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Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

November 26, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

STATE AGENDA FOR THE 2009-10 SESSION

On November 18, 2008, the Board of Supervisors adopted the revised 2009-10 State Agenda. These revisions, which include new policies, additions to existing principles, and the deletion of others, were incorporated into the State Agenda in addition to clarifications and technical changes consistent with existing Board policy.

The attachment contains a copy of the body of the letter to the Board and the updated State Agenda, including previous policies and positions adopted by the Board.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Manuel Rivas at (213) 974-1464 or via email at mrivas@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:GK
MAL:er

Attachment

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Local 721
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Association

Memos 2008/state agenda 2009-10_cvr

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November 18, 2008

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

STATE AGENDA FOR THE 2009-10 LEGISLATIVE SESSION (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS AFFECTED) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

The following recommendations represent the updated policies and proposals for the State Agenda for the 2009-10 Session of the State Legislature, which were developed in coordination with your Board Offices, County departments, the Legislative Strategist, and the Sacramento advocates. This package, together with other positions previously adopted by your Board, will guide our State advocacy efforts. In general, these changes seek to minimize the adverse impact of State actions on the County, achieve greater flexibility over the use of State funds, secure State assistance whenever possible, especially from non-General Fund sources, and promote the growth of the State and local economy.

THEREFORE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve the attached additions, deletions, and changes to existing Board-adopted policies and positions for inclusion in the 2009-10 State Agenda.

2. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer, affected departments, the Legislative Strategist, and the Sacramento advocates to work with the Los Angeles County delegation, other counties and local governments, and interest groups to pursue these policies and positions in the State Legislature and with the Administration and its agencies.

ECONOMIC AND FISCAL OUTLOOK

As the State begins to prepare its FY 2009-10 Proposed Budget, it is faced with a current year budget that is already out-of-balance based on estimates of State revenues that assume an early economic recovery, instability in the financial markets, substantial court-imposed funding for prison health care and overcrowding, and the possibility that the voters may reject a proposal next year to securitize future lottery earnings, funds which could be part of any budget solution for next year. In addition, employment in nine of the State's 11 major sectors has fallen, and median housing prices continue to decline. The Governor and Legislative leaders have been meeting regularly to discuss a new special session on the budget which will begin on November 5, 2008.

Three months have passed in the current fiscal year and State revenues are $1.1 billion below estimates according to the State Controller. Estimated tax payments, a barometer of the strength of personal income and corporate taxes, were significantly below last year's levels. Furthermore, this year's budget includes an estimated $6 billion of new revenue from a combination of earlier collection of some taxes, postponement of some corporate tax reductions, and increased penalties on companies that underpay taxes. Most of these sources are one-time in nature. Early collection this year means less of these revenues will be available next year.

Early newspaper accounts and various analyses forecast a budget deficit of at least $3 billion by the end of the fiscal year in June 2009. More recent accounts indicate a continuing economic slowdown and a stronger likelihood that the economy will slide into a recession increasing the potential budget shortfall to $10 billion.

This year's $15.2 billion budget shortfall resulted in a County loss of approximately $128.6 million in State funding as documented in a Sacramento Update of September 24, 2008. Subsequent analysis by County departments of the programmatic impact of these reductions indicated a slightly larger impact. The County avoided suspension of Proposition 1A and Proposition 42, which would have increased the adverse impact on the County by an additional $199 million. Given the State's bleak economic outlook, its limited ability to continue to rely on borrowing and accounting changes to help close its budget deficits, and the absence of substantial legislative support for additional revenues, the County may not be so fortunate next year because the State is likely to confront another substantial budget deficit.

In this uncertain economic environment, the County will continue to focus generally on the restoration and preservation of State funding, working primarily through the budget process. While the current budget outlook will make it very difficult to obtain additional funding, the County will seek to restore funding for a number of programs and secure

additional funding where service needs have outpaced stagnant or slow growing revenues.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE COUNTY'S STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The changes in the Attachment represent requests from County departments and commissions to add or modify policy statements consistent with their operational goals and plans. New policy statements represent emerging programs and issues for which we are seeking your Board's concurrence to guide future advocacy efforts. Some policies are no longer applicable and were deleted because County-supported legislation was enacted as in the case of reimbursement of the cost of special elections. There are recommended modifications to policy statements for various items including emissions credits for employees commuting in hybrid vehicles, the setting of water rates to encourage water conservation, a series of proposals to improve collections for child support, recommendations to promote development of a Statewide trauma care system, and increase the availability of immunizations for County residents.

All other previously adopted State Legislative Agenda policies and positions remain in effect; and as such, advocacy will continue on these matters. The revised State Agenda, which incorporates Board actions adopting the State Agenda for the 2009-10 Legislative Session on November 18, 2008, is contained in Attachment I. In addition, consistent with existing Board policies, there are three attachments which bring together the County's policies on Climate Change (Attachment II), Health Care Reform (Attachment III), and Water Supply and Reliability (Attachment IV).

Legislation for which the County will seek sponsorship, consistent with existing Board policies and positions, was provided in the October 31, 2008 Sacramento Update. Summaries of budget and legislative initiatives, which also are consistent with existing Board policies and positions for pursuit by the Sacramento advocates in the upcoming State Legislative Session, will be included an upcoming Sacramento Update.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The proposed policies and proposals in the State Legislative Agenda are consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goals of Organizational Effectiveness and Fiscal Responsibility. Organizational Effectiveness is achieved by providing timely advocacy on proposals that could significantly affect the County. Fiscal Responsibility results from efforts by the CEO, Sacramento advocates, and County departments pursuing new funding sources and opposing reductions in program funding or new unfunded mandates on County government.

CONCLUSION

The recommended general policies and updated proposals in the Attachment are submitted for your Board's consideration as the guiding principles for the County's advocacy efforts in the upcoming 2009-10 State Legislative Session. The policies and proposals contained in this package are in addition to, and are not intended to be exclusive of, other positions your Board may adopt. As in the past, the State Agenda will be updated to reflect subsequent Board actions.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

WTF:GK:MAL
MR:er

Attachment

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
All Department Heads

ATTACHMENT I

RECOMMENDED STATE POLICIES ADDRESSING ISSUES OF MAJOR COUNTY INTEREST

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General State Legislative Principles

The County will seek to maximize State revenues; full funding for the costs of State programs; additional funding for programs where service needs have outpaced stagnant or slow growing revenues; funding formulae which ensure an equitable allocation of State funding; minimize the adverse impact of State actions; achieve greater flexibility over the use of State funds, secure State assistance whenever possible, especially from non-General Fund sources, preserve the County's property tax, sales tax, locally-imposed taxes or fees, or Vehicle License Fee revenue base; oppose: the shift of programs unless control is also shifted and State funding is guaranteed; and new unfunded mandates unless they promote a higher priority; and

1. Oppose any legislation or regulation that would transfer to Los Angeles County or its residents any costs or revenue losses incurred by another jurisdiction.

2. Support or sponsor a constitutional amendment to reallocate to local school districts the property tax revenue derived from State-assessed properties in exchange for reallocation of non-ERAF property tax revenues derived from the local roll.

3. Support proposals to restructure State and local service responsibilities if they: create a nexus between authority, responsibility, accountability, and revenues; promote program effectiveness and cost containment; and recognize the limited fiscal capacity of counties by transferring sufficient revenue in the first and subsequent years.

4. Oppose legislation to change the definition of revenue neutrality in special cases, unless other entities are protected from unintended legal precedents by language narrowly justifying the need for special legislation.

5. Support a constitutional amendment to provide that the State budget and related bills can be approved by a majority vote.

6. Oppose legislation that would constitute State unfunded land use and general plan-related mandates on local governments.

1. Children and Families

1.1 Child Welfare Services

1. Support increased funding for family preservation programs.

2. Support legislation to maintain the full Child Welfare Services allocation independent of actual caseload for up to five years to cover the increased costs of implementing new programs to improve outcomes for children by allowing them to remain safely at home, shorten their length of stay in care and reduce re-abuse.

3. Support proposals to ensure full funding for the Child Welfare Services program, including increased funding to cover all mandated services, pursuant to the SB 2030 Workload Study and the fully loaded costs of a social worker.

4. Oppose proposals that would reduce protections for child welfare workers in the legitimate exercise of their discretion in the performance of their duties, thereby increasing liability to the County.

