

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



ITEM: 3.2  
(ID # 11661)

**MEETING DATE:**  
Tuesday, January 14, 2020

**FROM :** EXECUTIVE OFFICE:

**SUBJECT:** EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Approval of the County of Riverside 2020 Legislative Platform, All Districts. [\$0]

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

1. Approve amendments to the 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

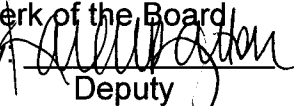
  
Brian Nestande 1/9/2020

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**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

On motion of Supervisor Washington, seconded by Supervisor Jeffries and duly carried, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Washington, Perez and Hewitt  
Nays: None  
Absent: Spiegel  
Date: January 14, 2020  
xc: EO

Kecia R. 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>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>NET COUNTY COST</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A</b>			<b>Budget Adjustment: No</b>	
			<b>For Fiscal Year: 19/20</b>	

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

**BACKGROUND:**

**Summary**

In accordance with Policy A-27, 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 County's Legislative Platform is the official policy agenda for a term of two years and amendments are added as needed. This 2020 Legislative Platform consist of last year's entrees and the new submittals.

The 2020 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.

The full version of the Legislative Platform has been attached to this Form 11. The 2020 Legislative Platform will be accessible through the County of Riverside's Legislative Affairs website.

**ATTACHMENTS**

**2020 Legislative Platform**

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# 2020 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



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# LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION ROSTER

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 UNITED STATES CONGRESS 



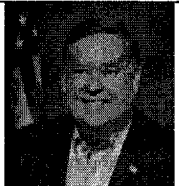
SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN

*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*

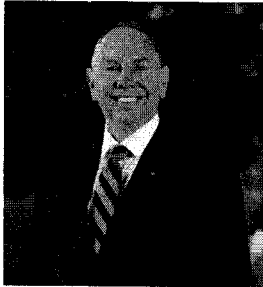
VACANT

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.*

Vacant  
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>ASSEMBLYMEMBER <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>ASSEMBLYMEMBER <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>ASSEMBLYMEMBER <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>ASSEMBLYMEMBER <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>ASSEMBLYMEMBER <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>ASSEMBLYMEMBER <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>ASSEMBLYMEMBER <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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Kevin Jeffries  
First District

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

District1@rcbos.org  
(951) 955-1010

*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

*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.*

District2@rcbos.org  
(951) 955-1020

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

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Chuck Washington  
Third District

*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.*

District3@rcbos.org  
(951) 955-1030

## **BOARD CHAIR**



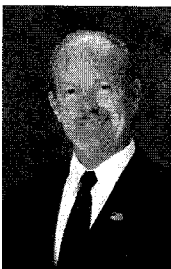
V. Manuel Perez  
Fourth District

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

District4@rcbos.org  
(760) 863-8211

*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

*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.*

District5@rcbos.org  
(951) 955-1050

*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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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.

Per Board Policy A-27 Legislation Coordination, the County's Legislative Platform is the official policy agenda for a term of two years and an amendment will be performed towards the end of the first year to incorporate only new submittals. This 2020 Legislative Platform consist of last year's entrees and the new submittals.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 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.

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)

### 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.
- ❖ Work with Department of Interior for either a land exchange, lease agreement, or acquisition of Federal property near the Salton Sea.

## 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.

#### 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



## 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 (RCDCSS) into parity with other child support agencies around the state.

### ACTION

- ❖ Support proposals that result in increased State funding to RCDCSS 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, RCDCSS 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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## OPPORTUNITY ZONE STATE TAX CONFORMITY FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING, CLEAN ENERGY, AND COMMUNITY SPONSORED PROJECTS (STATE) **AMENDMENT**

### ISSUE

State of California Opportunity Zone Tax Conformity

### ACTION

Support a State of California legislative framework that provides tax conformity for the Opportunity zone program with federal incentives. It is anticipated that a legislative proposal will be introduced during the next legislative session.

### BACKGROUND

The Opportunity Zone incentive is a bipartisan law that garnered more than 100 Democratic and Republican co-sponsors in Congress interested in attracting new investment into struggling urban, suburban and rural communities around the country. California has identified 879 census tracts as Qualified Opportunity Zones, representing 4.2 million individuals, or 10.7% of the state population. Riverside County currently has 49 census tracts designated as Opportunity Zones.

California is one of only four U.S. states that has yet to adopt state-level tax conformity to the federal Opportunity Zone incentive. The added benefit of state conformity is essential to the competitiveness and viability of the Opportunity Zone incentive in California, particularly in areas like the Inland Southern California region that traditionally struggles to attract patient private investment at levels commensurate to larger metros. We support the Governor's desire to focus conformity on affordable housing and clean energy projects. However, we believe conformity should also be available to other worthy projects that communities are eager to see happen, including new health care clinics, rural broadband, growth capital for small businesses, new teacher, workforce and transit-oriented housing, and grocery stores in food deserts. We request the State provide discretion for localities to designate additional project categories to be eligible for favorable state tax treatment.

## Support for Local and Regional Economic Development Capacity – (State) **AMENDMENT**

### ISSUE

State Support for Local Economic Development

### ACTION

Support the establishment of economic development grant and support programs that augment local efforts in impoverished communities to enhance market forces.

### BACKGROUND

Successful economic development efforts including Opportunity Zones, business attraction and retention, and international trade efforts will require a steady pipeline of quality projects. In many low-income communities, there is a persistent lack of funding, expertise, and support systems to nurture promising projects through early stages of development. Far too often, market forces alone are not enough to move these projects forward in a way that can catalyze maximum economic and community benefit. Where state and local priorities align, the State should augment local efforts and accelerate quality projects to 'investment ready' status. This could take the form of predevelopment grants and loans, technical assistance programs, and fellowship opportunities.

## EB-5 Permanent Reauthorization - (Federal)

AMENDMENT

### ISSUE

EB-5 permanent reauthorization.

### ACTION

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

### BACKGROUND

The interconnected world we live in today demands public policy that takes advantage of the fact that economic opportunity, capital, and people are crossing national borders at a record-setting, and seemingly ever-increasing, rates. "Immigrant investor programs" exist all around the world, all competing for the same economic benefit of attracting entrepreneurial investors to their shores and each with a unique purpose once the capital is attracted. The U.S. designed the EB-5 Regional Center Program to allocate capital to regional economic development and U.S. job creation, and it is now delivering on its promise in a major way. As of December, 2019, Riverside County has completed 25 local EB-5 projects, totaling \$187 million dollars in investments and created 4518 jobs. Currently, there are 45 pending EB-5 projects, totaling a projected investment of \$2 billion dollars and is expecting a total of 16,421 jobs upon completion. Other items to note regarding the program are as follows:

1. The program's regional focus provides valuable opportunities to states and localities, particularly on civic development and infrastructure projects. The program's ability to provide long-term, low-interest capital that can complement existing public funds presents valuable opportunities for state and local leaders to address some of their public-spending projects, including in highly underinvested but critical public infrastructure and affordable housing.
2. With increased security, functionality, and integrity, the program has great potential to support regional economic development. Considering its relatively limited size, the EB-5 program alone will not be the primary solution for the country's most expensive and critical needs. However, with effective reforms to increase the program's integrity, security, and functionality, the EB-5 program has the potential to provide for incremental but relatively significant opportunities for regional economic development.

## SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP - (FEDERAL) **AMENDMENT**

### ISSUE

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

### ACTION

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

### BACKGROUND

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

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING - (FEDERAL) **AMENDMENT**

### ISSUE

Riverside County lost 86% of State and Federal Funding for housing production and preservation from FY2008 to FY2017-18. Additional funding and regulatory changes are needed to meet the affordable housing needs of Riverside County residents.

### ACTION

- Urge lawmakers to support the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act. The bill is estimated to incentivize the building of more than 550,000 affordable homes over the next decade and generate \$48.5 billion in wages and business income, \$19.1 billion in additional tax revenue and 510,000 jobs.
- The Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) is one of the most unique and flexible sources of financing to address the unique local housing needs of residents of Riverside County. The County of Riverside has seen dramatic cuts to its HOME allocation in recent years, and urges the federal government to return the HOME program to FY10 levels of \$1.8 billion nationally.
- Urge lawmakers to continue to invest in rural housing programs through the United States Department of Agriculture-Rural Development (USDA-RD). USDA-RD's various single family and multifamily programs are critical to serving the housing needs of those living in the rural parts of Riverside County.

### BACKGROUND



Riverside County needs 64,452 more affordable rental homes to meet current demand based on research estimates, additionally there are more than 97,000 households registered for the Riverside County Section 8 Waiting List with wait times averaging 7-10 years. Currently in Riverside County, 84% of Extremely Low Income households are paying more than half of their income on housing costs compared to just 7% of moderate income households. Renters in Riverside County need to earn \$30.29 per hour - 2.5 times the State minimum wage – to afford the median monthly asking rent of \$1,575.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING - (STATE)

AMENDMENT

### ISSUE

Cuts in Federal and State funding have reduced investment in affordable housing in Riverside County by nearly \$159 million annually since 2008, an 86% reduction. Low Income Housing Tax Credit production and preservation in Riverside County decreased 70% from 2016-2018. Additional funding and regulatory change is needed to meet the affordable housing needs of Riverside County residents.

### ACTION

- Reintroduce SB 5 (Beall) to replace redevelopment funding for affordable housing with at least \$1 billion annually to help local governments meet their State-mandated production goals. Similar to redevelopment, this bill would provide funding for predevelopment, development, rehabilitation and preservation of affordable housing; transit-oriented development; and projects promoting strong neighborhoods.
- Make permanent the expansion of the State's Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program from \$94 million to \$500 million per year to jumpstart affordable housing production and preservation.
- Consolidate HCD Funding Programs – HCD currently administers 22 individual funding programs. Consolidating HCD's various multifamily rental funding programs within the omnibus Multifamily Housing Program would allow developers to apply to a single HCD source for all funding needs and avoid the time-consuming process of applying to multiple HCD program and allow the state to streamline its legal underwriting and compliance obligations.
- Preserve Existing Affordable Housing (\$600M)
  - Set aside additional funding in the state LIHTC program to fund rehabilitation of deeply affordable homes.
  - Incentivize the sale of existing affordable housing to purchasers who will make units permanently affordable.
- Rebuild Housing and Communities Impacted by Disaster (\$1B)
  - Create a new revolving loan fund modeled on the Golden State Acquisition Fund to quickly deploy housing-related disaster assistance.
  - Establish a flexible block grant for disaster assistance similar to CDBG-DR.

Provide climate resilience grants to cities, counties, and tribes seeking to fortify existing homes and reduce the vulnerabilities of new homes

### BACKGROUND

Riverside County needs 64,452 more affordable rental homes to meet current demand based on research estimates, additionally there are more than 97,000 households registered for the Riverside County Section 8 Waiting List with wait times averaging 7-10 years. Currently in Riverside County, 84% of Extremely Low Income households are paying more than half of their income on housing costs compared to just 7% of moderate income households. Renters in

Riverside County need to earn \$30.29 per hour - 2.5 times the State minimum wage – to afford the median monthly asking rent of \$1,575.

## HOMELESS FUNDING (STATE)

AMENDMENT

### ISSUE

The number of individual and families experiencing homelessness has risen significantly in California and Riverside County. Local jurisdictions need additional financial resources to combat and end homelessness within their communities. This includes funding for outreach/navigation, permanent supportive housing, housing vouchers earmarked for homeless households; employment programs, substance abuse services and educational support for homeless students (K-12 and adults).

### ACTION

- Provide funding to expand the number of permanent supportive housing units state wide. Specifically, provide an annual allocation to fund the Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) over a five year period of time.
- Provide funding for Public Housing Agencies to develop affordable housing earmarked for homeless households.
- Provide funding for supportive services and multi-disciplinary service teams.
- Provide funding for the development and implementation of community mental health and substance abuse plans.
- Ensure existing funding programs distribute funding throughout the State and allow funding to be earmarked for new and innovative approaches.

### BACKGROUND

Homelessness is an issue that affects all communities in California. Riverside County became the first large county in the nation to reach functional zero for homeless veterans, with sufficient support from the federal and state we believe we can achieve similar results for our general homeless population.

## HOMELESS EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM – RIVERSIDE COUNTY PILOT (STATE)

AMENDMENT

### ISSUE

Homeless services and funding has primarily focused on housing, mental health and medical services, case management, substance use services, and outreach and navigation services. These funding mechanisms do not emphasize a critical component of stabilization – employment. There is a vital need for funding that is earmarked specifically for homeless employment initiatives.

### ACTION

Provide state funding for Riverside County to pilot a comprehensive employment program targeted to homeless and at risk individuals.

## BACKGROUND

Meaningful and sustainable employment is the key to creating and maintaining housing stability. Unemployment, underemployment, and low wages relative to rent are frequent causes of homelessness and burden millions of families with the risk of becoming homeless. At the same time, individuals experiencing homelessness face obstacles to finding and maintaining employment.

As a result, connecting people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness with job training and placement programs is critical to ensure they have the tools they need for long-term stability and success. Facilitating access to work supports like childcare subsidies and transportation assistance can help increase the likelihood that individuals will be able to retain employment. A comprehensive employment program targeted to homeless persons should include various forms of employment including compensated work therapy, transitional employment, non-traditional apprenticeships and financial incentives for employers

## US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) PARTNERSHIPS – (FEDERAL) **AMENDMENT**

### ISSUE

The Salton Sea is sustained by irrigated agricultural drain flows from the most productive farmland in America which sustains two thirds of the nation's consumption of fresh vegetables in winter. The wetlands created by these flows in the Sea provide shelter for up to two thirds of the known species of migratory waterfowl in North America.

The symbiosis of national food security – made possible only through federally managed water resources inextricably linked to the Sea -- implicates multiple federal interests: protection of human health (Clean Air Act) and water security (national and international water allocation agreements on Colorado River); environmental protection and endangered species recovery; renewable energy development; and tribal protection.

