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From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK AND ISSUES OF COUNTY INTEREST

This memorandum is to provide the Board with the Federal legislative outlook for 2014, which is the second year of the 113th Session of Congress. It also outlines County positions on major Federal legislative issues which will be pursued, based on existing Board-adopted Federal legislative policy, unless otherwise instructed by the Board.

Federal Legislative Outlook

The first year of the 113th Congress was marked by divided government and deep partisan divisions that resulted in the enactment of only 72 public laws -- the lowest number for the first year of a two-year session of Congress in many decades. In fact, only three new laws of significance to the County were enacted in 2013 -- the three Continuing Resolutions which were enacted in lieu of regular annual appropriations bills. The Federal legislative outlook for 2014 is that it will be similar to last year with a divided government and deep partisan differences which are likely to result in the enactment of very few bills that would significantly affect the County.

In 2013, Congress was unable to enact immigration reform, entitlement reform, tax reform, or legislation to address gun violence, extend long-term Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits, repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), or reauthorize programs which are major funding sources for the County.

Congress also did not enact a budget compromise which would significantly reduce the Federal budget deficit. Instead, Congress enacted the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 which reduces the Federal deficit by only about one percent over the next 10 years. As

included in the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014 Continuing Resolution (CR) signed into law in December 2013, the Bipartisan Budget Act also increases the overall discretionary spending cap to $1.012 trillion in FFY 2014 and $1.014 trillion in FFY 2015 from the post-sequester FFY 2013 level of $986 billion. This bipartisan agreement on the FFY 2014 discretionary spending cap enabled Congress to finalize FFY 2014 appropriations in January 2014, which previously had been delayed because Senate and House appropriators had used widely divergent spending caps to draft FFY 2014 appropriations bills.

Below is a discussion of legislative issues of County interest that Congress might address in the balance of 2014:

Budget Issues: It is highly unlikely that major budget legislation to significantly reduce entitlement (mandatory) spending or reform taxes will be enacted this year. However, smaller reductions in entitlement spending may be enacted to help finance increases in other entitlement spending.

The bipartisan agreement on the FFY 2015 discretionary spending cap means that Congress is not likely to pass a FFY 2015 Budget Resolution, which otherwise would be the legislative vehicle for setting the spending cap. Without a budget resolution, there also will not be any budget reconciliation legislation for passing major entitlement spending or tax legislation. Budget reconciliation legislation historically has been the legislative vehicle used to enact major entitlement or tax changes because Senate rules allow such legislation to be passed with a simple majority instead of the much harder to get 60-vote majority. Budget reconciliation legislation most recently was used to pass the ACA in 2010.

"Pay as you go" budget rules generally require that legislation which would increase entitlement spending or reduce revenue to be offset by a corresponding amount of other entitlement spending cuts or revenue increases. Entitlement spending currently accounts for roughly two-thirds of total Federal spending and an even higher percentage of total Federal revenue to the County. Entitlement programs, which are major revenue sources to the County, include Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly called Food Stamps), and Child Support Enforcement.

Each year, there is a risk of entitlement spending offsets being enacted that could adversely affect the County. Most notably, over the years, Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funding has been reduced as an offset to increase other mandatory spending. Medicaid DSH funding for FFYs 2014 through 2020 was cut to

help finance expanded health coverage under the ACA. Three laws subsequently have been enacted to extend the ACA's Medicaid DSH cut for one year at a time. Most recently, the FFY 2014 CR, which was enacted in December 2013, extended the Medicaid DSH cut through FFY 2023, eliminated the $500 million FFY 2014 Medicaid DSH cut, and shifted the $600 million FFY 2015 DSH cut to FFY 2016.

Each of the one-year extensions of the ACA's Medicaid DSH cut was used to offset other spending increases -- most notably, to help finance a delay of a scheduled Medicare physician payment reduction, known as the Medicare "doc fix." It is likely that the ACA's Medicaid DSH cut again will be extended for another year through FFY 2024 to help avert Medicare physician pay cuts. Congress also will consider other proposals to reduce Medicaid and/or other mandatory health spending to finance a Medicare "doc fix."

Funding for discretionary programs are set in annual appropriations bills, subject to overall discretionary spending caps. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 set the overall discretionary spending cap for FFY 2015 at $1.014 trillion, just 0.2 percent above the FFY 2014 spending cap, which means that FFY 2015 appropriations essentially will be a "zero-sum" game in which funding increases for some programs must be offset by cuts in others.

Agreement on the FFY 2015 spending cap also means that Congressional action on appropriations bills will begin earlier than usual, and the House and Senate versions will not differ as much as last year when House appropriations bills were based on a spending cap that was $91 billion less than the Senate's. However, it still would be surprising for FFY 2015 appropriations to be finalized before the mid-term elections in November. The House is scheduled to be in session for only 10 calendar days between the end of July and October 1, 2014 when FFY 2015 starts and for only two days in October. In fact, it is far from certain that FFY 2015 appropriations will be finalized before the current session of Congress ends. In the past four election years, each lame-duck Congress adjourned with unfinished appropriations bills that were left to the next incoming Congress.

Reauthorization Issues: The authorization of appropriations for many, if not most, discretionary programs through which the County receives funding have expired or will expire before the start of FFY 2015. However, it has become increasingly rare for discretionary programs to be reauthorized because of Congressional gridlock and because programs routinely are funded in annual appropriations bills after their authorizations have expired. In fact, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), hundreds of programs with expired authorizations received a total of $302 billion in FFY 2014 appropriations. This included many major programs through which the

County receives, such as Ryan White AIDS, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), and Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which are not likely to be reauthorized this year. It is noteworthy that WIA programs never have been reauthorized after their original five-year authorization expired in FFY 2003.

Some mandatory spending programs, such as Medicaid, Medicare, Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, and Social Security, are permanently authorized and funded, but other mandatory programs must be reauthorized, including TANF and surface transportation programs financed by the Highway Trust Fund, which expire on September 30, 2014. The Farm Bill (Public Law 113-79) was signed into law on February 7, 2014 to reauthorize Department of Agriculture programs, including SNAP through FFY 2018. As estimated by the CBO, the Farm Bill will reduce SNAP expenditures by $8 billion (roughly one percent) over the next ten years.

It is all but certain that Congress will enact a short-term TANF extension this year rather than a multi-year TANF reauthorization bill. This is not surprising because a multi-year TANF reauthorization bill has been enacted only once since TANF was established in 1996. The enactment of a multi-year surface transportation ("MAP-21") bill also faces an uphill battle this year. The main stumbling block is that Federal fuel excise tax revenue has been falling due to improved vehicle fuel efficiency, and such revenue is projected to decline even further due to the scheduled increases in corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) standards. It will be extremely difficult to draft legislation which would increase Federal revenue to finance surface transportation programs that could be passed by both houses.

One major reauthorization bill of County interest which could be enacted this year is the reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), which authorizes Army Corps of Engineers ("Corps") water projects and activities. The Senate passed its WRDA bill (S. 601) in May 2013 while the House passed its version (H.R. 3080) last October. One of the more complicated issues has been the process for selecting the new Corps projects that would be authorized without conflicting with the Congressional ban on earmarks. Members of Congress are reluctant to provide too much authority to the executive branch to decide which projects are authorized, especially when it may not result in the selection of the desired projects in their states or districts. Between 1988 and 2000, WRDA was reauthorized every two years, but since has been reauthorized only in 2007 despite the popularity of Corps water projects -- another indicator of the increased gridlock and partisan differences in Washington, D.C.