5. Oppose unfunded mandates that do not enhance child safety or expedited permanence.

6. Support proposals to enhance adoptions by increasing funding for adoption activities and post-adoption services, and expanding to out-of-state private adoption agencies the payments currently authorized to California private adoption agencies for the unreimbursed costs of placing children for adoption.

7. Support funding of forensic medical examinations in child abuse cases.

8. Support funding for parenting programs aimed at teens and child care services for teen parents.

9. Support legislation that increases funding for the use of family group conferencing and team decision-making to develop an individualized plan for the care of each child.

10. Support legislation t o clarify that agencies providing services to a family may share case information.

11. Support legislation to streamline Dependency Court procedures while ensuring the safety and best interests of children.

12. Support proposals that simplify the Welfare and Institutions Code statutes regarding notice of dependency hearings.

13. Support proposals that promote collaboration between child welfare, parks and recreation and law enforcement agencies to enhance the County's ability to establish partnerships and develop programs that improve the quality of life for children.

14. Support proposals to clarify and provide for social workers' access to dependent children's medical, counseling, and education records.

15. Support proposals to fund Child Welfare Services outcome improvements included in the County's Self-Improvement Plan (SIP), including Point of Engagement, the State's AB 636 Outcomes and Accountability System and the Federal Children and Family Services Review (CFSR).

16. Support proposals that increase the types of professionals required to report suspected cases of child abuse.

17. Support proposals that enhance and improve child safety.

1.2 Child Welfare Services – Foster Care

1. Support continued eligibility of immigrant foster children for Medi-Cal and Foster Care funds.

2. Support proposals to increase appropriate foster care resources by funding targeted recruitment, review of existing foster care payment rates to ensure equity and appropriateness, and professionalizing foster parenting.

3. Support State reimbursement for the placement of dependent children who are eligible for regional center services, in for-profit group homes, when an appropriate not-for-profit facility is unavailable.

4. Support proposals that would allow counties to secure increased Federal funds for foster care and other services provided to abused and neglected children at no increased net cost to the State General Fund.

5. Support legislation and funding to allow the California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division and local government to make unannounced visits to Foster Family Agency (FFA) certified homes.

6. Support efforts which enhance legal permanency for children in foster care by promoting kinship adoption, enhancing KinGAP and supporting subsidized legal guardianship without requiring the full array of ongoing court and Child Welfare Services.

7. Support legislation and funding to facilitate successful emancipation, promote self-sufficiency and improve opportunities for youth aging out of foster care.

8. Support proposals which allow the sharing of information concerning family homes certified by foster family agencies to prevent the licensure, approval and/or re-certification of previously de-certified homes.

9. Support proposals to simplify foster care program eligibility requirements.

10. Support proposals to enhance permanency for children by streamlining and consolidating the separate studies and criminal clearances that must be administered to a caregiver for licensure, approval, and adoption.

11. Support proposals and funding to ensure that the educational system appropriately meets the educational needs of children in foster care, including improved monitoring of non-public schools.

12. Support proposals that provide and fund substance abuse treatment services for children and parents in the Child Welfare Services system.

13. Support proposals to shorten the timeframes to achieve permanence including expanding the court's authority to expedite permanency by limiting reunification services on all children if the parent has failed to participate regularly and make substantive progress in the case plan.

14. Support proposals which allow flexibility in the use of funds to provide services to families and caregivers to strengthen their parenting abilities and prevent the need for placement, shorten the length of stay and reduce re-abuse.

15. Support funding for proposals that would expand searches for relatives, provide technical assistance and training so that permanent, lifelong connections for children and youth of all ages can be achieved.

16. Support proposals that achieve permanency for previously adopted children who have returned to the foster care system as a result of an adoption disruption or the death or incapacitation of an adoptive parent.

17. Support proposals that reduce use of out-of-home placement because the best interests of children are served when they can safely remain with their parents or guardian.

18. Support proposals that improve timelines for permanent placement of dependent children to provide a safe, permanent family connection and promote emotional health, well-being, and stability.

1.3 Child Care and Child Development

1. Support efforts to enhance the quality of early care and education that set high standards for all services and program types and address the needs of all children including those with disabilities and other special needs, and their families.

2. Support efforts to develop and implement a Statewide quality rating and improvement system and a system to adjust reimbursement rates based on demonstrated quality.

3. Support efforts to develop and sustain a well educated and highly skilled professional workforce prepared to serve the cultural and linguistically diverse child and family populations of Los Angeles County.

4. Support efforts to make the local stipend program permanent to address the retention of qualified persons working in licensed programs that serve a majority of children who receive child care subsidies as well as child care employees working in State subsidized child development centers.

5. Support efforts to ensure the health and safety of all children cared for in licensed early care and education facilities as afforded by timely, regular, and frequent on-site monitoring by the California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division.

6. Support efforts to adequately fund high-quality early care and education services for all children from low and moderate income families.

7. Support efforts to streamline administrative processes to expand access for low-income families, ensure continuity of care, and promote flexible use of child care and development funding to meet the needs of families.

8. Support efforts to expand the supply of appropriate early care and education services by including these services in city and county general plans.

9. Support proposals designed to prevent, detect, investigate and, when appropriate, prosecute fraud in subsidized child care programs.

10. Support efforts to ensure that vulnerable children, and their families have access to consistent, uninterrupted subsidized early care and education services.

2. Environment, Natural Resources and Recreation

2.1 Air Quality

1. Support funding to assist local government to purchase and/or convert vehicle fleets to alternative fuels to improve air quality.

2. Support funding to assist local government compliance with existing and pending regulations to reduce emissions from both mobile and fixed sources.

3. Support measures to develop and increase the availability and use of alternative fuels, and retrofit of existing generators and fleets.

4. Oppose cuts in assistance to local government fuel emission reduction programs.

5. Support measures that promote the development of cleaner burning fuels and other feasible technologies that help meet Federal and State air quality standards.

6. Support measures that allow for innovation and local flexibility in developing, maintaining, and expanding cost-effective programs that increase vehicle ridership.

7. Support legislation that provides increased funding for the reduction of particulate matter emissions from on-road diesel vehicles and other diesel-powered equipment such as backhoes, forklifts, air compressors, and large portable emergency generators, independent of nitrous oxide emissions.

8. Support proposals that provide authority to local and regional agencies to reduce locomotive, railyard, port, and mobile source emissions.

9. Support proposals that return a greater share of funds to local areas which generate AB 2766 revenues, and provide greater flexibility to local programs to comply with air quality rules and regulations.

10. Support measures that would require local air districts, through their On-Road Vehicle Mitigation Options, to give credit for emissions reduction to employers for their employees commuting in hybrid vehicles that have a minimum Federal Environmental Protection Agency rating of 30 miles per gallon (city).

2.2 Beaches

1. Support measures that provide funding for beach erosion and accretion monitoring and for beach sand replenishment, including full funding of the Public Beach Restoration Act of 1999 (AB 64).

2. Support funding to maintain clean beaches and improve the water quality of coastal waters, estuaries, bays and near shore waters.

3. Support funding for refurbishment and construction of restrooms, parking lots, accessways, lifeguard and maintenance facilities, docks, landscaping and other related beach and marina infrastructure on public beaches and at Marina del Rey.

4. Support the inclusion of beaches in the definition of parks for the purpose of qualifying for park funding programs, if the beaches are in densely populated urban areas and are used by large numbers of residents as if they were an urban park.

5. Oppose legislation to provide the Coastal Commission additional discretion in approving permits for construction of seawalls, revetments, breakwaters, groins, harbor channels, or similar structures.

6. Oppose legislation to establish an off-leash dog beach in Los Angeles County unless it provides for State indemnification of the County and an appropriation to fund all additional County costs associated with an off-leash dog beach program.

7. Support ongoing funding for local agencies for the operation and maintenance of State-owned beaches, such as Will Rogers State Beach and Dockweiler State Beach.

2.3 Environmental Protection and Open Space

1. Support increased funding for environmental protection programs and capital projects, including resource, open space, and shoreline protection, as well as Santa Monica Bay and beach restoration.

2. Support establishment of a Statewide endowment fund to protect, restore and maintain natural resource areas such as mountains, forests, beaches, park natural areas, preserves, wildlife/wildflower sanctuaries, greenways, riparian corridors, trails and other natural environments containing ecological, geological, habitat, cultural, recreational and scenic value.