### ACTION

1. Support the Feinstein USDA EQIP Air Quality Initiative, which sets aside \$25 million in EQIP funding annually to help producers address air quality concerns related to agricultural operations; Riverside County recommends expanding this initiative by increasing its funding and directing the increase to projects on public or private lands in an agricultural region impacted by negative air quality as a result of an agricultural water conservation program.
2. Support provisions in the Farm Bill that allow that Riverside County areas to qualify for USDA rural development programs which target funding for health care infrastructure and telemedicine in order to help address the high prevalence of childhood asthma in the region.

### BACKGROUND

The federal government is a major landowner in the Salton Sea region, owning land surrounding the Salton Sea, as well as Salton Sea playa (lakebed). The federal government also holds numerous public trust responsibilities -- protection of human health (Clean Air Act)

and water security (national and international water allocation agreements on Colorado River); environmental protection and endangered species recovery; renewable energy development; and tribal protection – all intersecting at the Salton Sea.

Federal government investments in partnership activities with SSA, California and other parties will not only help preserve California's largest lake, habitat for multiple bird species and a prime agricultural region, but will help avoid federal liability for the deteriorating regional environment and life-threatening human health impacts. A recent study by the Pacific Institute estimated the costs of inaction at the Sea to be as much as \$70 billion. <http://pacinst.org/news/new-report-warns-of-massive-public-health-property-and-environmental-costs-as-salton-sea-declines/>.

Riverside County supports federal legislation and appropriations to provide funding to the Salton Sea Authority, member agencies and other partners, in particular opportunities enabled in the 2019 Farm Bill to expand existing USDA-SSA-state of California partnership efforts already underway at the Sea. It also supports federal safe harbor provisions and incentives for private investors to partner with public entities on renewable energy projects at the Sea, conditional to cooperation with local revitalization efforts under auspices of the SSA in partnership with Riverside County and other local partner agencies.

- The Salton Sea is situated in a major agricultural region, and receives agricultural drainage flows from roughly 500,000 acres of prime irrigated agricultural land managed by Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and Coachella Valley Water District. The diminishment of drainage flows to the Sea has a negative impact on the air quality and habitat values surrounding the Sea, and threatens the sustainability of an agricultural region which generates over \$2 billion annually in agricultural commodities.
- Recognizing the critical importance of Sea restoration to this agricultural region, USDA recently approved the Salton Sea Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to address habitat, water quality and air quality issues on agricultural land surrounding the Sea. The programs available under RCPP, however, limit the use of funding to projects on private agricultural lands.
- The SSA successfully advocated for the appropriation of \$150 million to USDA NRCS' PL 83-566 program, the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, for the purpose of extending the RCPP work onto the Salton Sea (publicly owned) playa. This water conservation and infrastructure program can be used to cost-share critical air quality and habitat work in the highest priority areas.
- Congress provided this \$150 million in the 2017 Consolidated Appropriations Act, which represents all new funding into this account. The funding was specifically requested by a Member of Congress to give USDA the resources to implement the recent Salton Sea MOU.
- National PL 83-566 infrastructure needs are estimated to be \$1.4 billion. Accordingly, to ensure the availability of funding for the Sea, Congress supported and the President signed a Farm Bill in 2018 aligning an additional \$5 Billion in funding eligible for Salton Sea projects to be matched with non-federal sources. Through PL 83-566 in FY19-24. Congress also supported, and the President signed, a Farm Bill that made PL 566 a mandatorily-funded USDA conservation program in order to provide a substantial and sustainable source of cost-share funding for Salton Sea management and restoration.

## UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS - (FEDERAL) AMENDMENT

### ISSUE

North America's largest and most diverse migratory waterfowl habitat outside the gulf everglades is at risk. As a federal agency holding primary responsibility for managing riparian habitat and flood control projects on federal lands, the Army Corps of Engineers must be properly funded to pursue restoration plans, permits and projects at the Salton Sea.

### ACTION

1. Riverside County supports the Salton Sea Authority request for \$30 million in planning and investigations funding in the Corps of Engineers work plan in order to establish the required predicate for seeking Corps construction funding under the 2014 Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) \$30 million authorization for Sea conservation projects.
2. USDA and the Corps could partner on the preparation of a Sea plan using PL 83-566 funding to accomplish a federal plan which would facilitate construction/land treatment funding from both agencies. Given the extensive level of planning already conducted at the Sea, this effort would likely entail a review of existing State of California documents and associated NEPA analyses.

### BACKGROUND

Re-authorization of the existing (2007) WRDA bill signed at end of 2014 empowered the Army Corps to pursue projects at the Salton Sea and authorized \$30 Million to accomplish this start. The 2014 bill also designated the Salton Sea Authority as the preferred non-federal partner for Army Corps projects at the sea.

The federal government is a major landowner in the Salton Sea region, owning land surrounding the Salton Sea, as well as Salton Sea playa (lakebed). The federal government also holds numerous public trust responsibilities -- protection of human health (Clean Air Act) and water security (national and international water allocation agreements on Colorado River); environmental protection and endangered species recovery; renewable energy development; and tribal protection -- all intersecting at the Salton Sea.

## FEDERAL REVENUE SHARING: ENERGY/ MINERAL EXTRACTION – (FEDERAL) AMENDMENT

### ISSUE

Cooperative ventures between the federal government and the mineral rich counties in the Salton Sea region offer new opportunities to equitably address federal responsibilities in concert with local priorities by tapping new resources

### ACTION

- 1) Support revenue sharing agreements for renewable energy development and mineral extraction that are mutually acceptable to all concerned, along with legislation that will enable such arrangements.

2) Specifically support Senator Feinstein's (S. 32) California Desert Protection and Recreation Act provisions calling for revenue sharing from renewable energy projects on federal lands.

## BACKGROUND

Renewable energy development and mineral extraction activities on federal lands generate royalties paid to the federal government but these revenues are not shared with local governmental entities that bear the brunt of infrastructure maintenance and public services required to establish and maintain these enterprises.

Riverside County is home to thousands of acres of public lands, including some of the most prominent geothermal, solar and wind development areas in and around the Salton Sea. – yet these royalties collected by federal authorities provide no portion shared with the state, or counties, or local entities (such as SSA) that are impacted most by the development of these industries and the extraction of local minerals. If enacted, this bill may provide multiple benefits to not only to the state, Riverside and Imperial Counties, but also the Salton Sea Authority for maintenance of Sea projects impacting Riverside County.

## REMOTE TOWER PROGRAM POSITION PAPER CONTRACT TOWERS **AMENDMENT**

### BACKGROUND

Contract towers (FTC) are air traffic control towers that are staffed by employees of private companies rather than by FAA employees. The FAA considers FTC applicants based on a cost-benefit analysis (BCA) to determine eligibility for funding the operation of a contract tower. Aspects considered on a BCA include based aircraft, aircraft operations, and the characteristics of the airport, i.e. safety, airspace complexity, fleet mix, etc. In order to be admitted into the FCT program, the safety and efficiency benefits of a tower must exceed its costs and the BCA received from the FAA must be at least 1.0.