Other Issues: Besides budget and reauthorization issues, Congress also may address a number of other issues of County interest, including immigration, early childhood education, long-term Unemployment Insurance benefits, energy efficiency, and the repeal of all or parts of the ACA, which will not be enacted this year due to the same deep partisan differences that prevented such legislation from being enacted last year. There is greater bipartisan support for combatting child sex trafficking, and for improving the identification of and assistance provided to sex trafficking victims in the child welfare system. This bipartisan support increases the prospects for enacting child sex trafficking legislation this year though the poor Federal budget climate also increases the likelihood that such legislation would not provide much, if any, Federal funding to help state and local governments to combat child sex trafficking.

County Positions on Major Federal Legislative Issues

As in recent years, the County's overarching Federal priority this year will be to protect the County against the loss of Federal revenue or increased costs, which could result from proposals to reduce the Federal deficit or to finance increased spending in one program by reducing spending in other programs of greater benefit to the County. This priority is consistent with the overall Federal principles and policies in the County's Federal Legislative Agenda, which is attached, to "maximize Federal revenues" and "oppose proposals which would finance increased spending for one program by cutting other programs of greater benefit to the County, or which would result in a net revenue loss or cost shift to the County."

Medicaid: Medicaid, by far, is the single largest and most important source of Federal and State revenue to the County, accounting for over half of the County's total Federal revenue. It is the primary financing source for health, mental health, and In-Home Supportive Services which are provided or administered by the County. Medicaid is especially important to counties in California, which are the health providers of last resort for their indigent residents, and which are responsible for financing a sizable portion of the State's non-Federal share of Medicaid costs. Under the ACA, the health care reform law enacted in 2010, Medicaid is even more important to the County because it greatly expands Medicaid eligibility.

Medicaid will be a target for spending cuts because it is the largest Federal program after Social Security and Medicare and because "pay-go" budget rules require that legislation which increases entitlement spending or reduces revenue to be offset by corresponding entitlement spending cuts or revenue increases. As indicated earlier, major deficit reduction legislation which would significantly reduce Medicaid spending is not likely to be enacted this year, but smaller Medicaid cuts may be enacted to help finance spending increases, such as for Medicare physician payments. Besides

another one-year extension of the ACA's Medicaid DSH cuts, the use of provider taxes, certified public expenditures (CPEs), and intergovernmental transfers (IGTs) to finance Medicaid costs also are vulnerable to budget cuts. Restricting the use of CPEs, IGTs, and provider taxes would hurt the County because they are important tools for financing higher Medicaid payments to County hospitals and other health providers at no cost to the State General Fund.

Unless otherwise instructed by the Board, the County's Washington, D.C. advocates will continue to seek to preserve the County's Medicaid revenue, consistent with existing policies in the County's Federal Legislative Agenda, such as:

- Oppose proposals which would increase the County's unreimbursed costs of providing and administering health care services, such as proposals which would reduce the level of Medicaid payments, reduce the number of Medicaid eligible persons, and reduce the scope of Medicaid covered services; and

- Support reform of Medicaid financing and provider payments to increase Medicaid payments, including DSH payments, to health safety net providers.

Health Care Reform: Since 2011, the House has passed numerous bills to repeal all or parts of the ACA. While it is highly unlikely that the entire ACA will be repealed, some of its provisions are more vulnerable to elimination or cuts, such as the County-supported Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF), which is an important source of funding for prevention, public health, and wellness activities. In February 2012, the PPHF was reduced by $6.25 billion over ten years as a pay-go offset to help avert a scheduled reduction in Medicare physician payments.

Pursuant to existing Board policy, unless otherwise instructed by the Board, the County's Washington, D.C. advocates will seek to preserve the ACA, especially its provisions which expand health insurance coverage, provide the County with increased Federal Medicaid, PPHF, and other resources with which to finance medical, mental health, public health, and other County-administered services, and protect the County from increased costs for such services.

Human Services Entitlements: Next to Medicaid, the County receives most of its Federal revenue through human services entitlement programs -- most notably, TANF, Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, SNAP, and child support enforcement. California receives over one-fifth of total Federal TANF and IV-E funding, and the County alone receives more TANF and IV-E funding than any state other than California and New York. The County also receives a sizable amount of State revenue pursuant

to TANF state maintenance-of-effort and IV-E match requirements. None of these human services entitlements are expected to be vulnerable to spending cuts in the remainder of the year. **Unless otherwise instructed by the Board, the County's Washington, D.C. advocates will oppose proposals to reduce funding for any of these proposals, based on numerous policies in the County's Federal Legislative Agenda, such as to oppose proposals that would reduce Federal financial participation in human services programs.**

Discretionary Spending: As indicated earlier, FFY 2015 funding for discretionary programs, which are set through annual appropriations bills, will largely be "zero-sum" game in which funding increases for some programs must be offset by cuts in other programs. As in recent years, SCAAP, which has been a long-standing County priority program, will be especially vulnerable to budget cuts. This is because most of its funding goes to the relatively few state and local governments, such as California and the County, which account for most of the SCAAP-reimbursable undocumented criminal alien incarceration costs.

Besides SCAAP, other Federal programs which are long-standing County priority programs include: Ryan White HIV/AIDS Emergency Assistance, Public Health Preparedness Grants, Hospital Preparedness Grants, Urban Area Security Initiative Grant, State Homeland Security Grant Program, WIA, CDBG, Section 8 Housing, and Public Housing. Under each of these programs, the County not only receives a relatively high share of total funding, but also either receives direct formula grants or mandatory pass-through funds through state formula grants. **Unless otherwise instructed by the Board, the County's Washington, D.C. advocates will support increased funding for these programs and other programs which are priorities for appropriations in the County's Federal Agenda.**

The Federal Agenda also includes two overall Federal policies which are especially relevant to advocacy on appropriations issues facing the County:

- Support proposals which would provide a greater share of total available Federal funding to the County or California, and oppose proposals which would reduce the County's or State's share of total funding; and

- Oppose proposals which would finance increased spending for one program by cutting other programs of greater benefit to the County, or which would result in a net revenue loss or a cost shift to the County.

The policy to oppose proposals which finance increased funding for one program by cutting other programs of greater benefit to the County was added after it became

common for SCAAP to be targeted for cuts to fund increases in other programs through which the County receives little or no funding. Unless otherwise directed by the Board, based on this policy, the County will oppose proposals which would reduce funding for which the State or County receives a greater share of U.S. total funding in order to fund other programs through which the State or County receives less funding.

As in past years, unless otherwise instructed by the Board, the County also will support funding for state and local formula grants over competitive grants, including by supporting the elimination or reduction of funding for small competitive grants in order to maintain or increase funding for formula grant programs which are County priorities. The County receives a far higher share of total formula grant funding than competitive grant funding because formula grants are allocated mainly based on a state or local jurisdiction's share of U.S. total population and/or other need-based criteria. In contrast, competitive grants typically have maximum funding limits that are low relative to size of the County's population.

Other Issues: As noted in the Federal Legislative Outlook section, similar to last year, Congress is likely to enact very few non-budget bills of County interest due to the divided government and polarization between the two parties. If legislative issues of County arise, this office will inform the Board of the pursuit of County positions on legislation, as it already has done with SCAAP, WRDA, and flood insurance rate legislation earlier in this session of Congress.

