FEDERAL)

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### ISSUE

Federal water resources projects are not being planned or constructed efficiently. Local sponsors and communities are exposed to flooding and other issues for years while the federal process drags on and in many cases, the projects are much more expensive than a similar project constructed at the local level.

### ACTION

As a result of project delays and projects over budget as developed by federal agencies, Congress has authorized a number of sponsor initiatives to streamline project construction and limit cost overruns. The leading provision which was authorized by Congress in 2014, yet is only being used for the first time by a sponsor this year, is Section 1043 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2014, entitled Non-Federal Implementation Pilot Program. The program allows for the Corps of Engineers to transfer federal funds to complete design or construction of an element or elements of a federal project to the sponsor for the local sponsor to manage the work. The provision requires that once the federal government transfers these funds to complete the element or elements of the project to finish construction, the federal government has completed its financial responsibilities and any cost overruns are the responsibility of the local sponsor. This approach of allowing the local sponsor to use its

expertise and efficiencies to complete projects has the potential for not only reducing total project costs, but also provides an opportunity to provide projects and their benefits sooner to the community.

#### BACKGROUND

For many years, local sponsors for Corps projects have seen projects not be managed efficiently or with regard to cost or time. In the meantime, local sponsors have been efficiently advancing their own local projects with accountability to their public boards and communities. Local sponsors' experience and expertise on their own and in working with the Corps and other agencies has grown significantly. This provision, although will not be used by all sponsors, can be a significant benefit to those sponsors who manage their own programs and who have expertise. Most importantly, it can have the effect of producing project benefits sooner and at a better price than the traditional approach.

## FUNDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERAL PROJECTS (FEDERAL)

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#### ISSUE

Support funding for federal construction projects and project rehabilitation assistance program.

#### ACTION

Promote funding for US Army Corps of Engineers Murrieta Creek and Santa Ana Mainstem projects and the Public Law 84-99 Program.

#### BACKGROUND

The Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District has two ongoing federal flood control projects, namely Murrieta Creek Flood Control, Environmental Restoration and Recreation Project and the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project.

The Murrieta Creek Project consists of a 7.5-mile-long greenbelt channel beginning near the westerly extension of Temecula Parkway southerly of Old Town Temecula, extending northwesterly to Tenaja Road in Murrieta that would be constructed in four distinct phases and provide flood hazard reduction, an expanded riparian corridor and both active and passive recreational opportunities. Due to a low benefit-cost ratio, the project has not garnered the necessary federal investment necessary to complete the project.

The Santa Ana River Mainstem Project (SARP) has been designed to provide urban flood protection to growing communities within the counties of Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino. When complete, the project will provide flood protection to areas susceptible to floods ranging from 100-year to 190-year frequencies for people and businesses within the three-county area. Calculations indicate that without the SARP improvements, the most severe flood likely to occur along the river could inundate more than 170 square miles to a depth of three feet and inflict more than \$15 billion in economic damages. Continued funding is necessary in order to complete the project.

In addition, the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District has several facilities enrolled, or proposed for enrollment, in the US Army Corps of Engineer's Public Law 84-99 Rehabilitation and Inspection Program. This program provides federal support for the restoration of facilities that are damaged or destroyed by storm flows. The District has secured funding for repairs to a portion of the Santa Ana River levees damaged in the 2010 storms and expects to request assistance for the restoration of debris basins impacted by the 2018 Holy Fire. The District will continue to advocate to have our remaining facilities added to the PL84-99 Program, ensure that PL84-99 funds for the Santa Ana River levees are quickly utilized for repairs and to support requests for future support to restore District facilities impacted by debris flows and other storm damage.



## PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

## SOCIAL SERVICES & CUSTOMER CONFIDENTIALITY (STATE)

### ISSUE

Safeguards are needed to protect the visual image of customers while visiting social services offices.

### ACTION

- ❖ Support legislation that adds protections to statute of the visual image of social services customers while in social services lobbies.

### BACKGROUND

A member of the public entered the public area of a DPSS facility and made a 15-minute video recording of the lobby. The recording captured the images of several DPSS customers which included a family with a small child and a customer completing paperwork. The individual stated that making the recording in public areas is a First Amendment protected activity. The recording was published on social media.

Statute provides safeguards to protect applicants and recipients of social services programs against identification, exploitation or embarrassment that could result in the release of information identifying them as having applied for or having received public assistance. These safeguards only include protections of an individual's data. Safeguards of the visual image of customers while in DPSS lobbies are needed to provide further protections of identification, exploitation or embarrassment.