#### Remote Towers

A remote tower is a new method of air traffic control being tested in the U.S. Remote towers replace the traditional brick and mortar tower with a system of cameras and antennas placed on an airport that allows air traffic personnel to control air traffic from a remote location (traditional office space). Air Traffic facilities are equipped with a 180, 270 or 360 degree monitor view of the airfield. Remote tower technology offers improved safety and efficiency, increased cyber security of the airfield, decision support tools and safety nets for air traffic control decisions. Remote tower technologies also provide infrastructure that can allow to digitize certain aspects of the air traffic management, including increase capacity through runway optimization or improved visual surveillance with "smart" technology.

There are two main airports sites in the U.S. where the remote tower pilot program has been implemented and the FAA is providing oversight and testing, these airports include Northern Colorado Regional Airport (Fort Collins) and Leesburg Executive Airport in Virginia. For both of these airports the corresponding State Aeronautics Department facilitated the effort and funded the majority of the pilot program

## ACTION

EDA- Aviation is working to submit a Federal Contract Tower (FCT) application by the end of this September 2019 for both French Valley and the Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport. Provided that a successful BCA is assessed to the Airports, the remote tower authorization can be used to leverage authorization for a remote tower application.

Riverside County, EDA- Aviation Division requests legislative support from the Riverside County Board of Supervisors in the State of California and Washington DC for consideration and approval of a remote tower for both French Valley and the Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT: BIOFUELS – (STATE & FEDERAL))

### AMENDMENT

## ISSUE

Energy rich resources mischaracterized as waste (green waste, biosolids, algae) with disposal routes intersecting at the north end of the Salton Sea should be harnessed for green fuel production in a manner that will create a healthier environment and more prosperous Salton Sea.

## ACTION

Support partnerships for biofuel production from green waste, biosolids and algae feedstocks in a manner that creates healthier environment, stronger economy at the Salton Sea and potential revenue stream for long term sustainability of Sea investments.

## BACKGROUND

Riverside County supports the development of all renewable energy resources, especially those at the Salton Sea that can provide potential revenue streams to help fund revitalization projects and activities.

Riverside County supports efforts to promote development of biofuels from cooperative partnerships that can create clean fuels from waste materials while creating a healthier environment at the Salton Sea. Development of fuel sources from numerous feedstock opportunities in this region may be harnessed to provide a multitude of benefits to federal, state and local partners in a cost-effective, financially sustainable manner.

Increasingly costly and environmentally impactful methods of disposing green waste and biosolids suggest a more environmentally beneficial approach warrants investment. More properly viewed as feedstock for biofuel, these feedstocks can also be combined with algae which grows in great proliferation at the Salton Sea, causing a potential water quality issue for healthy wetlands habitat and aquatic recreation. Employing algae as a means to generate healthier water quality for the Sea will also create a feedstock that is unique among all plants on earth in its capacity to produce lipids – the key ingredient required for ethanol. Algae farms positioned near ag drains at the Sea may bio-remediate nutrients from the irrigated runoff, benefitting the environment and economy as the resulting algae feedstock may contribute to carbon-reducing biofuels ranging from kerosene to jet fuel.

Carbon credits and fuel revenues may be harnessed for long term revenue streams to help fund revitalization projects and activities in Riverside County.

**ISSUE**

March Air Reserve Base (MARB) is one of the most critical components of the Inland Southern California regional economy. According to a December 2015 Financial Impact Analysis performed by the Rose Institute of State and Local Government at Claremont McKenna College at the behest of the Economic Development Agency (EDA), MARB has a direct economic impact of nearly \$600 million; the indirect amount is doubtless significantly greater but was not estimated in the study. MARB is currently home to over 9,000 military and civilian personnel, and is one of the oldest installations in the Air Force; the base will celebrate its centennial in 2018. For reference, a list of units, detachments, and missions based at MARB is included at the end of this document.

A significant step in that effort would be the expansion of the cantonment area of the base (i.e. the secured area within the base that serves as a permanent military installation), which would bring additional units and missions to MARB and thus further enhance the base's stature within the nation's defense system. Eventually this effort could lead to MARB being designated as March Joint Reserve Base, a broader and further reaching designation that would lessen the likelihood of downsizing or closing the base. Pursuing a Joint Reserve Base designation would entail a prolonged process with agreements required between various branches of service, up to and including a formal basing action and/or a Moratorium Waiver for base expansion. The designation would also require Congressional approval and formal environmental impact analysis documents.

**ACTION**

The cantonment area currently encompasses an area of approximately 2,100 acres, and includes several units and missions that are critical to the base's function and help secure its place in the nation's defense structure. However, there are some additional facilities that would become a more permanent presence on the base following cantonment expansion, potentially including the following:

- U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) Training Center: currently just outside the cantonment area, the center would be moved inside the fence line and thus benefit from the additional security. Adding the center to the cantonment area would be a major step toward facilitating the "Joint" base designation mentioned above.
- An alternative possibility would see the Army continue to own the land; the Air Force would simply extend the fence line as necessary to place the USAR facility inside the cantonment area. This would be a less burdensome and expensive process, likely a federal/federal permit resulting in a zero-cost lease; however, it could lead to an incremental process that would have the same end result.
- It should be noted that, in a separate action, USAR is investing in a new \$25 million facility at MARB, construction of which has already started.
- Base Commissary: expanding MARS's perimeter along the Heacock Channel would provide for the possibility of having the Base Commissary inside the fence line. This



would improve security, and would facilitate adding a new gate and base access via Heacock Street.

- Base Exchange: Providing sufficient real estate to relocate the AAFES Base Exchange adjacent to the Commissary and inside the fence line, thus improving security for those using the exchange.
- American Forces Network: expansion would accommodate the possible relocation of the American

Forces Network facility to a location within the secured area.

Benefits: Many of the potential benefits of cantonment area expansion have been described above, but to sum up, there are numerous beneficial outcomes that could result from this effort, including but not limited to:

- Addition of new units and missions, thus enhancing MARS's importance and status in the nation's defense facility network
- Potential designation as a Joint Reserve Base
- Reduced vulnerability in future rounds of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process
- Improved security for those based at, and working on, MARB
- Investment and job growth related to the increased number of facilities and personnel, with benefits both on base and in nearby communities

## CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

## AMENDMENT

### ISSUE

Riverside County is the fourth largest county in California, and is the largest county in the State to not feature a full-fledged, self-identified California State University (CSU) campus, though CSU San Bernardino and CSU San Marcos have satellite campuses in Palm Desert and Temecula, respectively. Aside from Imperial County, the CSU system has campuses in all surrounding counties, including San Bernardino (one campus), Los Angeles (five campuses), Orange (one campus), and San Diego (two campuses). Together these nine campuses have an enrollment of nearly 249,000 students.

Residents of Riverside County have limited options for attending public four-year degree granting institutions. The University of California, Riverside (UCR) is the only full campus in the County, compelling County residents to commute to other areas to attend a public university (e.g. CSU San Bernardino, CSU Fullerton, Cal Poly Pomona) or choose a more expensive private university option. Furthermore, nearby schools in the CSU system already grapple with overcrowding and therefore may not be feasible alternatives. All of these issues represent obstacles to higher education for an already underserved population.