There are numerous existing policies in the Federal Legislative Agenda or separately adopted by the Board that are sufficiently comprehensive to enable the County's Washington, D.C. advocates and County departments to take positions on legislation relating to child sex trafficking, immigration, and the reauthorization of major programs through which the County receives funding, such as TANF, SCAAP, WIA, Ryan White, Older Americans Act, and surface transportation programs. There also are overall Federal principles and policies in the Federal Legislative Agenda, which can be used to take positions on legislation of County interest.

The overall Federal principles are as follows:

1. Maximize Federal revenues.

2. Increase flexibility for the County.

3. Lessen the impact of adverse Federal policies on County costs and decision-making authority.

The overall Federal policies are as follows:

1. Support proposals which would provide a greater share of total available Federal funding to the County or California, and oppose proposals which would reduce the County's or State's share of total funding.

2. Support proposals which would provide local governments with greater decision-making authority over the use of Federal funds, and which provide for direct grants or mandatory pass-through allocations to large urban counties.

3. Oppose proposals which would impose new unfunded mandates on the County.

4. Oppose proposals which would finance increased spending for one program by cutting other programs of greater benefit to the County, or which would result in a net revenue loss or a cost shift to the County.

5. Support proposals to reduce or relax match requirements which hinder the ability of financially distressed state and local governments to receive or utilize Federal funds.

6. Support Federal fiscal relief for financially distressed state and local governments.

7. Oppose Federal preemption of State and local government authority.

These overall Federal principles and policies were adopted by the Board to replace the need to include more repetitive policies affecting each program, policy, or issue area. Before the Board adopted these overall principles and policies, the Federal Agenda became longer and increasingly repetitive each year as similarly worded policies were added to apply to more and more programs and issues of County interest. The overall principles and policies also allow the County's staff and Washington, D.C. advocates to respond quickly to new proposals and issues which may arise and be considered with little notice.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA
MR:MT:ma

Attachment

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist

Attachment

County of Los Angeles

FEDERAL AGENDA

The Federal Agenda contains principles and policies that serve as the basis for the development and advocacy of positions on Federal legislative, administrative, and budget issues. This document consists of overall principles and policies applicable to all Federal issues, funding priorities in Federal appropriations bills, and more specific policies addressing Federal issues of major County interest.

I. OVERALL FEDERAL PRINCIPLES

1. Maximize Federal revenues.

2. Increase flexibility for the County.

3. Lessen the impact of adverse Federal policies on County costs and decision-making authority.

II. OVERALL FEDERAL POLICIES

1. Support proposals which would provide a greater share of total available Federal funding to the County or California, and oppose proposals which would reduce the County's or State's share of total funding.

2. Support proposals which would provide local governments with greater decision-making authority over the use of Federal funds, and which provide for direct grants or mandatory pass-through allocations to large urban counties.

3. Oppose proposals which would impose new unfunded mandates on the County.

4. Oppose proposals which would finance increased spending for one program by cutting other programs of greater benefit to the County, or which would result in a net revenue loss or a cost shift to the County.

5. Support proposals to reduce or relax match requirements which hinder the ability of financially distressed state and local governments to receive or utilize Federal funds.

6. Support Federal fiscal relief for financially distressed state and local governments.

7. Oppose Federal preemption of State and local government authority.

III. COUNTY FUNDING PRIORITIES IN APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

The County's funding priorities in individual appropriations bills are outlined below. Within each appropriations bill, priority is given to pursuing funding for programs which provide the County with a greater share of total funding and greater flexibility over the use of funds. These priorities do not include health and welfare entitlement programs, such as Medicaid, for which funding levels are not determined through annual appropriations bills. Board policies on Medicaid and other entitlement programs are included in the section, entitled "IV. Federal Legislative Policies Addressing Issues of Major County Interest."

1. Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill

a. Reimbursement of Criminal Alien Costs: Support increased funding to reimburse the County's criminal justice costs associated with criminal aliens, including increased funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program and the Southwest Border Prosecutor Program.

b. County Justice/Law Enforcement Activities: Support increased funding for justice and law enforcement activities, such as the Justice Assistance Grant, anti-gang, technology improvements, prosecutions, prevention, corrections, forensic science, student loan repayment for prosecutors and public defenders, training, and activities addressing special populations, such as juveniles, mentally ill, and homeless persons.

c. Immigration and Naturalization Activities: Support increased funding for activities such as border enforcement, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents assigned to the County's jails, automated fingerprint identification systems to track criminal aliens, prosecution of criminal aliens and alien smugglers, naturalization assistance, and processing of naturalization and immigration applications.

2. Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill

a. Ryan White HIV/AIDS Programs: Support increased funding of Ryan White HIV/AIDS programs.

b. Public Health Funding: Support increased funding for public health activities, such as bioterrorism, early detection surveillance, immunizations, tuberculosis, maternal and child health, family planning, sexually transmitted disease, childhood lead poisoning, violence and injury prevention programs, food safety, and chronic disease programs.

c. Other Health Funding: Support Federal reimbursement of the costs of emergency medical care provided to undocumented immigrants and funding for emergency preparedness and response, trauma care, and other health services.

d. Substance Abuse and Mental Health: Support increased funding for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grants, including substance abuse and mental health block grants, the Children's Mental Health Services Program, and other substance abuse, mental health, and supportive services and training grants.

e. Social Services Block Grant: Support increased funding for this block grant, which provides states with considerable flexibility over the use of funds.

f. Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Programs: Support full funding of WIA programs and other employment and training programs.

g. Older Americans Act Programs: Support increased funding for Older Americans Act programs.

h. Refugee Assistance: Support increased funding to provide cash and medical assistance, employment services, and other supportive services to refugees.

i. Community Services Block Grant (CSBG): Support increased funding for CSBG, which provides assistance to states, localities, and community-based organizations to reduce poverty, revitalize low income communities, and assist low income persons.

3. Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill

a. Water Quality and Reliability: Support funding for the improvement of water quality and reliability, including grants for projects that would expand the use of recycled water, and for the protection of water supplies against terrorist acts.

b. Marina del Rey: Support funding for the development and implementation of long-term solutions for shoaling problems, including the safe disposal of contaminated sediment and construction of improvements in Ballona Creek and the entrance of Marina del Rey.

c. Beach Erosion/Replenishment: Support funding for developing and implementing coastal management plans, including beach stabilization and replenishment projects.

4. Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill

a. Transportation Projects: Support funding for projects to build, improve, repair, and maintain highways and other transportation infrastructure in Los Angeles County.

b. Airport and Seaport Security: Support increased and multi-year funding to improve security at airports, seaports, and harbors in Los Angeles County, including funding for Coast Guard operations to protect coastal areas of the County.

c. Environmental Improvements: Support funding for initiatives to protect and enhance communities through projects promoting public safety and environmental improvements.

d. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME, Section 108 Loan Guarantees, and Homeless Assistance: Support increased funding for CDBG, HOME, Section 108 Loan Guarantee, and homeless assistance grants, and oppose efforts to increase set asides.

e. Public and Assisted Housing: Support increased funding for the public housing and Section 8 programs, including the Section 8 Family Unification program, and Shelter Plus Care renewal projects.

5. Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill

a. Help America Vote Act (HAVA): Support full funding of HAVA grants to help state and local governments meet new election requirements established under HAVA.

6. Interior Appropriations Bill

a. Land and Water Conservation Fund: Support full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund as well as funding for improvements in the Santa Monica Mountains, parks, environmental restoration of coastal watersheds and wetlands, and beach projects in Los Angeles County.

b. Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) Program: Support increased funding for park and open space acquisition and development under the UPARR.