## CHILDRENS SERVICES FOSTER CARE PAYMENTS & SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) (FEDERAL)

### ISSUE

Though the federal Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) includes provisions allowing for Title IV-E Foster Care maintenance payments to licensed residential family-based treatment facilities, access to these treatment facilities for child welfare-involved families is generally difficult without State licensing and established rates.

### ACTION

Support legislation that directs the State to establish Title IV-E licensing requirements and rates for residential treatment facilities.

### BACKGROUND

Federal legislation passed in 2018 provides an opportunity to minimize childhood trauma and support positive outcomes for youth and families impacted by substance abuse. FFPSA includes a provision allowing issuance of Title IV-E foster care maintenance payments to licensed residential family-based treatment facilities. FFPSA also allows parents and children to be jointly placed into such facilities together.

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) issued guidance clarifying that licensed residential family-based treatment facilities for substance abuse are not considered a child

care institution, as defined under Section 472(c) of Title IV-E. As such, while the facility must meet state licensure requirements, there is no requirement to meet Title IV-E licensing and background check requirements. State legislation is needed to align to the federal program.

## SOCIAL SERVICE BUDGET ITEMS (STATE & FEDERAL)

### ISSUE

Social Services programs require increased funding to ensure benefits are available to those in need. Increased funding is also needed for the administration of programs to ensure timely delivery of benefits.

### ACTION

Support legislation that provides funding increases to social service programs and their administration.

### BACKGROUND

The following, though not exhaustive, provides examples of the need for additional funding:

Disaster CalFresh (DCF) Benefits – DCF benefits are issued in the event of a presidentially declared disaster to quickly meet the needs of disaster victims. In 2017 California counties experienced an unprecedented number of Federally declared disasters, resulting in six (6) California counties issuing DCF or mass benefit replacements.

Currently, the electronic benefit systems do not fully support the issuance of DCF benefits and required reporting. As a result, manual processes are required taking from time needed to focus on processing DCF applications and staffing Emergency Operation Centers.

With funding the DCF program can be automated to:

- ensure benefits are issued more quickly and accurately (prevention of duplicate aid)
- enable the County to more efficiently provide mandated reporting
- enable cross-county assistance to disaster impacted counties, and
- reduce the administrative costs of issuing DCF benefits.

Expansion of the Medi-Cal Aged and Disabled Program – Disproportionate Medicaid (Medi-Cal) share-of-cost for the aged (65 and older) and disabled population under the non-Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) program when compared to those with similar income levels receiving MAGI MC benefits.

Funding increases will allow more of the County's aged and disabled population to receive needed medical services.

### Caseload Study and Housing Navigation Services

Foster youth need specialized support and assistance to secure eligible housing and to meet their transitional goals. However, resources are insufficient to support effective practices in conjunction with the Extended Foster Care Program (EFC).





RUHS-MEDICAL CENTER  
& CLINICS

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## PRESERVE HEALTH CARE ACCESS, QUALITY, AFFORDABILITY / INTEGRATION (FEDERAL)

### ACTION

- ❖ Preserve Medicaid Expansion: The 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) launched January 2014, and has been successful in reducing the rates of uninsured in Riverside County while alleviating some of the cost burden associated with caring for the uninsured.
- ❖ Support increase in Medicaid reimbursements in California, which has one of the lowest rates of reimbursement in the country.
- ❖ Support policies and legislation that expand access to health coverage and that streamlines Medicaid (Medi-Cal) enrollment and retention.
- ❖ Support expansion of access to dental care and preventive services.
- ❖ Support Medi-Cal reimbursement for medical and behavioral health services provided to incarcerated individuals.
- ❖ Support funding models to promote access to forensic examinations for cases of domestic violence/strangulation.

## PROMOTE HEALTH AND DISEASE PREVENTION, INNOVATION, MEDICAL EDUCATION (FEDERAL)

### ACTION

- ❖ Support preservation and increase in funding for Federally Qualified Health Centers, including state legislation to allow reimbursement for mental health and clinical services on the same day.
- ❖ Support reimbursement for innovation and practices that improve access and efficiency, such as doctor-patient telephone appointments (virtual visits).
- ❖ Support renewal of the Medicaid (Medi-Cal) waiver in 2020, in follow up to the PRIME waiver, which expires 2020.
- ❖ Effect legislation that would allow teaching institutions to be reimbursed for the graduate medical education as a percentage of Medicaid reimbursements and not just Medicare, as many public hospitals are teaching hospitals with a large majority of Medicaid patients.
- ❖ Support continuance of Whole Person Care project and similar initiatives aimed at integration of behavioral health, substance use treatment, primary care and social services with better patient outcomes
- ❖ Support policies and legislation that improve chronic pain management and reduce inappropriate prescribing of opioids.
- ❖ Support efforts to create new pathways and incentives to inspire physicians and health providers to locate and serve in underserved areas "healthcare deserts."