### ACTION

The County of Riverside supports the formation of a new CSU campus in Riverside County, either by upgrading one of the existing satellite campuses or establishing an entirely new campus

## BACKGROUND

Employers in the County consistently express concern about the pool of qualified applicants for job openings, including those holding degrees from four year universities, making educational attainment an area of concern as the region's economy matures and diversifies. The skills gap is particularly pronounced for employers needing people with skills gained from education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (commonly referred to as STEM) fields.

Evidence of the important role higher education plays in the economy is the retention rate of college graduates (i.e. graduates who remain in the community as opposed to those who leave the area). A recent study found that Riverside County has one of the highest retention rates in the United States, at approximately 71%, suggesting that there is a great deal of opportunity available for college graduates. At the same time, the percentage of the County's population that holds at least a Bachelor's degree is considerably lower than the statewide average. One available conclusion from this data is that the number of slots available for prospective college students is lower than that which is necessary to provide for the needs of the region's economy.

Prospective students who want to earn a bachelor's degree are faced with limited options. UCR, the only public university in the County, currently has an enrollment cap of about 24,000 students, including graduate and doctoral candidates. Also, the UC system has more stringent admissions requirements and accepts a smaller portion of high school students and junior college transfers than the CSU system. Schools in the CSU system are faced with impaction, with the number of qualified applicants exceeding the number of available spaces; indeed, at least six CSU schools are fully impacted. At CSU San Bernardino, at least four baccalaureate programs are impacted.

First generation college students are common at the County's various colleges and universities. For instance, UCR was recently noted for the important role it plays in providing access to first generation enrollees. At the start of the 2017 academic year, first-generation students comprised 63% of new and continuing UCR students, compared to less than half in the UC system and 34% nationally. The numbers at CSU San Bernardino are even more striking: first-generation students comprised 81% of the 2017 student body.

A common feature among many of the existing colleges in the County is that they lack on-campus student housing. There are many benefits to students living on campus, including higher retention and graduation rates, higher GPA, better academic progress and performance, and larger gains in critical thinking and cognitive skills. On-campus student housing may be particularly critical to the success of first generation students, for whom lower levels of academic engagement are at least partly a function of living off campus. In addition, online classes predominate many of the course offerings at baccalaureate granting colleges in the region. For the many students who find that online learning is not comparable to traditional, in-person learning, this is problematic.

## 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. Support proposed FY 2020 CDBG funding and continuing resolutions in both the Senate and House;
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.

## WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (FEDERAL)

### ISSUE

Federal workforce investments have declined sharply over the past two decades. Since 2001, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding has been cut by 40 percent, Career and Technical Education funding by 29 percent and Adult Basic Education (remedial educational services for adults) funding by almost 15 percent. These cuts mean fewer Riverside County residents have access to services necessary to find and keep good jobs and businesses continue to look for skilled workers

### ACTION

Increase federal funding for programs funded through the Department of Labor which fund workforce development, training and education. These programs include the WIOA, Youth Build, Ex-Offender Activities, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers and Job Corps.

### BACKGROUND

In today's economy, we need to invest in our workforce more than ever. Businesses continue to struggle with job openings and workers don't have access to training and education necessary to access good jobs. As our workforce faces the impending impact of technology, automation and AI, reports suggest more than 60 percent of jobs will significantly change in the next decade and a smaller, but still significant, portion will be eliminated – meaning more than 90 million workers will need skills training to continue working.

On a regional level, Riverside County is working proactively to align education and workforce development initiatives across the region's K-12 system, community colleges, universities and the private sector to ensure our residents have access to the education and training necessary to obtain family supporting jobs locally. It is critical that the federal government make the necessary investments to ensure that we have the financial resources at the local level to develop a workforce system that is poised to address the needs of industry, automation and future economic downturns.

## SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (FEDERAL)

### 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. In 2009, Riverside County received over five million dollars through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to implement a summer youth employment program. Funds were allocated to eleven youth service providers, including the two operators of the County's Youth Opportunity Centers. Through this program, youth and young adults ages 14 through 24 received meaningful work experience preceded by work readiness training. During a period of two summers, over 3,000 individuals participated in the program, gaining valuable workplace competencies. Re-implementing a summer youth employment program rooted in career and industry sector pathways would be of significant benefit to high poverty communities and households.

## GOOD MOVEMENT BY RAIL

### ISSUE

The Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are the busiest port complex in the United States and handle as much as 40% of the nation's international cargo. According to a cargo forecast developed by Mercator International and Oxford Economics, the two ports handled 15.2 million twenty-foot equivalent (TEU) containers in 2014 and are projected to have an annual cargo volume of 41.1 million TEUs by 2040. In addition, there is significant domestic goods movement in Southern California, particularly to and from facilities in Inland Southern California, and this is also expected to grow in the coming years. There is therefore an increasingly urgent need to improve the system of goods movement in the region.

### ACTION

- 1) Support the development of rail transport-related infrastructure in California, including streamlining of the entitlement process and limits on litigation against projects with significant regional benefit; and
- 2) support the creation of Federal and State incentives to induce shippers to reduce reliance upon trucking for goods movement and invest in badly needed improvements such as intermodal facilities and rail/transfer yards.

### BACKGROUND

The volume of goods movement around and through Southern California is forecast to increase significantly, which will in turn be accompanied by greater traffic congestion. As a result, there is an increasingly urgent need to reduce road congestion associated with the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. There are a variety of mechanisms available to reduce congestion, amongst which the enhanced use of rail is one which has the greatest potential to be effective. To accomplish this, additional rail facilities, mainline track, and infrastructure will be required throughout Southern California.

The entitlement process is often used as a weapon to stall or stop new projects; witness the cancellation of BNSF Railways' Southern California International Gateway (SCIG) project in

Los Angeles following a CEQA challenge. SCIG would have moved cargo onto rail within just a few miles of the ports, increasing rail capacity where it's urgently needed and maximizing use of the Alameda Corridor (the primary rail route serving the ports), and was expected to reduce current and future truck traffic within the South Coast Air Basin by approximately 1.3 million trips annually. The inability to build new infrastructure in California limits the ability to move cargo in an environmentally friendly and efficient way, drives up the cost of doing business, and ultimately hurts supply chain competitiveness and the region as a whole.

Complicating matters is the cost associated with operations through the Alameda Corridor. The Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority currently charges \$47 per container for movements through the Corridor, which likely contributes to the fact that the Corridor is operating at just 25% of its capacity. The expense associated with rail movements, combined with the perceived speed and flexibility offered by using trucks for the transport of goods, has reduced rail's share of overall goods movement.

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

## MOVING TO WORK DESIGNATION (FEDERAL)

## AMENDMENT

### ISSUE

Supporting Moving to Work (MTW) Program Reform

### ACTION

Support an expansion of the MTW program to include larger Public Housing Authorities such as the Housing Authority of the County of Riverside. Ensure that expansion opportunities allow local agencies to set rent levels, work requirements and participation time limits.