7. Homeland Security Appropriations Bill

a. Homeland Security Activities: Support increased funding for local homeland security activities, such as emergency preparedness and response, training, equipment, and improved communications systems.

b. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): Support funding for FEMA to reimburse all unpaid disaster claims and for earthquake preparedness, disaster mitigation, and emergency management.

c. Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Program: Support increased funding for SAFER, which provides financial assistance to hire firefighters.

IV. FEDERAL POLICIES ADDRESSING ISSUES OF MAJOR COUNTY INTEREST

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FEDERAL POLICIES ADDRESSING ISSUES OF MAJOR COUNTY INTEREST

1. Health/Mental Health

a. Support reform of Medicaid financing and provider payments to increase Medicaid payments, including disproportionate share hospital payments, to health safety net providers.

b. Support reform of Medicaid payments to providers to encourage efficient use of resources and expand ambulatory care services to low-income patients without jeopardizing total available Medicaid funds.

c. Support a more equitable allocation of Federal Medicaid funds to reduce the current disparity under which some states, such as California, receive far less Federal Medicaid funds per Medicaid recipient than other states.

d. Support proposals which would increase California's Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP), the Federal matching rate used under the Medicaid and Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs.

e. Oppose proposals which would increase the County's unreimbursed costs of providing and administering health care services, such as proposals which would reduce the level of Medicaid payments, reduce the number of Medicaid eligible persons, and reduce the scope of Medicaid covered services, such as by eliminating Medicaid reimbursement of graduate medical education costs and by narrowing the definition of rehabilitative services and targeted case management services that are eligible for Medicaid funding.

f. Support proposals which would expand Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and health insurance coverage to more persons, such as the uninsured, persons in State or local detention facilities, and minors whose health needs, otherwise, must be met by the County.

g. Support proposals which would increase Federal reimbursement of the County's undocumented immigrant emergency medical costs.

h. Support proposals to extend health insurance to more persons aged 55 to 64, such as by making Federal employee health benefit plans available to them.

i. Support proposals to increase Medicare payments for graduate medical education to assist public teaching hospitals, which play a critical role in training residents, and to increase funding for graduate medical education programs in preventive medicine under Medicare or other programs.

j. Support proposals and funding to enhance the nation's public health infrastructure and the capacity of local public hospitals, mental health departments, and health departments to prepare for and respond to acts of terrorism and other medical and public health emergencies.

k. Support proposals which provide increased funding for trauma care services.

l. Support proposals which provide funding for capital improvements to public hospitals, public health facilities, and clinics.

m. Support proposals and funding which would promote and market the availability of County health and mental health services, which expand and improve access to health and mental health services for the uninsured, women, and other populations with special needs, and which decrease health and mental health disparities among ethnic and cultural groups.

n. Support proposals which provide funding for urban telemedicine programs in medically underserved areas, and which would reimburse physicians in urban areas for telemedical consultations.

o. Support proposals which would expand or improve mental health and substance abuse coverage under public and private health insurance programs and which would fund and integrate mental health and substance abuse prevention, treatment, and services as part of a continuum of services under substance abuse, mental health, health, human services, and other public programs.

p. Support proposals which would allow Medicaid reimbursement for patients at institutions for mental disease (IMDs), which are hospitals, nursing facilities, or other institutions with more than 16 beds that are primarily engaged in the diagnosis, treatment, or care of persons with mental diseases.

q. Support proposals which would increase Medicaid reimbursement of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) costs, including by allowing Medicaid payments to be made to IHSS providers who are responsible relatives of recipients.

r. Support proposals which would expand Medicaid coverage to include the evaluation and diagnosis of learning disabilities.

s. Support proposals requiring prior notification to state and local governments by licensed health facilities granted protection under Federal bankruptcy laws to ensure maintenance of appropriate patient care.

t. Support proposals which allow public hospitals and other County facilities and programs which purchase prescription drugs to access discounted pharmaceutical pricing schedules, including those available to the Federal government.

u. Support proposals and funding which would increase the education, training, supply, recruitment, and retention of nurses, physicians, laboratory personnel, and other health professionals, especially for work in medically underserved areas.

v. Support proposals and funding to enhance cultural and linguistic competence in health education and delivery.

w. Support legislation to reauthorize Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration programs, which would provide increased funding to California and the

County, and support proposals that would provide for a more equitable allocation of Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant funds, such as by increasing the statutory cap on the cost of service factor that adjusts block grant allotments for the relative differences in the cost of providing substance abuse services among states.

x. Support proposals and increased funding for preventive health, public health, and mental health services, such as immunizations, early detection and diagnostic services, interconception and prenatal care, well-person care, nutrition, tobacco cessation, and health/mental health education activities.

y. Support proposals which would provide for the treatment and care of current and former Armed Services members with spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries at the Rancho Los Angeles National Rehabilitation Center under a contract with the Federal government.

2. Children's Health Insurance Program

a. Support legislation to authorize the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) which maintains or increases annual overall funding levels and California's share of total funding, and which would allow the State to expend or retain more of its CHIP allotments without being subject to reallocation to other states.

b. Support proposals that would provide states with greater flexibility over the use of CHIP funds, including to expand eligibility to cover parents and legal immigrants, expand the scope of covered services, and use community-based delivery systems without requiring Federally approved waivers.

3. HIV/AIDS Programs

a. Support proposals that would increase funding for HIV/AIDS programs and activities, including Ryan White programs, HIV/AIDS screening, prevention, treatment, care, and research activities.

b. Support proposals that would increase the County's share of available funding.

c. Support preservation of direct grants to heavily impacted areas, such as the County.

d. Support proposals which would allow funds to be used to provide a more comprehensive, integrated continuum of care and services and which would increase local flexibility over the use of funds in addressing locally determined needs and priorities.

e. Support maintaining the current statutorily required roles and responsibilities of planning councils under Ryan White programs.

f. Support proposals which would increase the availability of and access to routine HIV screening and HIV/AIDS care, treatment, prevention, research, and education programs.

4. Health and Human Services Reform

a. Support proposals which would increase the number of indigent County residents who are eligible to receive Federally-funded assistance while ensuring that sponsors meet their financial obligations.

b. Support maintaining Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and child support enforcement as open-ended entitlement programs.

c. Support open-ended entitlements for Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance and other funding models that promote priorities, such as increased state and local flexibility in the expenditure of Federal funding, and support achievement of better outcomes for children.

d. Support sufficient funding for health and human services reforms commensurate with any increase in services or administrative responsibilities needed to implement the reforms.

e. Support proposals and funding for welfare-to-work activities.

f. Support proposals and funding for services to non-custodial parents that strengthen their earning power, promote the payment of child support, and promote more effective parenting and greater involvement in the lives of their children.

g. Support proposals and funding to improve health and human services information technology and to implement and make improvements to automated data and management information systems for Federal programs administered by state and local governments.

h. Support proposals which would simplify the administration of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, SNAP, and other public assistance programs.

i. Oppose proposals that would reduce Federal or State financial participation in health and human services programs, especially proposals that could result in a reduction in services or shift costs to the County.

j. Support proposals to hold state and local governments harmless from fiscal penalties when the Federal government did not provide additional funding commensurate with the cost of meeting new Federal requirements, or when the failure to meet Federal requirements resulted from factors beyond their control, such as the lack of clear program instructions.

k. Oppose proposals which would increase the County's unreimbursed costs of providing and administering health and human services, such as reducing Federal funding or denying Federally-funded benefits to indigent County residents who will remain eligible for County-funded services.

l. Support proposals which would enhance the County's ability to utilize Federal funds to coordinate and integrate service delivery, including, but not limited to, the sharing of costs and client information across Federal programs.

m. Oppose administratively imposed requirements, such as performance or quality control standards, that are not accompanied by additional Federal funding.

n. Support proposals that would increase state and local flexibility under Section 1115 waivers, including by extending Section 1115 waiver authority to Title IV-B Child and Family Services, Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, and Title XX Social Services.

o. Support maintaining the flexibility of states to terminate demonstration projects and state options in health and human services programs.

p. Support proposals and funding that would promote home and community-based care, especially for persons who, otherwise, would require institutionalization.

q. Support proposals to increase Federal child support enforcement funding.

r. Support proposals and funding to assist ex-offenders become self-sufficient through employment and training.

s. Support proposals which would increase nutrition education, provide consumers with more nutritional information on foods, and discourage the marketing of non-nutritious foods and beverages to children.

t. Support legislation which would mirror California's Medical Injury and Compensation Reform Act (MICRA), and which would not preempt state laws which govern medical malpractice and torts, such as MICRA.

5. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

a. Support legislation which maintains or increases annual TANF Block Grant funding levels and state and local flexibility over the use of funds, provides for an equitable allocation of funds to California, and preserves or increases the current state maintenance-of-effort (MOE) requirement to ensure that sufficient resources are available to meet the needs of low income children and their families in the County.

b. Support preservation of the current scope of allowable activities and populations served.

c. Support expanding the work activities that states may count towards the TANF work participation rate, and support the elimination of the separate two-parent work requirement.

d. Support proposals which provide incentives to states to move families toward self-sufficiency, such as by providing credit toward a state's work participation rate for moving recipients into employment and by subsidizing employment.

e. Support proposals which would waive fiscal penalties on states that failed to meet Federal work participation rate requirements despite increasing expenditures on work-related activities or which would allow a state to pay its penalty by increasing its TANF work-related expenditures by an amount equal to the penalty.

f. Support proposals which would increase the flexibility of states to draw down their TANF allotments.

g. Support proposals which would strengthen TANF's role in reducing child poverty.

h. Support proposals to increase state and local flexibility under TANF, especially over welfare-to-work activities.

i. Support proposals which would reduce potential increased costs or fiscal penalties for states and counties under TANF, including those that otherwise would result from increased Federal requirements.

6. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Stamps)

a. Support the continued authorization of funding for the SNAP/Food Stamps Program.

b. Support proposals which would simplify SNAP administration, including telephone interviews with applicants, one-step benefit calculations, and streamlining of the program's work and training requirements.

c. Support proposals to reform its quality control (QC) system, such as by setting more reasonable error rate targets, placing greater emphasis on rewarding good performance rather than penalizing poor performance, and allowing states to reinvest any QC fiscal penalty as an alternative to payment.

d. Support proposals which improve coordination between the SNAP and TANF programs, including providing states with the option to use the TANF definition of household.

e. Support the restoration of SNAP eligibility to all legal non-citizens with deeming provisions for sponsored immigrants.

7. Children and Family Services

a. Support proposals which would provide a subsidy for legal guardian relative caregivers who have assumed full time care and responsibility for abused and neglected children and avoid foster care placement for such children, including through Federal financial participation under Title IV-E.

b. Support proposals and funding which would promote income security, housing, health care, education and vocational opportunities, and economic self-sufficiency for youth emancipating from foster care, and which would lower the age provision of the Independent Living Program to 14 years.

c. Support proposals which would expand Title IV-E eligibility to more abused and neglected children.

d. Support proposals which would increase funding for foster care, adoption assistance, independent living, family preservation, child protective services, and other services to promote the safety and well-being of abused and neglected children.

e. Support proposals and funding which would implement a Child Health and Education Passport System in Los Angeles County.

f. Support proposals which would enhance legal permanence for foster children, such as by expanding family finding programs and streamlining and/or supporting adoption and legal guardianship programs.

g. Support proposals and funding which would improve and increase the training of child welfare, mental health, health, and other workers who provide services to children in the child welfare system.

h. Support proposals to expedite the implementation of a comprehensive statewide automated child support system in California, mitigate the State's fiscal liability for not meeting Federal child support automation requirements, and allow fiscal penalties imposed on the State to be reinvested in the child support program.

i. Support legislation that requires Federal agencies to update their records within five days of receipt of information from state Title IV-D child support agencies.

j. Support proposals and funding to promote and increase intervention, prevention, training, technical assistance, research, and education in the areas of domestic violence, child abuse, and elder abuse, including through the reauthorization of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

k. Support proposals which would provide for the flexible use of Federal funding to provide services to abused and neglected children and their families.

l. Support enactment of tax credits for individuals who provide in-home care to elderly parents or other family members.

m. Support proposals which provide funding for before and after-school programs.

n. Support proposals to provide states with increased financial incentives to pass through child support arrearages to children who receive welfare benefits.

o. Support proposals and funding that increase the availability and quality of affordable child care and development services.

p. Support proposals and funding to local school districts and child care and development programs to implement locally determined programs to help educate children with limited English proficiency.

q. Support legislation to reauthorize the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program, which maintains or increases California's percentage share of total CSBG funding, and which retains the current requirement that states pass through block grant funds to local communities.

r. Support proposals that would provide child welfare agencies, juvenile probation agencies, juvenile courts, and court-appointed advocates with access to educational records on children who they are serving.

s. Support proposals that would fully fund special education.

t. Support proposals and funding to expand mentoring services and after-school recreation activities for at-risk youth, including foster youth.

8. Employment and Training

a. Support programs that provide training, remedial education, job placement, career enhancement, subsidized employment, and other services to low-income persons, at-risk youth, and displaced workers to increase their employment and earnings.

b. Support providing local elected officials greater control and flexibility over the administration, planning, and implementation of employment and training programs.

c. Support the pass-through of Federal employment and training funds to local areas based on relative need as measured by factors such as unemployment, poverty, and the number of welfare recipients and displaced workers.

d. Support legislation which allows persons from the military to obtain credit for their training, and promotes the transfer of such skills to the private sector and other government agencies to avoid the time and cost of retraining.

e. Support proposals which permit the full implementation of the County's Living Wage Ordinance.

9. Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Reauthorization

a. Support legislation to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act, which provides separate adult, youth, and dislocated worker formula grants for workforce development activities to states with the mandatory pass-through of funds to local workforce areas.

b. Support proposals to provide local elected officials with greater flexibility over the administration, planning, and use of WIA funds, including the flexibility to serve more in-school youth and foster youth, administer stand-alone summer youth programs, and subsidize employment.

c. Support proposals which would expand and improve the effectiveness of the one-stop workforce delivery system, including providing greater flexibility in forming local partnerships and in sharing information and costs among programs and entities participating in the one-stop system.

d. Support WIA performance measurement system reforms which would promote local flexibility in setting performance goals, and which would ensure that local areas are not penalized for having a high unemployment rate or for targeting services at hard-to-employ persons or persons with special needs, such as foster youth or the homeless.

e. Support proposals which would equitably allocate WIA funds to states and substate areas, based solely on relative need using the latest available data.

f. Oppose proposals that would include Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs in a "super waiver" covering multiple Federal employment and education programs, which could reduce the amount of funds available to the County for locally determined workforce services.

g. Support proposals which would establish a streamlined funding mechanism for sharing one-stop infrastructure costs among partner programs in a manner that ensures County-administered partner programs will not incur a disproportionately high share of infrastructure costs.