## OPPOSE REFORM PROPOSALS/POLICIES THAT NEGATIVELY IMPACT SERVICES (FEDERAL)

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### ACTION

- ❖ Protect the 340B federal drug program from any legislative or administrative reduction as 340B protects patients and communities from high drug prices.
- ❖ Delay cuts to DSH funding and supplemental payments to safety net hospitals.
- ❖ Oppose efforts to change the definition of Public Charge and any initiative that would restrict or remove access to health coverage and services
- ❖ Oppose cuts to Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement
- ❖ Oppose efforts to weaken the ACA



## RUHS-PUBLIC HEALTH

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## CALIFORNIA CHILDRENS SERVICES PROGRAM (STATE)

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### ACTION

Support strategies to streamline funding and program complexities of the California Children's Services (CCS) program in order to meet the demands of the complex medical care and treatment needs for children in Riverside County with certain physically disabling conditions. Monitor the CCS program and seek protections against increased county program costs. Oppose any efforts to require counties to provide funding for the CCS program beyond their Maintenance of Effort (MOE).

### BACKGROUND

The California Children's Services (CCS) program provides diagnostic and treatment services, medical case management, and physical and occupational therapy services to children under the age of 21 with CCS-eligible medical conditions. In Riverside County, the CCS program is administered as a partnership between the county and the California Department of Health Care Services. The growth in CCS caseload and program costs has steadily increased over time.

## CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION & WELLNESS PROMOTION (FEDERAL)

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### ACTION

- ❖ Support a dedicated funding stream to fund preventive health services or activities that improve community health outcomes, such as proposals to develop a statewide funding source for public health prevention and wellness.
- ❖ Advocate for flexibility for California to design prevention programs to encourage the provision of base funding to state and local health departments with additional funding available on a competitive basis.
- ❖ Encourage the allocation of new revenue streams in an equitable manner across all local health jurisdictions. Seek to improve nutrition, obesity and fitness education programs as well as health literacy in California's population, and reduce food insecurity.

### BACKGROUND

In 2010 as part of the federal Affordable Care Act, Congress created the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF) that was designed to expand and sustain the necessary infrastructure to prevent disease, detect it early, and manage conditions before they become severe. This fund created an unprecedented opportunity for local health departments to augment and expand existing chronic disease programs or to participate in new programs to address longstanding chronic disease issues in their communities. However, over the years, the PPHF has become increasingly vulnerable and has been diverted to fund other purposes, such as the 21st Century Cures Act passed in December 2016 and a shift of \$750 million to the CHIP program in January 2018. Congress also cut an additional \$1.35 billion over ten years from PPHF in February 2018. Chronic diseases in Riverside County, including

heart disease, cancer, lung disease, stroke, diabetes and asthma, continue to impact our communities, particularly in low-income communities and communities of color.

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL (FEDERAL)

### ACTION

Support increased and flexible state and federal funding and resources directed at building the capacity of local public health departments to combat and control communicable diseases. Oppose efforts to reduce state and federal funding streams which would create cost shifts to local health departments.

### BACKGROUND

The control of infectious disease, through immunizations, surveillance, disease investigation, laboratory testing, and response activities has long been a fundamental and statutorily required responsibility assigned to local government public health agencies. However, resources to support these essential activities have been largely insufficient. Preventing and controlling communicable diseases such as sexually transmitted diseases, seasonal influenza, vaccine preventable diseases such as measles and pertussis, hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis remain ongoing challenges for local health departments, including Riverside County. In addition, there is little capacity to respond to new and re-emerging infectious diseases that may impact our residents and visitors.



TRANSPORTATION LAND  
MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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## SAFE COUNTY ROADS (STATE)

### ISSUE

Within the last five years, the County has experienced a significant increase in traffic volumes, and a 21% increase in fatal collisions and 46% increase in injury collisions. The collisions have been primarily caused by distracted driving, driving under the influence, and maneuvers such as speeding and unsafe passing; it is estimated that 94% of accidents are caused by human error.