### BACKGROUND

The 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act, authorizes HUD to expand the MTW demonstration. Currently, there are 39 MTW Public Housing Authorities (PHA) nationwide and HUD plans to expand the program to an additional 100 PHAs by 2022. However, only 3 of the 100 MTW designations will be allocated to large PHAs. The rest will be for PHAs with less than 6,000 units of Section 8. Further expansion of the MTW demonstration would allow larger public housing agencies to develop measures to promote economic independence for families with children, whose head of household is working, seeking work, or preparing to obtain employment and become economically independent, by participating in job training, educational programs or other supportive services and programs that assist in meeting such goals.

MTW designation would give public housing agencies and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development the flexibility to design and implement various approaches for providing and administering housing assistance that reduce cost and achieve greater cost effectiveness and Federal expenditures.

Previous expansion opportunities were not conducive to the Housing Authority of the County of Riverside's participation. Past opportunities were limited to smaller agencies, very large agencies or mandated rent requirements that would be detrimental to struggling families.

## MOBILITY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (FEDERAL) AMENDMENT

### ISSUE

In high cost and tight rental markets, Section 8 voucher holders are having a difficult time accessing quality housing in healthy neighborhoods which provide economic and educational opportunities.

### ACTION

Urge Congress to implement a Mobility Demonstration Project to increase access to healthy neighborhoods and economic opportunities.

### BACKGROUND

The federal Housing Choice Voucher Program plays a critical role in helping to address housing needs for extremely low-income households. Its most important advantage is that vouchers give recipients the freedom to choose the kinds of housing and the locations that best meet their needs. As a consequence, many voucher recipients live in healthy neighborhoods that offer social, educational, and economic opportunities for themselves and their children.

Not all families who receive vouchers are able to find a house or apartment where they can use them. Shortages of moderately priced rental housing, tight market conditions, racial and ethnic discrimination, landlords who are unwilling to accept voucher payments, and ineffective local administration all contribute to this problem.

Two promising strategies for making the basic voucher design work better could be implemented within the existing program structure and could potentially improve outcomes for families substantially: 1) mobility counseling and assistance can help voucher recipients understand the locational options available, identify housing opportunities, and negotiate effectively with landlords; and 2) aggressive landlord outreach, service, and incentives can substantially expand the housing options available to voucher recipients.

## HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM (SECTION 8) (FEDERAL) AMENDMENT

### ISSUE

There are more than 97,000 households registered for the Section 8 waiting list in Riverside County and the additional 727 chronically 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).

#### **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 3 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 727 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.

## **USER-FEE DESIGNATION OF THE JACQUELINE COCHRAN AIRPORT**

### **AMENDMENT**

#### **ISSUE**

In order to clear aircraft arriving from international destinations, a USER-FEE Airport approval is required by the U.S Customs and Border Patrol. The airport designation will serve as an important economic driver and increase accessibility to the region.

#### **ACTION**

Seek necessary approval from U.S customs and Border Patrol to provide for a fully operation facility for handling corporate and general aviation traffic.





## FLOOD CONTROL

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## FEDERAL FUNDING FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROJECTS (FEDERAL)

### ISSUE

The District relies on annual federal funding appropriations providing funding to the Corps of Engineers for projects authorized in the bi-annual federal Water Resource Development Act, and other bills to assist with construction and emergency repair of critical stormwater management projects. Federally funded projects include: the Santa Ana Mainstem Project; Murrieta Creek Flood Protection; Environmental Restoration and Recreation Project; Santa Ana River Levee Repair Project and emergency projects associated with the 2019 Valentine's Day storm.

### ACTION

- ❖ Ensure that the implementation of the Water Resources Development Act, Stafford Act and other federal authorization and budget bills benefits/addressess Riverside County Flood Control issues, projects and programs.
- ❖ Support funding and completion of vital flood and water infrastructure projects including the Santa Ana Mainstem Project, Murrieta Creek Project, the Santa Ana Levee Restoration project and recent emergency projects responding to federally declared disasters.

### BACKGROUND

The District currently partners with federal agencies, including FEMA and the US Army Corps of Engineers to deliver flood infrastructure of national interest in Riverside County. These projects, totaling over \$500 million in combined infrastructure value, are dependent on annual appropriations from Congress and approvals from agencies including the Office of Management and Budget, FEMA and the Army Corps. It is important that the District work with the agencies and the local Congressional delegation to ensure that the project requirements and funding needs are understood and properly incorporated into federal agency funding requests and congressional legislation.

## ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS (FEDERAL)

### ISSUE

District operations can be impacted by changes to the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and other federal laws, rules and regulations. For example, proposed changes to the federal definition of "Waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act could have significant impacts on District Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting needs and costs. Additionally, District maintenance projects are also subject to renewable environmental permits that may require new mitigation expenditures for each permit renewal – even in cases where the maintenance regimen does not change. The imposition of new mitigation requirements as part of each permit renewal significantly increases maintenance costs and is an unnecessary byproduct of federal agency interpretation of regulations.

### ACTION

- ❖ Support clarification of the definition of "Waters of the US." consistent with the recommendations of the National Association of Counties and National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies
- ❖ Support legislation that would amend Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to clarify a narrow exemption for maintenance activities involving the removal of sediment, debris and vegetation from flood control channels, dams and other facilities.

## BACKGROUND

Riverside County Flood Control operations are impacted by the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act and other federal laws, rules and regulations. Looking for opportunities to streamlining federal laws, rules and regulations in ways that can reduce local agency costs, while still effectively protecting public safety and the environment is critical to sustainably managing our communities.

## 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.

# REVISIONS TO THE FEDERAL NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

AMENDMENT

## ISSUE

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) authorized in 2012 has been extended temporarily by a continuing resolution from Congress. Due to extensive flooding of the eastern and southern coasts of the United States, there are several potentially significant revisions to the NFIP under consideration. Revisions considered include expanded use of private flood insurance, alternate risk and premium calculation methodologies and new requirements for land use and building code standards for local governments in exchange for local access to federal flood insurance and local access to certain federal disaster recovery and grant funds. These amendments could impact residents carrying flood insurance and the obligations of local agencies that administer NFIP floodplain management programs.

## ACTION

- ❖ Support legislation that sensibly renews the National Flood Insurance Program consistent with the recommendations of the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies and the National Association of Counties.

## 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)

### ISSUE

There is a lack of competent record keeping and responsiveness from certain underground utilities 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)

### 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

- ❖ Work with the local congressional delegation to reauthorize and expand a program similar to Section 1043 of the Water Resource Development Act of 2014.
- ❖ Promote the inclusion of local federal projects, such as the Murrieta Creek Flood Management, Environmental Restoration and Recreation Project, in a list of pilots for any future programs.
- ❖ Promote legislation to allow local agencies to move independently forward with the construction of certain elements of federal projects and receive credit for such work against the local cost share, without putting future federal funding at risk, should federal funding for projects not be available.