10. Older Americans Act Programs

a. Support increased funding for Older Americans Act (OAA) programs.

b. Support proposals that would increase flexibility, including by allowing Family Caregiver Program funds to be used to serve grandparents under age 60 who are raising children.

c. Support proposals that would reduce non-Federal match requirements and expand what can be counted as a matching contribution.

d. Support proposals which would provide for the more equitable allocation of OAA funds to states and substate areas, based solely on relative need using the latest available data.

11. Homeland Security

a. Support funding for local homeland security activities, such as emergency preparedness and response, planning, training, equipment, personnel, and improved communications systems.

b. Support proposals and funding to enhance the nation's public health infrastructure and the capacity of local public hospitals and health departments to prepare for and respond to acts of terrorism and other medical and public health emergencies.

c. Support proposals which would more effectively target homeland security, first responder, bioterrorism, and firefighting funds based on relative need, population, and threat levels.

d. Support funding to improve the security of critical infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, flood control, water resources, hospitals, public buildings, and transportation facilities.

e. Support funding to ensure an adequate supply of vaccine, antidotes, medications, and other medical supplies to respond to a health emergency or terrorist threat.

f. Support the direct allocation or the pass-through of an equitable share of state block grant funds to counties for first responder, bioterrorism, interoperable communications, emergency management, and other homeland security activities.

g. Oppose match or cost-sharing requirements which would hinder the ability of financially distressed state and local governments to receive or utilize Federal funds.

h. Support greater local flexibility over the use of first responder, bioterrorism, interoperable communications, and other homeland security funding, including the flexibility to use funds to pay for personnel.

i. Support proposals which would clarify that the Federal government rather than state and local public health departments or their employees is financially liable for any claims arising from the administration of a vaccine as part of their involvement in a Federal vaccination campaign.

j. Support proposals which would facilitate interagency information sharing and coordination on emergency management, law enforcement, public safety, and health matters relating to homeland security.

k. Support proposals and funding for human relations agencies to combat terrorism and related hate violence by helping to enhance communication, trust, and cooperation between law enforcement and impacted communities, and for the nation's human relations infrastructure to prepare for, prevent, and respond to hate violence, prejudice, and damage to intergroup relations that may arise from terrorist attacks or threats.

l. Support the concept of multi-year Federal grant funding to improve security at seaports and harbors in Los Angeles County.

m. Support proposals which would promote a regional approach to homeland security and emergency preparedness.

n. Support proposals and funding which would increase fire prevention and fire safety, and which would enhance the capabilities of fire departments to provide fire and other public safety services.

o. Support proposals and funding which would strengthen the cyber security of the information technology and network infrastructure of state and local governments.

12. Justice/Public Safety

a. Support the allocation of Justice Assistance Grant, juvenile justice, and other anti-crime block grant funds to local governments based on their relative need and responsibility for criminal justice activities, such as measured by crime rates and criminal justice expenditures including, but not limited to, jails, courts, prosecution, incarceration, probation, and indigent defense.

b. Support direct grants (or the pass-through of an equitable share of state block grant funds) to counties for the development, refurbishment, or operation of correctional facilities.

c. Support the elimination of local match requirements under anti-crime and other justice assistance programs, such as the Community Oriented Policing Services program, for financially distressed local governments.

d. Support proposals to allow the County to count its unreimbursed criminal alien incarceration costs as matching funds towards any match requirement for Federal anti-crime funds.

e. Support increased Federal resources to assist County justice agencies with crime laboratory improvements and backlog reduction, drug laundering intervention, jail automation, tracking of criminal aliens, and in addressing other needs.

f. Support increased funding for probation under Federal community policing programs, but not at the expense of currently financed law enforcement activities.

g. Support proposals which would facilitate information sharing and coordination between Federal, state, and local public safety agencies.

h. Support proposals to promote community prosecution programs and increase prosecutions, including gun-related crimes and identity theft.

i. Support increased Federal involvement and funding to reduce gang-related crimes, and increased Federal funding for juvenile justice programs which promote a balance of funding between punitive intervention efforts and prevention investments.

j. Support proposals that make mental health intervention a component of law enforcement and the administration of justice, including training law enforcement personnel in dealing with the mentally ill, and support funding for mental health courts.

k. Support legislation which expands Federal jurisdiction to prosecute hate crimes based on gender, sexual orientation, and disability.

l. Support legislation which seeks to reduce discrimination and hate crimes, increase human relations education and training, and enhance communities' capacity to effectively address intergroup relations issues.

m. Support proposals which allow for an intercept of Federal tax refunds of probationers who owe restitution.

n. Support proposals and funding which would provide for the cancellation or repayment of student loans for public defenders and prosecutors.

o. Support proposals and funding to expand drug courts, mental health courts, and their related treatment programs as an alternative to incarceration.

p. Support proposals to prohibit the unauthorized use, manufacture, wearing, sale, or transfer of any official public agency badge or photographic identification card.

q. Support proposals which would increase the County's share of Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funding, provide direct JAG funding to the County in a timely manner, and increase the County's decision-making authority and flexibility over the use of funds.

13. Immigration and Refugees

a. Support proposals which would reduce the County's criminal justice costs associated with criminal aliens, such as by providing increased Federal reimbursement of County costs or by increasing the identification, apprehension, deportation, or Federal prosecutions of criminal aliens.

b. Support proposals which would reduce backlogs of naturalization and immigration adjustment of status cases and which eliminate barriers faced by aged and disabled legal immigrants in becoming naturalized citizens.

c. Support an extension of Section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which allows immigrants to adjust their immigration status without leaving the country if they pay a penalty fee, and support using the fee revenues to expand immigration and naturalization activities and reimburse criminal alien costs in the districts where the fees are collected.

d. Support legislation to authorize and provide funding for Refugee Act programs that ensure that newly arrived refugees will receive cash and medical assistance, employment and training, social services, and other needed services.

e. Support a more equitable allocation of Refugee Social Services and Targeted Assistance funds, and support proposals which provide local governments with greater decision-making authority over the use of funds, including the flexibility to serve refugees who have been in the U.S. over five years.

f. Oppose proposals which would restrict the eligibility of refugees for other Federal programs, such as TANF, Supplemental Security Income, and Medicaid, or which would shift costs of providing cash and medical assistance to refugees from the Federal government to state and local governments.

g. Support proposals and funding which would reimburse the County for costs resulting from Federal immigration policies.

14. Community Development

a. Support programs and initiatives providing community development, economic development, and housing for low and moderate income persons to improve their living conditions and the economic health and infrastructure of their communities.

b. Support proposals which provide increased local flexibility under Federal community development and housing programs.

c. Support retention of the current direct allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to large urban counties and CDBG and HOME state/local allocation formulas which would maintain or increase funding for Los Angeles County.

d. Support continued funding for the Section 108 loan guarantee program, which is an important source of financing for economic development, housing rehabilitation, and other physical development projects.

e. Oppose policies which would allow private commercial development and the transfer of land to private entities at the Veterans Affairs West Los Angeles Healthcare Center.

f. Support proposals which would increase resources available to local jurisdictions to clean up and redevelop brownfields.

g. Oppose proposals which would increase fees for Small Business Administration loans.

h. Support proposals which would increase funding for asbestos and lead-based paint removal programs.

i. Support proposals and funding which would promote small business development, including high technology companies.