3. Support funding for the control, removal and/or eradication of invasive species that negatively affect natural landscape and open space areas.

4. Support legislation to promote environmentally friendly programs that address reasonable protection of resources such as pesticide use, care of trees, ecological systems and open space, and use of gray and reclaimed water.

5. Support measures which, consistent with Board-adopted policies, promote the preservation and restoration of Los Angeles County mountain, bay, watershed, river and wetland areas.

6. Support legislation that provides property tax credit for the recording of open space and conservation easements on property.

7. Support legislation to collect a fee of up to $6 upon the annual registration or renewal of motor vehicle registrations to fund projects and grants that prevent, reduce, remediate, or mitigate the adverse environmental effects of motor vehicles and their associated facilities and other infrastructure improvement projects.

8. Support legislation that would exempt routine maintenance and operation of existing publicly owned facilities from Regional Board permits and Streambed Alteration Agreements.

2.4 Parks

1. Support funding for acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of parks and recreation facilities and open space, and seek additional funding for the establishment of new urban parks in the underserved areas of the County.

2. Support ongoing funding of local agencies for the operation and maintenance of parks and open space areas, such as Castaic Lake State Recreation Area, Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, and Placerita Canyon State Recreation Area.

3. Support funding and partnering opportunities with social service agencies and schools for youth programs, services, and facilities that incorporate positive recreation alternatives and that provide employment opportunities for youth.

4. Support legislation that promotes innovative programs that provide alternatives to gang activity and encourage the employment of at-risk youth.

5. Support funding or partnering opportunities with social service and health agencies to promote healthy activities and exercise programs in parks for youth and adults.

6. Support funding for after-school programs in park facilities and schools operated by parks and recreation agencies, with special incentives and funding for programs in identified high-crime areas.

7. Support proposals which promote partnering opportunities with social and health service agencies and allow park and recreation programs to be eligible for State preventive health funding.

8. Support funding for the urban reforestation programs of the California Division of Forestry.

9. Support funding of State mandated fingerprinting of all park staff and volunteers responsible for supervision of minors.

10. Oppose legislation that would increase exposure to, or reduce immunities from, governmental liability related to the ownership, construction, operation or maintenance of recreational facilities.

11. Support funding for new and expanded programs that encourage all children to participate in outdoor recreational activities and programs that involve increased physical activity to address the obesity issue in our youth.

2.5 Watershed Management and Flood Control

1. Support funding for demonstration grants for projects that link watershed management, environmental restoration, recreation, open space and beach improvements.

2. Support proposals which promote environmentally-friendly flood control improvements and projects, and do not diminish the performance of flood control systems.

3. Oppose legislation that would grant cities the authority to set waste discharge standards for separate municipal sewer systems.

4. Support legislation to allow counties, flood control districts, and other public agencies to implement stormwater fees, upon voter approval and/or consistent with the requirements of Proposition 218, to adequately fund clean water programs.

5. Support proposals that provide public agencies and special districts with immunities from liability to encourage development of multi-use watershed management, environmental restoration, open space, and recreation projects within flood protection and water conservation facilities.

6. Support proposals that incorporate the principles of the "Safe Harbor Program," as established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, into the State Department of Fish and Game's Streambed Alteration Agreement for the development of watershed management and water quality enhancement projects.

7. Support funding for river and stream education and interpretive facilities, such as the San Gabriel River Discovery Center at Whittier Narrows Regional Park.

8. Support proposals that promote a share Federal, State and local funding formula to pay for implementation of Total Maximum Daily Load and other stormwater requirements.

9. Support legislation funding the planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of watershed or multi-use projects including integrated water resource projects.

10. Support authorization and funding for the Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA) Project, as required by AB 1147.

11. Support legislation that identifies financial incentives (such as no- or low-interest loans, tax credits, etc.) to assist and encourage the hundreds of thousands of California homeowners (rural, coastal and urban) who operate Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS), to test and structurally upgrade, as determined, their OWTS as required for compliance with AB 885.

2.6 Water Supply

1. Support funding for counties and other local agencies to treat groundwater for the removal of arsenic to meet United States Environmental Protection Agency and California Department of Health Services standards.

2. Support funding to implement the most aggressive level of carcinogen removal from Los Angeles County Water Works District drinking water.

3. Support legislation to improve the reliability of water imported into Los Angeles County.

4. Support legislation to encourage water conservation and increase the efficiency of water use.

5. Oppose legislation that would create unrealistic requirements that impede the construction of water facilities in improved and developed areas.

6. Support funding for the design and construction of a recycled water system for the Antelope Valley to reduce reliance on imported water and improve water supply reliability.

7. Support legislation that would promote groundwater banking programs and facilitate the regulatory approval process required for implementation of groundwater banking programs.

8. Support State legislation that is directed at increasing the use of recycled water within Los Angeles County.

9. Support legislation to increase the reliability of State and local water supplies with appropriate infrastructure and equitable funding levels utilizing the following principles: Local Water Reliability and Conservation, Protection and Improvement of Water Quality, New Water Supplies, Conveyance and Storage, Equitable Allocation Criteria for Regional Projects, Bond Funding and Appropriations consistent with other County principles, and Delta Sustainability.

10. Support legislation that enhances the ability of water purveyors to achieve water conservation objectives through the use of tiered water rates which are defined to provide greater flexibility to the purveyor and increase the incentive to the customer.

2.7 Recycling and Waste Reduction

1. Support increased flexibility for local agencies to meet the waste reduction goals of the State Integrated Waste Management Act.

2. Support proposals to correct deficiencies in State waste disposal reporting requirements, which may unreasonably cause a local agency to fail to achieve the State's fifty percent waste reduction mandate.

3. Support legislation which promotes the development of alternatives to landfills such as conversion technologies, that protects public health and safety and the environment; establishes a viable permitting process for these alternatives based on performance standards rather than prescriptive definitions; and provides full diversion credit for these alternatives under the California Integrated Waste Management Act.

4. Support funding to local governments for the environmentally safe management of hazardous and electronic waste.

5. Support legislation and funding to expand markets for diverted materials and support measures for Recycling Market Development Zones.

6. Support the elimination of overlapping solid waste and recycling authority between State agencies/departments, and establish greater multi-disciplinary coordination of State environmental policies.

7. Support legislation to place greater emphasis on waste diversion program implementation, rather than relying primarily on quantity management, for the

purpose of determining a local government's compliance with mandates established in the California Integrated Waste Management Act.

8. Support legislation to provide increased local government representation on the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

9. Oppose legislation to eliminate diversion credits for the use of green waste as alternative daily cover.

10. Support legislation that would increase the use of recycled materials on highway construction, repair projects, and other public works projects.

11. Support legislation that would assist local governments in developing and enhancing source reduction and recycling initiatives.

12. Support legislation to conduct a comprehensive environmental life-cycle assessment of waste management practices in California including waste reduction and recycling as well as the impact of materials transported outside of the State.

13. Support legislation to place greater emphasis on producer/manufacturer responsibility for the environmental impact of their products and the waste that is produced.

14. Support legislation that provides or facilitates funding for and/or strengthens the ability of local governments to prevent and remediate illegal dumping of trash and rubbish, including open desert areas and vacant lands adjacent to low income communities.

15. Support legislation which promotes market development and manufacturer stewardship of products made of alternatives to polystyrene.

16. Support legislation which promotes market development and manufacturer stewardship of environmentally friendly food packaging products.

17. Support legislation to: 1) repeal the provision of Assembly Bill 2449, (Section 42254 (b)(2) of the Public Resources Code), which prohibits any public agency, including local governments, from imposing a fee on plastic carryout bags at supermarkets and retail stores; and 2) implement a statewide fee on plastic carryout bags, with the provision that funds raised would be directed to local governments on a per-capita basis for litter prevention and source reduction efforts; or, established statewide benchmarks to reduce the consumption of plastic carryout bags and increase at-store recycling of plastic bags.

18. Support legislation to amend the provision of Assembly Bill 2449 (Section 42252(a) of the Public Resources Code) to also require an environmental awareness message imprinted on each plastic carryout bag describing the

negative impacts littered plastic carryout bags have on the environment and wildlife and the need to use reusable bags.