### 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)

### 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.

## STORMWATER RESOURCE FUNDING (STATE)

## AMENDMENT

### ISSUE

The District pursues state grant funding and subvention funding to support regional flood management projects, to offset costs of recovery associated with federal disaster declarations and to assist the District, cities and County compliance with increasingly stringent obligations of federal Clean Water Act stormwater quality permits. The voters have approved several water bond measures in recent years, but those bond measures typically have limited support for southern California flood control projects. Proposition 68, the most recent water and parks bond, included \$550 million in funding for flood protection and repair. However, only \$100 million was available for projects in southern California. Proposition 68 also did not include direct funding for stormwater quality projects.

### ACTION

- ❖ Promote language in state water bonds that addresses local flood and stormwater management needs;
- ❖ Promote continued funding for state subvention of federal flood control projects and federal disaster recovery projects in Riverside County;
- ❖ Promote language in state water bonds that ensures a fair-share distribution of flood management grant funds.

### BACKGROUND

Voters have approved several water and parks bonds including Proposition 40 (2002), Proposition 84 (2006), Proposition 1 (2014) and Proposition 68 (2018). The bonds often have limited support for southern California flood management projects. Similarly, bond funds for stormwater quality projects often pale in comparison to the costs of water quality mandates placed on local governments by state regulatory agencies and may include requirements that limit the utility of available funds.

The state also provides flood subvention funding from the General Fund for certain federal flood management projects and federal disaster recovery projects. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) manages the flood control subvention program. Projects must be submitted to DWR for evaluation. DWR then makes recommendations to the state Legislature. The Legislature can then recommend amendments to the California Water Code that authorize the project's inclusion in the subvention program. State funding of subvention is dependent on separate budget authorizations by the Legislature.

## FLOOD LEVEE PROTECTION (STATE)

## AMENDMENT

### ISSUE

Homeless are cutting, altering, defacing and otherwise destroying levees that provide critical flood protection to residents of Riverside County. Legislation is needed to prohibit the altering, occupying and/ or physical or visual obstructing of levees to prevent public health and safety risks to flood prone areas.

### ACTION

- ❖ Support AB 137 and similar legislation that make obstruction, damage or defacing levees a misdemeanor that allows both local law enforcement and levee maintenance agencies to quickly act to prevent and restore impacts to levees.





PARKS & OPEN SPACE  
DISTRICT

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## ISSUE

Under current regulations, counties that do not manage legal OHV riding facilities are ineligible to receive funding from a share of registration fees commensurate with the number of vehicles registered in the county; rather, the funds are distributed based on availability of OHV areas. The impacts on counties are dramatic; for example, the County of Imperial, which has only about 9,000 registered OHVs, receives about five times the funding that the County of Riverside receives in a given year, even though there were approximately 116,000 OHVs registered in Riverside County in Fiscal Year 2015/16. In Fiscal Year 2015/16, Riverside County residents accounted for about 8.9% of the approximately \$15.1 million in annual registration fees paid statewide.

The County has identified eight parcels totaling almost 300 acres that, until recently, were home to an entitled and permitted OHV park in the City of Lake Elsinore. The facility, which was operated by a private sector concern, closed in 2016, but it is still operable under the current use permits. Because it is entitled for OHV use and has been in service for several years, the parcels are already disturbed and barriers to establishing an OHV park (such as environmental constraints) are not applicable.

## ACTION

- ❖ Secure funding for the County of Riverside to purchase the aforementioned existing dormant OHV facility and establish a legal, County-owned public OHV riding area.
- ❖ Work with the California State Parks Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Division to modify language that penalizes those jurisdictions that do not currently have an OHV facility.

## BACKGROUND

Establishing a publicly owned legal OHV riding area would result in numerous benefits, including:

- ❖ Reduced illegal OHV use throughout Inland Southern California;
- ❖ Reduced recreational vehicle traffic along the region's freeways, which are heavily impacted by congestion;
- ❖ Improved air quality; and
- ❖ Investment and job growth related to the creation of a new center for OHV activity in an area that already has a significant concentration of registered OHVs.

## EQUITABLE OHV FUNDING COMPARED TO USAGE AMENDMENT

### ISSUE

Riverside County has the 4th highest off-highway vehicle recreation usage in the state, though the off-highway vehicle (OHV) funding given is not equitable and the grant program does not favor acquisition and development of land for legal OHV uses.

### ACTION

- ❖ Support changes to the allocation of competitive state OHV funding to increase amounts for acquisition and development.
- ❖ Support criteria that favor environmental impacts and types of species impacted.
- ❖ Support the amount of direct county allotment, thereby reducing the amount of grant funding, so that distribution is more equitable to county size, number of users and need for acquisition of legal riding areas.
- ❖ Support funding local governments operating within the state rather than providing operational assistance to federal government.

### BACKGROUND

Riverside County has the 4th highest usage in the state, though the funding given is not equitable. The grant funding comes from deposits to the OHV trust fund. Riverside County is at a significant disadvantage for the competitive grant process (with a loss of 76 points) for not having legal riding areas and parks. Additionally, grant funding disbursement does not favor acquisition but rather ground operations. Riverside County is working towards developing a site with establishment of an OHV committee and feasibility plan. Once a site is established, receiving equitable funding for acquisition and development will be required.



## PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

## SOCIAL SERVICES & CUSTOMER CONFIDENTIALITY (STATE)

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### 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)

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### 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.
- ❖ Support policies and funding for a fully automated system of benefits distribution that enables cross-county assistance during disasters.

### 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).

## INVEST IN THE SOCIAL WORK WORKFORCE

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### ISSUE

There are not consistent or broadly available national or statewide strategies that target the recruitment and training of the next generation of professional social workers in a high demand profession where attrition is high

### ACTION

Support policies, and initiatives that fund and improve ongoing educational access, recruitment and retention of social workers.



RUHS-BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH

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## THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT

AMENDMENT

### ISSUE

Protect Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding which represents a significant percentage of Riverside's overall behavioral health budget. In FY 2018-19 Riverside received over \$100 million in MHSA funding (\$104,968,417) and used these resources to leverage millions in additional federal funds for Riverside's behavioral health delivery system.

### ACTION

- ❖ Oppose legislation and state policy proposals that seek to divert or restrict MHSA funds currently allocated to the public behavioral health system.

### BACKGROUND

The Mental Health Services Act, also known as Proposition 63, was approved by voters in 2004. The MHSA imposes a 1% tax on personal income above \$1 million. Most of the revenue generated from this tax is used to sustain the public behavioral health system statewide.

## RESPONDING TO UNIQUE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS

AMENDMENT

### ISSUE

Public behavioral health systems support the most vulnerable among us – children with serious emotional challenges, children in the child welfare system, adults with serious mental disorders, justice-involved populations, individuals at-risk or experiencing homelessness, and people living with substance use disorders.

### ACTION

- ❖ Advocate for additional equitable investments in the state's EPSDT entitlement to meet the increasing needs of children with behavioral health conditions.
- ❖ Support efforts to increase behavioral health services to foster youth.
- ❖ Advocate for funding to increase the number of school sites with on-site integrated services including county behavioral health and medical services.
- ❖ Support broad policy efforts to focus on prevention of homelessness, such as expanded rental and housing options for all very low-income Californians and those with behavioral health needs.
- ❖ Invest in new state funding for diversion programs including new opportunities for justice system-involved individuals living with mental illness.