15. Housing and Homeless Assistance

a. Support proposals to maintain or increase funding to public housing authorities (PHAs), such as for capital improvements, operating subsidies, resident services, administration, and anti-crime programs in public housing.

b. Support proposals which would provide local officials with greater flexibility over the administration and use of housing funds, including over HOME funds, capital funds, Section 8 administrative fees, Section 8 vouchers, the implementation of asset management, the membership of the governing body of the PHA, and Section 8 voucher performance measurement system.

c. Support the continued administration of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program by local PHAs, and oppose proposals which would reduce local decision-making authority or convert the Section 8 program into a block grant to states.

d. Support sufficient funding to renew all existing Section 8 vouchers at reasonable rents for the jurisdictions served.

e. Support proposals which would simplify program administration and ease reporting requirements for public housing authorities.

f. Support proposals, tax incentives, and funding which would increase home ownership and rental housing opportunities for low and moderate income individuals and families and increase the supply of affordable housing.

g. Support proposals which provide additional resources for meeting the housing and related supportive service needs of special populations, including elderly, disabled, and mentally ill persons.

h. Support the reauthorization of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and proposals which would increase local discretion over the use of homeless assistance funds, increase funding for homeless assistance programs, including supportive housing, supportive services, emergency services, and the Homeless Management Information System, more equitably distribute funds based on relative need, and fund

the renewal of contracts for permanent supportive housing from a separate homeless program account rather than Section 8 funds.

i. Support proposals and funding that would increase fair housing activities.

j. Support proposals to provide funding to collect data on the number and characteristics of the homeless population in Los Angeles County.

k. Support proposals that would impede predatory lending practices.

l. Oppose proposals which would restrict the authority of public housing authorities in the administration of housing programs, such as the selection and eviction of tenants, leveraging of assets to expand affordable housing opportunities, or which would impose costly new requirements that are not accompanied by additional resources to implement them.

m. Support proposals that would enhance the ability of public housing authorities to prevent fraud and collect unpaid rents.

n. Support the creation of a Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) data base that would contain information on all participants in HUD-assisted programs to ensure proper and timely assistance.

o. Support proposals and funding which would enable more homebuyers to avoid foreclosures, mitigate the negative impacts of foreclosures, and stabilize impacted neighborhoods, such as through housing counseling programs, the restructuring of loan terms for borrowers at risk of foreclosure, rehabilitation of foreclosed properties, and increased flexibility over the use of Federal funds.

16. Transportation

a. Support funding for County transportation projects.

b. Support proposals to provide local officials with greater flexibility under Federal transportation programs.

c. Support regional alternatives to the expansion of Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), including the use of tax and fee incentives for airlines to expand the number of flights at underutilized regional airports.

d. Support funding for clean fuel buses and for bus maintenance facility improvements.

e. Support efforts to work collaboratively with regional transportation agencies to secure funding for transportation projects in Los Angeles County.

f. Support funding to state and local agencies to construct highway-rail grade separations in order to relieve traffic congestion and improve public safety.

g. Support proposals and funding which would improve the efficient movement of goods from ports to other regions and reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality.

17. Surface Transportation Reauthorization

a. Support legislation to reauthorize surface transportation programs, which would maintain or increase overall annual funding, provide for a more equitable allocation of funds to California and the County, fund demonstration projects in the County, and enhance the role of local officials over the planning and use of funds.

b. Support proposals which would increase the share of Federal transportation funds received by California relative to Federal taxes collected from California.

c. Support proposals to increase funding for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program, which funds transportation projects that lower emissions to assist states in meeting Federal air quality standards, targets a greater share of CMAQ funds to urban areas with the worst air quality, and increases local flexibility over the use of CMAQ funds in improving air quality.

d. Support proposals which would increase state and local control over the use of funds by increasing the share of total funding allocated, by formula, to states rather than through Congressionally-earmarked projects.

e. Support proposals to streamline and expedite the transportation planning and development process.

18. Air, Water, and Resources

a. Support proposals which would permit greater local flexibility in dealing with potential contamination and pollution from storm water runoff and point source discharges, and oppose changes in Federal law and policy which restrict the ability of the County to maintain facilities so they can function as designed.

b. Support proposals and funding for research and development of technologies to improve water quality, including relating to brackish water, chromium 6, perchlorate, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), arsenic, radon, and disinfection byproducts.

c. Support proposals which would improve the reliability, quality, quantity, and security of water supplies and water infrastructure in Los Angeles County.

d. Support amendments to the Clean Water Act which would authorize Federal funding or cost-sharing for implementing Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) standards, or which would exempt from its provisions those routine operation and maintenance activities on existing publicly-owned facilities and the construction of publicly owned water quality enhancement facilities.

e. Support legislation which repeals the mandated use of oxygenated fuel additives, such as MTBE.

f. Oppose proposals that would shift liability for the cost of cleaning up pollution caused by fuel additives, such as MTBE, from the private sector to state and local governments.

g. Support proposals which provide funding to states and local governments to reduce emissions from mobile and fixed sources, such as through the conversion of vehicle fleets to alternative fuels.

h. Support proposals which provide funding or tax credits for projects to improve air quality, such as by reducing toxic particulate matter emissions from diesel engines through voluntary scrap programs and the replacement or retrofit of diesel-powered vehicles and equipment, or which promote the use of sustainable building practices that reduce resource consumption, energy consumption, and release of pollutants and wastes, such as through the use of solar energy and water reclamation.

i. Support proposals which provide funding to state and local governments for environmental protection and restoration of watersheds, shorelines, and wetlands, land acquisition, open space, and improvements to parks, beaches, and other recreational areas.

j. Support proposals to fund the operation and maintenance of watershed or multi-use projects.

k. Support proposals and funding for flood protection, water conservation and infrastructure, pollution control activities, storm drain improvements, replacement of septic systems, stormwater management, and low impact development practices.

l. Oppose proposals which would reduce the amount of funds available to state and local governments from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

m. Support proposals to fully fund the Los Angeles County segment of the Army Corps of Engineers' Coast of California study and the development of long-term management plans for sediments in the Los Angeles region.

n. Support the use of a portion of funds from the Outer Continental Shelf Royalty Fund for sand replenishment, sewage treatment, urban runoff programs, and the environmental protection and restoration of watersheds, shorelines, and wetlands, and oppose initiatives to renew offshore drilling.

o. Support proposals which would authorize Federal cost-sharing of local development and rehabilitation projects as well as operations and maintenance at Federal-owned and constructed flood control facilities used for regional recreation.

p. Support funding for pest prevention and eradication efforts, weed and wildlife management efforts, enhanced pesticide use enforcement and monitoring, increased surveillance of pests at ports of entry in California, and for the Sterile Insect Release program in the Los Angeles area to prevent Medfly infestations.

q. Support funding for weights and measures inspection and enforcement.

r. Support proposals that provide public agencies with immunity from liability to encourage development of multiuse watershed management, environmental restoration, open space, and recreation projects within flood protection and water conservation facilities.

s. Support proposals and funding that would assist local park agencies in their efforts to promote healthy lifestyles and activities that address the problem of obesity.

t. Support proposals and funding to promote or expand after-school programs, including for partnerships between local school districts and park agencies.

u. Support proposals and financing, including tax-exempt financing or tax credits, which would reduce climate change, greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, such as from solid waste landfills, and which would increase the use of landfill gases as an energy source for generating electricity or heat.

v. Support the authorization and reforms of the National Flood Insurance Program with provisions such as risk-based flood insurance, mapping of flood hazards based on actual flood risk, and affordable flood insurance for residents and businesses in the County, and oppose proposals which would significantly increase flood insurance premiums or impose costly new flood insurance requirements on property owners and communities in the County.