3. General Government

3.1 Retirement, Compensation and Benefits, and Workers' Compensation

1. Sponsor or support local option legislation to implement employee compensation or benefit changes, as directed by the Board of Supervisors.

2. Oppose legislation that mandates or authorizes compensation or benefit changes without approval of the Board of Supervisors.

3. Oppose legislation which would remove the Board of Supervisors' control over benefit increases or decreases in the Los Angeles County Retirement System that increase the County's cost.

4. Support legislation that promotes the timely provision of reasonable and necessary medical care while opposing legislation that erodes the medical reforms accomplished by the 2003-04 session workers' compensation reform legislation and oppose legislation that increases workers' compensation benefits unless it maintains a fair and equitable balance for employers and employees within the reforms previously adopted by the legislature.

5. Support workers' compensation reform proposals that align public sector workers' compensation benefits with private sector benefits to the greatest extent practical.

6. Oppose legislation that mandates eligibility of additional employees for safety workers' compensation benefits or safety retirement benefit provisions.

7. Oppose legislation that expands existing or creates new presumptions related to injuries, illnesses, diseases, or physical conditions and that can be claimed as job-related for workers' compensation or service-connected disability retirement.

8. Oppose legislation that eliminates current requirements that employees demonstrate on-the-job exposure in order to qualify for workers' compensation or service-connected disability retirement benefits.

9. Support proposals to clarify the rights and responsibilities of the County to pay Advanced Disability Pension Benefits to safety members to ensure that all appropriate County costs are reimbursed.

10. Support legislation that funds the Public Interest Attorney Loan Repayment Program which assists in the recruitment and retention of public defenders and prosecutors, or any other student loan repayment assistance or forgiveness legislation which promotes the recruitment and retention of public defenders and prosecutors.

11. Support legislation intended to eliminate billing fraud in the workers' compensation system.

12. Support legislation to allow any Los Angeles County employee who becomes permanently incapacitated in the performance of their duty as a direct consequence of an injury or disease arising out of active service while on military leave, to be eligible for retirement for non-service connected disability regardless of age and years of service. This legislation would also provide normal benefits to the surviving spouse of a person retired under these circumstances.

3.2 Land Use Planning

1. Oppose legislation that infringes upon county board of supervisors' local land use decision-making authority.

2. Support the imposition of liens on non owner-occupied properties to recover costs associated with code compliance enforcement.

3. Oppose legislation that imposes financial penalties on local governments for implementing zoning regulations that reduce the value of affected private properties. Such regulations may include changes of zone and the application of new development standards to private properties.

4. Support legislation and policy that promotes the development of housing sites near public transit hubs, discourages sprawl, or promotes urban design that encourages safe walking and cycling routes to commercial districts and schools if financed by a mutually agreed upon funding mechanism.

5. Support legislation that would correct inequities in the Coastal Act which currently require that coastal county approvals of coastal development permits for uses that are not the "principal permitted use" specified for a county zone, be subject to appeals to the California Coastal Commission, but do not require the same of similarly approved coastal development approvals by coastal cities.

6. Support legislation which subjects "sober-living" homes to local zoning regulations.

7. Support legislation that requires the State to disclose how it computes the Regional Housing Needs Assessment allocations including how local information is used in these calculations.

8. Oppose legislation that requires the eligibility criteria for competitive affordable housing grants to include meeting the local jurisdiction's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation goal because the State has not disclosed how RHNA is calculated or how local information is used in these calculations.

9. Support legislation that provides builders and/or developers incentives to incorporate Universal Design/Visitability features which insure safe, easy access

into all housing including new or converted dwellings or multifamily units for all persons, regardless of age or physical disability.

10. Support funding for counties and other local agencies for outreach programs to educate communities on how to integrate green building concepts into their lifestyles.

11. Monitor regulatory proceedings initiated by AB 32, SB 375, and SB 97, and advocate for regulations that would: 1) preserve the County's flexibility in making CEQA determinations; and 2) incentivize actions by the County and other local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet AB 32 mandates both through their operations and their regulatory authority.

3.3 Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures

1. Support increases in State and industry funding for pest detection, exclusion, and eradication including the red imported fire ant, the Preventive (sterile) Release Program for Mediterranean Fruit Fly, and inspection of nursery plants and products.

2. Support increases in State and industry funding to improve the program to inspect and certify farmers' markets, and to effectively regulate producers participating in certified farmers' markets.

3. Support increased funding for the management of established pests, including invasive weeds, insects and vertebrates, and research to develop resistant plant varieties for established diseases such as Pierce's Disease and Sudden Oak Death.

4. Support increased funding to regulate economic poisons (pesticides) to protect food and fiber crops, and ornamental landscape to ensure the safety of workers and the public, and to protect the quality of the environment.

5. Support proposals which strengthen the compliance of the structural fumigation industry in the safe handling of registered fumigants, and promote the safe use and handling of pesticides among workers and the general public.

6. Support proposals that increase the allocation of unclaimed refunded gas tax revenues generated from farming and horticultural activities to counties for use by county Agricultural Commissioners to provide services to support regulatory oversight of agricultural producers and to enhance local programs related to agriculture.

7. Oppose legislation that impedes the control of rodents, invasive species, and enforcement of pesticide use laws and regulations.

3.4 Consumer Protection

1. Support legislation to protect consumers by providing increased and more reliable product quantity and price information to facilitate value comparisons in sales of any commodity sold by weight, measure or count.

2. Support legislation to exempt weights and measures regulatory vehicles from hazardous materials regulations, provided such vehicles do not enter public roadways when carrying such materials.

3. Support legislation to prohibit products recalled or banned by the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission from being resold in thrift shops, flea markets, and/or used in child care facilities.

4. Support proposals which allow for the County's full recovery of costs related to enforcement of laws governing commercial weighing and measuring device accuracy, packaging and sales of commodities, the quality of motor vehicle fuels, and the accuracy of prices charged in retail transactions.

5. Support proposals that provide funding to the County Sealer for inspections of recycling centers to ensure citizens receive full value for their redeemed beverage containers.

6. Support proposals that promote effective price verification inspections by enhancing funding and encouraging investigations focusing on problem pricing areas and practices.

7. Support proposals that maintain or increase funding for the Dispute Resolution Program.

8. Support local governments' right to adopt local consumer protection standards and enforcement mechanisms.

9. Oppose measures that expand commercial use of individual medical records for direct marketing or promotional purposes since this is not only an invasion of patients' medical privacy and implied confidentiality, but it may also disclose their private health, medical, and diagnostic information without their permission.

3.5 Animal Care and Control

1. Support legislation to reimburse local governments for the cost of complying with State regulations regarding the impoundment, treatment, care and housing of all stray and owner-surrendered domestic animals at public animal shelters.

3.6 Child Support Administration

1. Support legislation to allow counties to relinquish all responsibility for the local child support program to the State, should the State fail to adequately fund the program.

2. Support full funding of county child support collection program costs.

3. Counties should be held harmless for any error or omission on the part of the State, including failure to meet collection standards.

4. Oppose proposals to hold counties responsible for paying Federal penalties.

5. Support legislation to improve collection of child support orders including:

    a. Proposals that seek to base an initial child support order contained in a default judgment on the parent's actual income, instead of presuming that the parent works full-time earning a minimum wage, which often exceeds the income actually earned. This alternative could result in more accurate child support orders and greater compliance because parents with presumed income orders are often financially unable to comply with the order.

    b. Proposals that seek to enable local child support agencies to collect child support from non-traditional sources of income such as intercepting gaming proceeds paid to parents who owe past-due child support. This would allow the Child Support Services Department to collect more child support for the families of Los Angeles County.

    c. Proposals to reduce the child support order guideline, which is currently 25 percent of a parent's net income, for low-income parents which would result in a higher compliance rate by low-income parents and enable the Child Support Services Department to collect more child support for the families of Los Angeles County.

    d. Proposals to increase collections by developing data matches between counties and local child support agencies, including data matches for individuals that contract with or receive a license or permit from a county, to the extent the information is public, which would yield specific information enabling the local child support agency to locate the assets of more parents who owe child support and collect more child support for the families of Los Angeles County.

    e. Proposals to eliminate the accrual of interest on both assigned and unassigned support arrears, because currently the principle and interest owed is so high that many parents become discouraged and avoid paying the support arrearages altogether. By making the amount owed more

manageable, it is likely that more parents who owe child support would comply with paying the amount owed in arrears.