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

AMENDMENT

### ISSUE

Riverside County Behavioral Health is financially disadvantaged through 1991 and 2011 Realignment funding formulas. Lack of adequate funding has resulted in a suboptimal physical infrastructure for county residents in need of Behavioral health services. An individual

in Riverside County does not have access to the same level of care as individuals in other counties.

#### ACTION

- Support efforts to acquire State and or Federal money for Behavioral Health Infrastructure.

## CALAIM – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REFORM

#### AMENDMENT

#### ISSUE

California's 1915(b) waiver, which authorizes county mental health plans to provide specialty mental health services and California's 1115 waiver, which gives counties the option to implement the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) are both expiring in 2020. The state is negotiating new waivers through the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative.

#### ACTION

- ❖ Advocate for behavioral health payment reform as a means to improve the quality of county behavioral health services and to create greater efficiencies within the public behavioral health system.
- ❖ Support waiver proposals that promote behavioral health integration, including through incentives and easing of regulatory barriers. Riverside has already taken bold steps to integrate behavioral health services within the county.
- ❖ Support efforts to improve quality outcomes and drive delivery system transformation through value-based initiatives, modernization of systems and payment reform.
- ❖ Strongly support the continuation of the DMC-ODS model. This model has afforded counties an invaluable opportunity to build more comprehensive continuums of care for Medi-Cal beneficiaries with substance use disorders while working to improve quality and delivery positive treatment outcomes.
- ❖ Strongly support that the state build on the successes of Whole Person Care (WPC) pilots by developing Enhanced Care management (ECM) and In-Lieu-of-Services (ILOS) programs that can be implemented across the state as partnerships between Managed Care Plans (MCPs) and counties, including county behavioral health plans.

#### BACKGROUND

CalAIM, is a multi-year initiative by the Department of Health Care Services to improve the quality of life and health outcomes for Californians by implementing broad delivery system, program and payment reform across the Med-Cal program. Some significant components of CalAIM seek to build upon the successful outcomes of various pilots (including DMC-ODS and WPC pilots) from previous waivers.



RUHS-MEDICAL CENTER  
& CLINICS

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## PRESERVE HEALTH CARE ACCESS, QUALITY, AFFORDABILITY / INTEGRATION (STATE/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.
- ❖ Preserve and support Medicaid DSH funding, as well as other supplemental and directed Medicaid payments.
- ❖ Support policies and legislation that expand access to health coverage and that streamlines Medicaid (Medi-Cal) enrollment and retention.
- ❖ Support renewal of the Medicaid (Medi-Cal) waiver in 2020, and/or new waiver replacement funding/programs in follow up to the Medi-Cal 2020 waiver, which expires in 2020.
- ❖ 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 (STATE/FEDERAL)

### ACTION

- ❖ Support preservation and increase in funding for Federally Qualified Health Centers, including legislation to allow reimbursement for mental health and clinical services on the same day.
- ❖ Support financing programs and structures that incentivize innovation, improve access, integration, value and efficiency, and promote continued delivery system transformation efforts.
- ❖ 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/or succeeding program/structure) and similar initiatives aimed at integration, transitions, and improvements in care management/coordination of behavioral health, substance use treatment, primary care, housing, nutrition and other social services with better patient outcomes.
- ❖ Support efforts to reduce health disparities and improve health equity.
- ❖ 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."  
Support efforts to address workforce that could improve access for patients and/or create efficiencies within the system, such as expanding the scope of practice for nurse practitioners, creating new licenses/certificates for other provider types (ex: peer support providers), and other workforce initiatives.

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

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### ACTION

- ❖ Protect the 340B federal drug program, and pharmacy reimbursement, from any legislative or administrative changes that would restrict or negatively impact RUHS and its patients.
- ❖ Eliminate or delay cuts to Medicaid DSH funding and oppose restrictive changes and/or cuts to supplemental payments to public 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 that would cut reimbursement or restrict eligibility or services.
- ❖ 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.

## FUNDING FOR HIV/AIDS

### AMENDMENT

### BACKGROUND

HIV/AIDS cases are traditionally assigned to a local health jurisdiction based on where the patient was living when first diagnosed. This determines the prevalence rate, used for funding and resource allocation, for the jurisdiction regardless of where that person moves after diagnosis leading to an inaccurate portrayal of the true population of persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH). The current method significantly underestimates the number of PLWH in the county due to in-migration of PLWH from other areas of the state and the country. Consequently, there are 51% more PLWH in Riverside County than has been reported. Increases in people living with HIV/AIDS are seen in all regions of the county, age groups and racial/ethnic categories examined. By changing the method of reporting HIV/AIDS cases, the county could receive 50% more funding to better address the needs of the HIV/AIDS population and improve the health outcomes and healthcare costs of this population.

## FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL DETERMINATION

### AMENDMENT

### ACTION

- ❖ Create regional poverty thresholds that accurately reflect the cost of food, clothing, shelter and other living expenses.
- ❖ Adjust thresholds by region to account for variation in the cost of living.



- ❖ When counting families' resources to determine whether they fall below the poverty line: use families' post-tax income.

## BACKGROUND

Federal Poverty Level Determinations are too low for the residents served in Riverside County. The Federal Poverty Level does not measure poverty through multiple factors such as housing costs, transportation costs, and regional economic differences. The cost of living in California is higher than the national average; therefore, the poverty measure should be adjusted to account for the higher cost of living. Alaska and Hawaii have already adopted higher poverty levels to determine eligibility due to their high cost of living. More accurate estimates of typical family expenses, and adjustments for local costs, would produce substantially higher dollar amounts, thus making more disadvantaged families eligible for services. Last, gross income is counted before subtracting payroll, income, and other taxes, overstating income for some families thereby decreasing the amount of eligible participants. Our customers are not eligible for vital programs such as utility assistance because higher cost of living is not taken into consideration.

## STATUTE OF LIMITATION ON STATE/FEDERAL AUDIT FINDINGS AMENDMENT

### ISSUE

Both state and federal government agencies are requiring Public Health to return money when those agencies conduct audits more than 10 years after a state/federal funded program concludes.

### ACTION

- ❖ Set a statute of limitation of seven years for state and federal government agencies to conduct audits on grants.
- ❖ Prohibit state and federal government agencies from requiring return of funds already spent due to audits occurring more than seven years after a state/federal funded program ends.

### BACKGROUND

The county in good faith based on state and/or federal guidelines conducts programs and spends funds to achieve the program objectives. The state and federal agencies usually conduct regular audits in a timely manner. Recently, both the state and federal agencies have been conducting audits of programs more than 10 years after the program has concluded. Since supporting documents for such programs are destroyed on or before 10 years (in accordance to state and federal requirements) the supporting documentation for program expenditures is not available. The state and federal agencies are then requiring the county to payback unverified expenses for hundreds of thousands of dollars. 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

## SAFE COUNTY ROADS (STATE)

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### 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.

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