19. Waste Management and Superfund

a. Support proposals which protect local governments from liability for hazardous waste cleanup and which provide funding to local governments to clean up hazardous waste sites.

b. Support proposals and funding for the immediate clean-up of hazardous materials at closed military bases to ensure the prompt reuse of those bases for new purposes.

c. Support proposals which establish a redemption value on paint cans to promote recycling of leftover paint.

d. Support development of long-term markets for recycled materials and other end-use products.

e. Support proposals which would increase recycling, such as of televisions and computer monitors that are toxic due to their lead content, including by requiring manufacturers, retailers, and end users to help finance recycling costs.

f. Support the development of alternatives to landfilling, such as conversion technologies, that protect the environment, public health, and public safety.

g. Oppose proposals which would allow transport of nuclear waste through the County.

h. Support proposals that would provide for the safe collection and disposal of medical waste materials, such as medical needles.

20. Disaster Assistance

a. Support proposals which would increase the amount of Federal disaster aid available to the County, such as by authorizing Federal reimbursement of straight-time labor costs for emergency response work, and oppose proposals that would reduce Federal

disaster aid or increase the proportion of disaster aid or hazard mitigation costs which must be borne by state or local governments.

b. Support proposals and funding to improve the capacity of state and local governments to plan, prepare, and respond to emergencies, including those involving acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and public health emergencies.

21. Utilities and Energy

a. Support efforts to ensure reasonable wholesale rates for electricity, and oppose proposals which would restrict state and local government efforts to solve energy problems.

b. Support proposals to require refunds to consumers and utilities for rates charged in excess of just and reasonable levels.

c. Support efforts to establish electric utility reliability standards.

d. Oppose proposals which would restrict the ability of public agencies to use tax-exempt financing for electric co-generation.

e. Oppose proposals which would preempt state or local authority over the siting or zoning of power plants, power lines, or other utility-related infrastructure.

f. Support funding which would assist local governments in reducing energy consumption, shifting energy usage to non-peak hours, promoting energy efficiency, using renewable resources, and implementing local energy strategies and initiatives.

22. Communications

a. Support proposals and funding that would enable County public safety agencies to upgrade their communications systems, utilize additional radio spectrum, implement or expand interoperable communications systems, use new communications technologies, and meet increasingly complex communications requirements.

b. Support proposals to provide local agencies with waivers from Federal mandates to convert from broadband to narrow band communications technologies unless sufficient funding is provided to comply with the mandates.

c. Support proposals which would assign additional radio spectrum to public safety agencies.

d. Oppose proposals which preempt local government authority over telecommunications services, such as the franchising and regulation of cable television services, the placement, construction, and modification of telecommunications towers and facilities, emergency alert and interoperable communications systems, and the protection of consumers relating to telecommunication services.

e. Support proposals which encourage competition among communications providers for the full range of telephone, cable, video, internet, and broadband services.

f. Support Federal proposals which prohibit "slamming" and "cramming" of telecommunications services, and which limit the financial liability of affected consumers.

g. Support proposals which protect consumers from unsolicited commercial electronic mail ("spamming").

h. Oppose proposals which preempt the authority of local government to adopt policies on use of Internet services and equipment funded by the Federal E-rate telecommunication discount program.

i. Support proposals to provide consumers with a callback number that would lift the identity block used by marketers in telephone solicitations.

j. Support proposals to provide all public libraries with lower rates for telecommunications services, including access to the Internet.

k. Support proposals that promote and fund nationwide availability of 2-1-1 telephone service for information and referral to human services and for other purposes.

l. Support proposals that promote universal and affordable access to a wide range of telecommunication services, including voice, video, data, and the Internet.

m. Support proposals that provide local governments with no-cost access to media to distribute information to residents by such methods as Public, Educational, and Government access channels.

23. Tobacco Settlement

a. Support proposals which reimburse local governments for indigent and employee health care costs attributable to tobacco products, reduce youth access to tobacco products, and promote community-based tobacco prevention and intervention efforts.

b. Oppose proposals which weaken the ability of local government to sue the tobacco industry, preempt the ability of local government to regulate tobacco products, and weaken the ability of the Federal Food and Drug Administration to regulate nicotine, unless part of an overall settlement which is beneficial to the County.

c. Support proposals which prevent the Federal government from taking proceeds from settlements between the tobacco industry and state and local governments.

d. Oppose proposals which limit the ability of individuals to sue the tobacco industry for tobacco-related damages.

24. Census and Federal Data

a. Support proposals which promote accurate, unbiased and inclusive census counts and data collection, including by supporting the use of scientifically sound sampling methods to augment the direct count to ensure that accurate data will be available with which to equitably allocate funds among states and localities.

b. Support the use of the most current available Federal demographic data in allocating Federal formula grant funds to assure that areas, such as the County, whose population is growing faster than the national average, receive an equitable share of funds.

c. Oppose the use of small state minimums which provide states with small populations with more Federal aid relative to need than more populous states, such as California.

25. Federalism

a. Support proposals which ensure the input of state and local governments before implementing any Executive Order relating to the powers of state and local governments.

b. Oppose proposals which preempt local land use decision-making authority, exempt certain categories of land use from zoning requirements, or limit the ability of local governments to determine appropriate uses of property within their jurisdiction.

c. Support proposals which would expedite Federal review of waiver requests submitted by state and local governments, especially requests for waiver extensions or waivers similar to those approved in other jurisdictions.

d. Oppose proposals which would result in a net cost increase or revenue loss to state and local governments without providing them with offsetting Federal revenue.

e. Oppose proposals which would result in the downsizing and/or closure of the Los Angeles Air Force Base.

f. Support preservation of the Federal tax deductibility of state and local income and property taxes and the Federal tax-exempt status of state and local bonds.

g. Support the repeal of any Federal mandate that would require state and local governments to withhold a percentage of payments to contractors or vendors for payment to the Federal government for Federal tax collection purposes.

h. Oppose proposals that jeopardize local revenues associated with the provision of voice (telephone), video (cable) and data (Internet) services.

i. Support proposals which would provide state and local governments with the option of using Federal supply schedules to acquire goods and services.

26. Retirement/Pension Programs

a. Oppose proposals which mandate Social Security and Medicare coverage of state and local government employees.

b. Support proposals which would increase the portability of government pension and deferred income plans, including by allowing Section 457 transfers to purchase retirement service credits, and which would relax limits on contributions to and benefits from such plans.

c. Support proposals to repeal or reduce the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision which reduce the amount of Social Security benefits received by many Federal, state, and local government retirees and their spouses.

27. Voting

a. Support legislation which permits registrars to remove names from voting rolls when unable to confirm residency, permits the use of Social Security numbers on voter registration affidavits, establishes a system for local elections officials to ascertain and determine the status of Federal felons on probation or parole, and permits the U.S. Postal Service to return undeliverable official elections materials without charge to elections officials.

b. Support proposals and funding to help state and local governments upgrade their voting equipment to a more technologically advanced system that produces accurate and expeditious election results without imposing uniform nationwide standards.

28. Cultural/Libraries/Arts Education

a. Support increased Federal funding for arts education research and for cultural and educational agencies, including museums, which promote and sustain the arts, arts education, the humanities, and the sciences.

b. Support increased funding for public libraries under the Library Services and Technology Act.

c. Support funding for the Federal Depository Library Program, which makes government publications accessible at public libraries throughout the country.

d. Oppose closures and service reductions at Environmental Protection Agency regional and special libraries which support environmental research by members of the public and EPA staff.

e. Support legislation to include the arts as core curriculum under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

29. Consumer Affairs

Support proposals to prohibit unsolicited credit checks currently being marketed by credit card companies.