3.7 County Investment Practices

1. Support measures which propose reasonable changes to local investment practices to protect public funds, and oppose measures which unnecessarily restrict the ability of local agencies to invest prudently and optimize investment returns.

2. Oppose measures which repeal the authority of counties to issue bond financing or other debt when viable and feasible, or which limit counties' ability to issue debt to refund outstanding bonds to reduce the cost of borrowing.

3.8 Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)

1. Support legislation that ensures the revenue neutrality of local reorganizations provided that it:

   Does not change statutes covering LAFCO proceedings regarding special reorganizations filed before January 1, 2000.

   Is not retroactive to incorporations that took place before the effective date of the legislation enacting the change.

   Ensures that one element of the cost of services to be assumed by the incorporating entity shall be the cost of those services provided within the area by the State of California which will, subsequent to incorporation, be provided by the incorporating entity.

   Ensures that the State of California will maintain revenue neutrality by transferring to the incorporating entity ongoing State revenue equal to the State's prior cost of providing those services.

   Does not increase the duties and responsibilities of LAFCOs or dictate expenditures for services without providing reimbursement through fees or from State sources.

   Provides that in calculating the cost of service responsibilities being transferred in a reorganization, the LAFCO shall not consider those services funded from sources that were voter-approved or that, if re-enacted, would be subject to the provisions of Articles XIII C and D of the State Constitution.

   Does not increase the fiscal liability of the County in annexations and incorporations.

2. Oppose legislation that requires LAFCOs to review and make recommendations on urban expansion projects in outlying areas for efficient and adequate extensions of urban level infrastructure and services.

3.9 Historic Preservation

1. Support legislation for the funding and development of the El Pueblo Cultural and Performing Arts Center on the County-owned properties known as the Antique Block.

2. Support funding for the protection, preservation, and enhancement of historical areas under County ownership or control, such as the Queen Anne's Cottage, the Boddy House, Tesoro Adobe, Hugo Reid Adobe, and the William S. Hart House.

3.10 Human Relations

1. Support legislation that addresses and combats discrimination based on age, disability, disease status, gender identity, language, immigration status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or other protected characteristics.

2. Support legislation to reduce hate crimes, increase human relations education and training, and increase communities' capacity to address intergroup relations issues in a positive way.

3.11 Library Services

1. Support full funding for the Public Library Foundation (PLF) Program as provided in existing law.

2. Support actions to restore library district property taxes.

3. Support proposals that provide State bond financing for public library construction and renovation.

4. Support maintenance of funding for the Transaction Based Reimbursement (TBR) program administered by the California State Library and encourage universal borrowing among library jurisdictions in California.

5. Support legislation that would dedicate one-half of 1% of Proposition 98 monies to public libraries.

6. Support maintenance of the California Teleconnect Fund (CTF) and oppose measures that link CTF discounts to participation in the Federal E-rate discount program.

7. Support continuation of the county library exemption from any extension of the negotiated local government tax shift in 2005, and oppose actions that would

negate the exemption and/or reduce or eliminate protection of local government's property taxes.

8. Oppose proposals to borrow local property taxes under the provisions of Proposition 1A of 2004, including the County Library's dedicated share of property taxes since the library does not have a contingency fund or alternate funding to backfill potential major reductions in revenue, which could result in reducing hours and services to the public.

9. Support proposals that fund or provide access to financial literacy materials in community-based organizations, consumer counseling organizations, educational institutions, government, and financial institutions.

3.12 Museums and Performing Arts

1. Support measures which provide increased State funding for the arts and museums, including construction/renovation of regional cultural facilities.

2. Support funding for the Grand Avenue project.

3.13 Education

1. Support funding for school crossing guards provided by counties.

2. Support legislation to require school districts to establish a process in which the parent or guardian of a student commits in a written agreement or compact to assist and cooperate in the education of that student.

3. Support funding for the California Subject Matter Projects, which includes the California Arts Projects.

4. Support proposals which would expand the role of arts education in public schools through the inclusion of arts as a core subject, the development of arts textbooks, and an increase in arts educators.

5. Support proposals that allocate special education funds in a manner that accurately reflects the needs of children in the County.

6. Support proposals to maintain or increase State funding for arts education.

7. Support proposals which address the accountability of school districts in developing, implementing and evaluating arts education.

3.14 Public Records

1. Oppose legislation that imposes unreasonable burdens or creates unfunded mandates to provide access to records, information managed and maintained by County agencies.

2. Support legislation that makes the economic disclosure and conflict of interest provisions of the Political Reform Act more efficient and less burdensome to administer, while furthering the purposes of the Act.

3. Support legislation that will provide State funding for the development of County Records Management and Archival Programs.

3.15 Redevelopment

1. Support legislation which continues or extends the redevelopment law reforms accomplished in AB 1290, and oppose any redevelopment legislation which would cause the County to lose revenues or which would limit or repeal the provisions of AB 1290.

2. Support measures to strengthen the blight findings requirement to prevent redevelopment abuse.

3. Support proposals to increase the statutory pass-through for taxing entities to make redevelopment more self-financing, or alternatively, provide counties with the authority to negotiate pass-through agreements with cities and redevelopment agencies on new (AB 1290) projects.

4. Support extension of review periods to allow counties and other affected parties adequate time to analyze the validity and impact of proposed redevelopment projects.

5. Support measures to close loopholes that allow agencies to extend the life of projects beyond the statutory time frames established in AB 1290.

6. Support legislation that will provide State funding for rehabilitation of "main street" business districts.

7. Support legislation that will preserve, expand and extend designations for the State Enterprise Zone program for urban areas and will protect the County's fiscal base and revenues.

3.16 Elections and Voting

1. Support legislation to provide counties greater flexibility in determining precinct sizes.

2. Support legislation to require disclosure of the payer for telephone campaign messages.

3. Support proposals to provide County reimbursement for the costs incurred in conducting special elections to fill vacancies in State and Federal offices.

4. Health

4.1 Financing of the Safety Net

1. Support, through a coalition with other counties and providers, a dependable, long-term funding source for the health care safety net.

2. Support additional reductions in, or elimination of, the Disproportionate Share Hospital Administrative fee.

3. Support legislation that promotes the fair and equitable distribution of Safety Net Care Pool dollars between public and private hospitals.

4. Support proposals to phase-in a State match to fund intergovernmental transfers for the SB 855 (Chapter 279, Statutes of 1991) program.

5. Support proposals that provide funding for indigent care in place of those that have been eliminated, such as the California Healthcare for Indigents Program (CHIP).

6. Support legislative or administrative changes to allow the Department of Health Services access to financial information records of patients (e.g., State Franchise Tax Board, Department of Motor Vehicles, etc.) which would facilitate identification and verification of patient financial resources.

7. Support legislation to permit counties to assert and collect on liens for health care costs of patients who receive a monetary award from a lawsuit settlement or compromise rather than from a judgment.

8. Support proposals to expand the use of intergovernmental transfers, health provider fees, and other allowable methods to increase net Federal Medicaid and SCHIP matching payments to California and health providers like the County at no cost to the State General Fund.

9. Support the use of State capital improvement funds, currently limited to hospitals, for the construction of clinics and other public health facilities.

10. Support assistance to hospitals to meet the SB 1953 seismic safety requirements.

11. Support proposals to provide funding for County health facility capital projects while preserving the option to expand a project's scope at the County's discretion.

12. Support funding to promote/market the availability of County health care services.

13. Support funding for technology infrastructure in public hospitals and health systems.

14. Support proposals to improve the Medi-Cal Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) process including but not limited to the sufficient staffing and automation of TAR field office operations, the expansion of cases that do not require a TAR, and new methodologies consistent with Medicare.

15. Support proposals to conform State formulae for calculating individual share of costs and low-income eligibility in the Medicare Part D prescription drug program to adequate cost of living levels in Los Angeles County.

16. Oppose unnecessary requirements that would be a burden to public hospitals, such as mandating inflexible hospital staffing ratios, community benefits reporting, and 8-hour written notice to employees who work overtime.

4.2 Emergency and Trauma Care

1. Reaffirm the County's commitment to the trauma care system in Los Angeles County and continue to work with the Statewide coalition to seek a continuation of State funding for trauma centers.