Countywide, traffic volume has grown significantly, and the County is actively working on road widening projects and other measures to address the need for increased capacity. However, given that these projects will take significant time to complete, the County must take steps to enhance driver safety now.

### ACTION

- ❖ Pursuant to CA Streets & Highways Code Section 97.1, pursue designation of certain segments of Ramona Expressway, Gilman Springs Road, Cajalco Road, and Grand Avenue within unincorporated areas of the County as Safety Awareness Zones.

### BACKGROUND

The Transportation Department is dedicated to providing the citizens of Riverside County with improved quality of life and orderly economic development through provision and management of a safe, efficient and convenient transportation system. The Department collaborates with the CHP, Caltrans and other County Departments to reduce collision rates on County roads through measures such as capital improvements, enhanced enforcement, and education and awareness. Designation of sections of Ramona Expressway, Gilman Springs Road, Cajalco Road, and Grand Avenue as Safety Awareness Zones would introduce an additional tool for regional collaboration and measure of enforcement that would assist in adjusting behavior toward safer driving practices.





## WASTE RESOURCES

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## 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 or that additional fees may be imposed.

### 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).
- ❖ Oppose any increase in State fees that do not directly fund local infrastructure projects on a dollar for dollar basis.

### BACKGROUND

Local jurisdictions in California are currently mandated to divert 50% of all solid waste from disposal in landfills. 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.

## 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 hard-to-handle 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 products that do not necessarily fall into the categories 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 diversion is estimated to be 65% and recycling 50% (CalRecycle AB 341 Report). Materials suitable for composting, mulch, anaerobic digestion, or other organics recovery strategies account for about 40% of California's disposed waste stream. This includes food, vegetative materials, clean wood materials, and compostable paper (CalRecycle 2014 Characterization Study). 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 that are not appropriate for these other diversion programs.

## DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOST FACILITIES (STATE)

### ISSUE

Development of Compost Facilities

### 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 and meet the required 50% diversion rate.

### BACKGROUND

Compost – The product resulting from the controlled biological decomposition of organic material which can enhance soils and decrease the amount of solid waste disposed in landfills.

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 40% 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. In terms of marketing, the industry's rates have to be competitive with landfill rates in order to capture more feedstock. Products also have to meet the requirements of potential users and convince them that the application of compost will be of benefit to their soils (and crops), and that they are an adequate replacement for chemical fertilizers.

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 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%.



## VETERANS

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## CALIFORNIA VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS FUNDING (STATE)

### ISSUE

Local assistance funding

### ACTION

- ❖ Support legislation 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). Current State funding is now at \$5.6 million annually.

### BACKGROUND

Currently, the counties pick up the majority of the funding. As part of this legislative effort, the CACVSO will continue to educate the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and the public on the importance and value of County Veterans Service Officers.

## STATE GRANTS FOR VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS (STATE)

### ISSUE

Awarding of state grants

### ACTION

- ❖ Support Legislation that would award state grants through CalVet to veterans service organizations and veterans service agencies that provide claims assistance and outreach to California Veterans.

## VETERANS LICENSE PLATE (STATE)

### ISSUE

Restoration of the veterans only specialized license

### ACTION

- ❖ Support legislation that would restore the Veterans only specialized license plate, so that there would be two plates available for sale- (Veteran & Honoring Veterans)

## GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (STATE)

### ISSUE

USDVA Veterans claims backlog

### ACTION

- ❖ Support legislative, regulatory or policy changes that would create a federal/state/local government partnership to reduce the USDVA veteran's claims backlog and expand outreach services to veterans.

## ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO VETERAN MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS (FEDERAL)

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### ISSUE

Increase access for County Veterans Service Officers to United States Department of Veterans affairs information systems.

### ACTION

- ❖ Support legislation that would provide increased access for CVSOs to USDVA information systems (i.e., VBMS, VACOLS, SHARE, MAPD, etc.)

### BACKGROUND

Records access was reduced following a hacking/ electronic security breach. Enhancing this access will result in better, timelier services to claimants and reduce the workload in USDVA call centers.

## ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES (STATE & FEDERAL)

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### BACKGROUND

- ❖ Support legislation that would include "Blue Water Navy" veterans into the set of veterans with presumed exposure to Agent Orange.
- ❖ Support legislation that would provide for payment of Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) for all military retirees, regardless of the percentage of their service-connected disabilities.
- ❖ Support legislation that would eliminate Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset.
- ❖ Support legislation that would eliminate the requirement for war-time service as an eligibility requirement for non-service connected and death pension.