2. Support proposals to provide permanent, stable funding for the County's public and private emergency and trauma care system, including fees on alcohol consumption.

3. Support the continuation of the State's Emergency Medical Services Agency as an independent entity, and oppose efforts to consolidate the Agency with other State departments.

4. Support proposals that improve the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency and trauma care services through the diversion of low acuity patients to more appropriate settings of care.

5. Support proposals that would allow fire departments that provide advanced life support services to restock drug supplies directly from private pharmacies.

6. Support proposals that promote the development of a Statewide trauma care system to provide a more comprehensive and coordinated system and more effective response in the event of a disaster.

7. Oppose proposals that reduce county medical control over local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers through the Local Emergency Medical Services Agency, such as prior legislative attempts to reduce county authority over medical control of EMS providers by moving it to cities, which has the potential to fragment the system and allow different levels of service, including patient care, within a county.

4.3 Medi-Cal and Healthy Families

1. Support proposals that reduce the number of uninsured persons, and expand Medi-Cal and Healthy Families coverage to low-income persons such as IHSS workers and juveniles within county probation systems.

2. Support proposals to simplify and align Medi-Cal and Healthy Families eligibility rules, application, and re-determination processes to increase and expedite enrollment and promote retention, including presumptive eligibility, and elimination of financial barriers.

3. Support increased funding of Medi-Cal and Healthy Families outreach, enrollment, required documentation procurement, and retention activities.

4. Support proposals to allow counties and school districts to provide the State matching component and exercise the Federal waiver option to: 1) purchase family coverage, and/or 2) establish a cost-effective alternative using a community-based health delivery system.

5. Support proposals to allow counties to use Healthy Families funds to provide a continuum of mental health and public health nursing services for children in the public's care.

6. Support the State's pursuit of a Healthy Families waiver for family coverage where it is cost-effective and does not "crowd out" other health insurance coverage.

7. Support continued State funding for prenatal services to undocumented women.

8. Support expansion of the substance abuse benefit for children and parents.

9. Support pursuit of sufficient State matching funds, the expansion of eligibility and/or increased provider payment rates so that the State will use its entire SCHIP allotment which, under Federal law, must be expended within three years.

10. Support proposals to simplify and expand Medi-Cal and Healthy Families Program eligibility, such as by increasing income and asset eligibility levels and enabling more disabled persons to qualify (or alternatively, by expanding the definition of disability).

11. Support proposals to reform Medicaid, including the State Safety Net Care Pool and Section 1115 Waiver components, to increase Medicaid funds for priority emphasis areas, such as primary and preventive health care, without reducing total available Medicaid funding levels.

12. Support proposals to increase the Medi-Cal Maintenance Need Income Level to a minimum 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and require the State to

annually adjust the Medi-Cal Maintenance Need Income Level when the FPL is adjusted.

13. Support continuation of 100% cost-based reimbursement for Federally Qualified Health Centers.

14. Support assistance to local programs that combat Medi-Cal fraud.

15. Support proposals to expand local and statewide efforts to fund children's health coverage programs with the goal of universal health coverage for all children in the State of California.

16. Support proposals to allow women to utilize their full-scope no-cost Medi-Cal coverage for two years post-partum.

17. Support State funding for costs associated with implementation of the Deficit Reduction Act – Citizenship/Identity Verification.

18. Support proposals allowing Seniors and Persons with Disabilities continuance of their choice to maintain fee-for-service Medi-Cal.

19. Support proposals to align Medi-Cal reimbursement rates for providers and hospitals in medically underserved areas in Southern California with Northern California Medi-Cal reimbursement rates.

20. Support proposals that allow counties and school districts to continue to match funds to obtain Federal reimbursement of costs involving Medi-Cal Administrative Activities, which would allow the County and school districts to continue to recover costs associated with Medi-Cal enrollments, and allow the County to continue to offer Medi-Cal enrollment assistance to uninsured low-income families.

4.4 Health Insurance and Coverage

1. Support proposals to require public and private insurers to offer full coverage for all health services including prenatal care; contraceptives; childhood, adolescent, and adult immunizations; and screening for diabetes; hypertension; cervical and breast cancer; HIV/AIDS; STDs; substance abuse and mental health.

2. Support proposals to provide incentives for small businesses to offer quality health coverage for employees and their dependents, such as allowing small businesses to use both public and private purchasing pools on a regional or county level.

3. Support increased funding to develop demonstration projects within small businesses to increase enrollment in existing health insurance coverage programs.

4. Support enhanced access to prescription drugs, devices and immunizations for low-income uninsured persons.

5. Support measures to reduce the time to one year in which health insurance coverage cancellation must be determined.

6. Support measures which provide that health insurance coverage is established upon the date of receipt of an application or receipt of the 1st premium payment.

7. Support measures which require that cancellation of commercial health insurance coverage must be prior to any authorization of services.

8. Support measures which would require the Department of Managed Health Care to review actuarial studies for any and all health insurance rate increases to ensure that the study was appropriately performed by a qualified actuarial firm.

9. Support measures which require that changes to health care coverage must be made within one year unless those changes apply to everyone in the insured population or are required by law or regulation.

10. Support measures that require health insurance companies to prove intentional omissions by an applicant to cancel coverage, and that require cancellations to correlate between any prior and present medical conditions for which treatment is needed.

11. Support proposals to develop and implement solutions to improve health care access in medically underserved communities within the State, including proposals to provide funding and other incentives for health care providers, hospitals, and clinics to serve medically underserved areas.

12. Support proposals that provide funding to increase income eligibility limits for the California Children's Services (CCS) Program, and exempt counties from additional expenditures resulting from such an expansion of eligibility.

13. Oppose legislation that would revise the Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act (MICRA) to impede access, increase health care costs and/or divert health care dollars from patient care.

14. Support proposals that extend Medi-Cal eligibility to individuals who meet the definition of a frequent user of health services and who meet income requirements for the existing Medi-Cal medically needy program, which would result in less costly treatment and a healthier outcome for patients who repeatedly use emergency rooms for medical crises.

15. Support proposals that extend Medi-Cal eligibility to individuals who meet the definition of a frequent user of health services and who meet income requirements for the existing Medi-Cal medically needy program, which would

result in less costly treatment and a healthier outcome for patients who repeatedly use emergency rooms for medical crisis.

4.5 HIV/AIDS

1. Support continuation and review of the AIDS Drug Assistance Program to ensure the provision of an uninterrupted supply of medications and the preservation of savings obtained through drug rebates.

2. Support proposals and increased funding for the provision of comprehensive care and treatment services and bio-medical research for people living with HIV/AIDS.

3. Support proposals and increased funding to effectively institute HIV surveillance by name Statewide in order to identify emerging areas of need, craft programmatic responses, and ensure adequate levels of federal funding.

4. Support proposals to promote HIV/AIDS policy in State correctional and incarceration facilities consistent with accepted public health standards, and upgrade and expand HIV counseling, testing, prevention, education, outreach, care, treatment and transitional services for prisoners living with HIV/AIDS.

5. Support proposals to mitigate losses of federal funding for HIV/AIDS services with State budgetary appropriations.

6. Support proposals and increased funding for the provision of comprehensive HIV counseling, testing, education, outreach, research, and social marketing programs.

7. Support regulatory or legislative changes to residential care facility law and regulation to enhance the provision of services to special populations, such as HIV clients, in residential settings.

4.6 Public Health

1. Support measures that provide funding to strengthen the ability of the public health system to detect and respond to natural, as well as man-made disasters, including acts of terrorism.

2. Support proposals which ensure a stable supply of medications, medical supplies, vaccines, and blood products.

3. Support increased funding for public health activities including: chronic disease prevention (such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes), acute communicable disease control, immunizations, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted disease control, veterinary public health and rabies control, public health laboratory, maternal and child health, family planning, childhood lead poisoning prevention, injury and violence prevention, food safety and nutrition.

4. Support legislation to require school districts and public park agencies to inspect their facilities on a regular basis for lead paint, report their findings to County health offices, and comply with requirements set by State and County childhood lead abatement programs.

5. Support proposals to require hospitals to have a written infection-control program, and/or to establish a State-wide system for public disclosure of information on healthcare-associated infections in a manner that would assist consumers to consider healthcare options.

6. Support legislation to protect and improve drinking water supplies, recreational waters and fish and game ecosystems by utilizing evidence-based approaches.

7. Support legislation to provide for the safe disposal of all waste materials, especially low-level radioactive waste, by utilizing evidence-based approaches.

8. Support legislation that enhances food safety programs and regulations.

9. Support legislation that preserves and enhances housing stock including measures that support safe home environments free from lead, mold and other indoor environmental hazards.

10. Support measures which establish, enhance, or fund policies, programs, research, standards, educational curriculum, and public awareness campaigns that encourage physical activity, healthy eating, breast feeding, immunizations, availability of healthy and safe foods, and reduce the prevalence of smoking and obesity.

11. Support measures that expand, provide additional funding for, reduce barriers to and increase enrollment in food assistance programs and Head Start, including increasing income guidelines and benefits for Federal and State Food Assistance Programs.

12. Support increased funding of Medi-Cal and Healthy Families services to include obesity screening, prevention, and treatment for children at or above the 85th percentile of the sex-specific body mass index growth charts.

13. Support the implementation and enforcement of state and county cultural and linguistic competence standards for all health service programs in order to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate care.

14. Support legislation to improve the planning and certification of new Adult Day Health Care programs and to strengthen the program and fiscal monitoring of these programs.

15. Support legislation and funding that facilitates or requires health facilities, schools, private business, government, and government-funded agencies to

participate in large-scale disaster preparedness planning, training and exercises, especially in the area of mass prophylaxis and care.

16. Support proposals that protect and improve the health of adolescents and young adults (13-24 years of age) through:

    a) enhanced multidisciplinary collaborations among departments and agencies serving youth;

    b) funding to enhance integration of services to adolescents, including physical and mental health, juvenile detention services, employment and training or community experiences to which the youth can be referred; and

    c) training for adolescent service providers on youth development, youth resiliency, cultural competency, physical and mental health, youth violence prevention, nutrition and physical fitness, substance abuse, how and where to make referrals to appropriate services, and increase the number and effectiveness of referrals to appropriate services.

17. Support measures that promote partnerships between organizations that serve communities and Public Health agencies to establish and enhance public awareness campaigns to encourage healthy lifestyles.

18. Support funding to promote and market the availability of programs and services focusing on chronic disease prevention, risk reduction, screening, and treatment.

19. Support proposals that would prevent youth access to tobacco products by: 1) protecting anti-preemption language specified in the Cigarette and Tobacco Licensing Act of 2003 that explicitly allows local jurisdictions to pass tobacco retail licensing laws; 2) imposing restrictions on internet sale of tobacco products; and 3) restricting the sampling of tobacco products in bars and public events.

20. Support proposals that would reduce exposure to secondhand smoke (SHS) including: 1) reducing involuntary exposure to SHS in outdoor areas; 2) reducing involuntary exposure to SHS in multi unit housing complexes; 3) protecting children from involuntary exposure to SHS while riding in cars; and 4) designating SHS as a public nuisance.

21. Support proposals to increase tobacco cessation services including mandating cessation services be covered as part of employee health benefits.

22. Support the development and implementation of programs which would provide incentives to improve the health of the workforce, including but not limited to facilitating strategies for increased physical activity and healthier eating.

23. Support proposals that increase the availability of healthy and affordable foods by increasing the number of grocery stores, farmers' markets and community

gardens, especially in low-income communities, to improve the health of County residents.

24. Support proposals that would increase the availability and affordability of immunizations, increase access to childhood, teen and adult immunizations in school, healthcare, workplace, medical settings and other appropriate settings, and increase funding of immunization programs to improve immunization coverage levels and reduce the incidence of vaccine preventable diseases.

25. Support proposals that increase the prevalence and safety of sidewalks, walking trails, bike paths, and parks; promote safe walking and biking routes to schools and commercial districts; and promote complete streets, which make streets safe and accessible for all users including automobiles, pedestrians and bicyclists.

26. Support proposals that promote infill development, transit oriented development and the improvement of multi-modal transportation options, to encourage physical activity and improve the health of County residents.

27. Support proposals that place sensitive sites, such as childcare centers, schools, and housing safely away from harmful sources of pollution such as freeways and industrial uses, to improve the health of County residents.

4.7 Alcohol and Drug

1. Support proposals to increase funding for alcohol and drug prevention, treatment, and recovery services that provide local flexibility and discretion based on the local planning process.

2. Support proposals for increased funding from Medi-Cal, Healthy Families Program, and other funding sources to enhance the alcohol and drug services system of care, including youth in the juvenile justice system and youth transitioning out of foster care, to address the growing problems associated with adolescent alcohol and drug use.

3. Oppose measures that reduce the availability and accessibility of alcohol and drug prevention, treatment, and recovery services for persons with alcohol and drug problems.

4. Support proposals that provide funding for health, mental health, homeless assistance, child welfare services, social services, as well as adult and juvenile criminal justice programs that provide or make accessible substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery services as part of its continuum of services.

5. Support proposals that promote environmental approaches to reducing alcohol and drug problems in the community, e.g., expanding local authority to enforce local zoning ordinances related to alcohol outlets and increasing funding to expand/enhance community-based coalitions to help residents prevent/reduce local alcohol and drug problems.

6. Support proposals that provide funding to increase the availability of education programs to prevent Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, a spectrum of irreversible birth defects caused when a woman drinks alcohol during pregnancy.

7. Support legislation that will fund and expand the County's research and prevention and treatment efforts on methamphetamine addiction.

8. Support proposals that provide permanent and stable funding and integrated approaches for the early identification and diversion of high-risk/high-cost patients who are dually-diagnosed with mental health and substance abuse disorders or other multiple symptoms/problems that effectively addresses substance abuse, mental health, housing, and related matters.

9. Support proposals which would improve the ability of California residents to easily discern the alcohol content of products and reduce the potential to confuse alcoholic products, such as alcopops for non-alcoholic products.

4.8 Health Education and Training

1. Support an amendment to the Education Code to permit the Los Angeles County College of Nursing and Allied Health to receive State funding like nursing programs in community colleges, or alternatively seek an appropriation in the State budget.

2. Support enhanced funding for nursing education and training slots at public universities and teaching hospitals, expanded workforce development funding and training programs for nursing and other allied health professions, as well as recruitment and retention of nurses, physicians, and allied health professionals to work for providers who serve primarily poor or medically uninsured patients who rely on the medical safety net system for health care in medically under served areas.

3. Support proposals which would facilitate the recruitment of experienced pharmacists to work in California, including replacement of the existing State pharmacist licensing examination with the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination and a California law examination.

4. Support proposals that provide funding for the education and training of students interested in the laboratory field, including but not limited to the Los Angeles County College of Nursing and Allied Health.

5. Support proposals that facilitate the recruitment of nationally licensed laboratory personnel to work in California, including acceptance of the American Society for Clinical Pathology licensure examinations.

6. Support proposals that fund training to enhance the competency of the Health Education workforce.

7. Support proposals to increase funding for public health nutritionists in local health departments and increase training funds for dietitians.

8. Support proposals that fund academic development and preparation programs designed for disadvantaged ethnic groups, with a special emphasis on Spanish-speaking individuals, to assist those groups to enter and successfully complete nursing and allied health professional training programs.

9. Support a continuation and expansion of the Career Advancement Academy for health care funded by the California community college districts.

4.9 Women's Health

1. Support proposals to fund the development and delivery of child care and transportation services to enable all women to obtain timely and adequate health services.

2. Support proposals that expand access to and provide funding for a full range of prevention and treatment services for all women, including removing barriers to access, expanding payors, and improving outreach and education.

3. Support measures to increase the availability of and funding for prevention, diagnostic and treatment services for women affected by obesity, cardiovascular disease, cancer, osteoporosis and other chronic diseases.

4.10 Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)

1. Support proposals and funding to increase access to STD prevention, screening, treatment, and surveillance activities for individuals who are at highest risk.

2. Support proposals and increased funding to effectively institute STD surveillance in order to identify emerging areas of need, craft programming responses, and ensure adequate levels of federal funding.

3. Support proposals and increased funding to reduce the spread of STDs through the development of marketing campaigns.

4. Support legislation to regulate the adult film industry to decrease the risk of occupationally acquired HIV and other STDs.

5. Support legislation to allow local health departments to train and monitor public health staff to perform phlebotomy in field-based settings.

5. Housing and Community Development

1. Support proposals that provide incentives to local government and/or developers to increase affordable housing.

2. Support proposals that increase home ownership opportunities for low and moderate-income families, and employees in vital occupations.

3. Support proposals to provide additional resources for meeting the capital and operational costs of housing production and related supportive service needs of low-moderate-income families and the needs of special populations, including elderly, disabled and mentally ill persons.

4. Support measures that end predatory lending practices.

5. Support measures that promote economic incentives as a means of creation, attraction, and retention of business in the County, especially business that will create, attract or retain jobs in high poverty and unemployment areas.

6. Support proposals which would stimulate the local economy by accelerating or increasing spending on public works and infrastructure projects, especially those which would improve public health and public safety, mitigate hazards, reduce energy usage, or improve transportation.

7. Oppose legislation that would redirect redevelopment agency property tax increment from local redevelopment agencies to the State.

8. Oppose proposals to permanently prohibit the issuance of redevelopment tax allocation bonds.

9. Support legislation to enhance workforce development for high tech industries.

10. Oppose legislation that would jeopardize the transfer of the City of Industry Tax Increment Housing Set-Aside funds to the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles.

11. Support legislation to distribute State housing funds to local jurisdictions based upon population and poverty levels.

12. Support revisions to the prevailing wage provisions of California Labor Code Section 1720 in order to minimize the impact upon affordable housing production.

13. Support legislation to provide Public Housing Authorities expanded access to criminal records, employment information, public assistance records and other information that pertains to participant information for housing purposes for prevention of fraud and other criminal activity.

14. Support legislation to encourage health care services or establish grants for the operation of new and existing urban health care services programs and projects in medically underserved and urban areas.

15. Oppose changes to landlord/tenant laws that would involve public housing authorities in the legal process between tenants and their landlords.

16. Support proposals to address affordable housing needs on a multi-jurisdictional basis.

17. Support legislation that increases resources to clean-up and redevelop Brownfields.

18. Support legislation that continues the requirement for landlords to provide tenants that are on assisted programs with a 90-day notice to move in order to allow sufficient time to complete the process.

19. Oppose proposals that substitute Proposition 1C (Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006) bond funding for existing housing and infrastructure resources.

20. Support the direct pass-through of Federal housing and community development funds to units of local government, including the County of Los Angeles, to be distributed in an equitable manner and without additional restrictions.

21. Oppose legislation that decreases the flexibility that Public Housing Authorities have in the administration and use of public housing and Section 8 program funds.

22. Support legislation that promotes the State's adoption of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines for calculation of rents and incomes for affordable housing to increase eligibility, rather than maintaining separate State standards which would reduce the number of individuals able to apply for affordable housing.

6. Justice and Public Safety

6.1 General

1. Support reimbursement of County costs for the prosecution and defense of new crimes.

2. Support increased State funding for multi-agency collaborative justice programs

3. Support funding to expand video conferencing by law enforcement agencies, including the Sheriff, the Probation Department, District Attorney, Public Defender and Alternate Public Defender consistent with existing law.

4. Support full funding of the Community Law Enforcement and Recovery (CLEAR) Program.

5. Support legislation to provide funding for crime prevention/intervention and enforcement in public housing.

6. Support legislation to broaden the scope of information about sex offenders that can be provided over the internet and strengthen reporting requirements under Megan's Law.

7. Oppose legislation which would further limit the scope of information about sex offenders that can be provided over the internet and the authority of local jurisdictions to provide such information under Megan's Law.

8. Support legislation that maintains or increases funding and continues the current model of traffic violator school monitoring as described in the California Vehicle Code.

9. Support legislation to add any chemical used to make illegal drugs to the list of essential chemicals considered necessary for the manufacture of illegal drugs.

10. Support proposals to maintain and enhance State funding for training under the Standards and Training for Corrections Program to support mandatory training for Sheriff and Probation Department personnel, as well as additional training to increase efficiency, effectiveness, and the personal safety of these employees.

11. Support proposals to prohibit the intentional feeding of select wild animals that present a threat to public safety.

12. Oppose legislation that would limit the court assistance program authority and funding of non-profit agencies that administer and monitor traffic violator schools and home study traffic schools on behalf of the Superior Court.

13. Support legislation to enable law enforcement to implement vehicular forfeiture ordinances related to racing, rallying and exhibitionist driving on local roads, streets, and highways.

14. Support full funding of the cost to house individuals who belong in State prison or who are the responsibility of the State, so the County can avoid expending its own resources for this purpose.

15. Support funding for the construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of County adult detention facilities to mitigate current overcrowding conditions and to improve access to various forms of treatment for those incarcerated.

16. Support legislation or proposals which provide authority for the involuntary placement of low level offenders on electronic monitoring which would allow the County to keep high level offenders for a larger percentage of their sentence.

17. Support legislation or proposals which reduce the time State prisoners remain in the County jail once sentenced to prison.

18. Support legislation that would add code enforcement officials to the list of specified public employees and their families whose personal information should be kept confidential from public inspection or inquiry.

19. Support legislation to clarify the authority of law enforcement agencies to request information from a service provider on the location of a phone, cell phone, pager or other telecommunication device proximate to the commission of a crime affecting the life, health, or safety of a victim.

20. Support legislation to extend the sunset date for the definition of the crime grand theft of cargo goods beyond January 1, 2010. This designation has allowed the County to apply for Federal grant funding in support of a task force to reduce the occurrence of these crimes.

21. Support legislation to waive State licensing fees for a health facility providing services to inmates located in a County detention facility and restore a license fee exemption for all county owned facilities.

22. Support legislation to allow the County to charge full civil process serving costs.

23. Support proposals that impose civil and/or criminal penalties on licensed foster and child care providers who allow and/or fail to report registered sex offenders on or near their facilities.

24. Support legislation to eliminate the sunset date on a surcharge on basic vehicle registration fees imposed at local option to fund local vehicle theft prevention programs. Additionally, this proposal would support legislation to increase the surcharge from the current $1 per vehicle to $2 per vehicle.

6.2 Proposition 36

1. Support additional State funding, without supplantation of existing resources, to ensure that nonviolent drug offenders have full access to a full continuum of drug addiction treatment and recovery support services, including drug testing, as a means of reducing re-arrests for drug-related crimes.

2. Support permanent and full State funding for Proposition 36 (i.e. Substance Abuse Treatment Trust Fund) and ensure funding allocations meet caseload growth.

3. Support the prohibition against using Proposition 36 funding for drug treatment programs offered in a prison or jail facility, excluding those drug treatment services provided to defendants who are a part of an electronic monitoring system program.

4. Support proposals to reform and strengthen Proposition 36 through the use of frequent drug testing, graduated short-term sanctions and incarceration, in-custody treatment services, and close monitoring of defendants if such jail-based

treatment programs are part of an overall system of graduated, short-term therapeutic sanctions supervised by the Courts and provided in a dedicated treatment unit of a county jail.

5. Oppose legislation that expands eligibility for Proposition 36 unless additional funding is provided to fully fund increased program costs.

6. Support additional funding for the Substance Abuse Offender Treatment Program to enable counties to improve their Proposition 36 treatment outcomes.

6.3 Trial Court Funding

1. Support measures which would increase the State's participation in trial court funding through the assumption of responsibility for financing court facility construction and maintenance.

2. Support measures which would require the State to fully fund any additional court costs incurred in implementing Proposition 36.

3. Support increased State funding for drug courts including pre-plea drug court programs.

4. Support measures that promote the transfer of trial court facilities to the State in an efficient and fiscally neutral manner.

5. Support measures and funding for the creation and expansion of mental health courts, drug courts and/or courts addressing the needs of persons with co-occurring disorders.

6.4 Crime Lab

1. Support funding for the construction, renovation and operation of locally-operated forensic crime laboratories.

2. Support funding to contract out work needed to reduce the DNA testing backlog.

3. Support additional State funding to expand the use of DNA collection and analysis to be used in criminal investigations and prosecutions.

6.5 Emergency Management and Operations

1. Support the establishment of Statewide standards for implementation and governance of 3-1-1 programs (non-emergency reporting and general government services) and 2-1-1 programs (community information and referral services).

2. Support financial assistance to local agencies for the acquisition of thermal imaging equipment that enables emergency response agencies to identify and locate targets in limited visibility environments.

3. Support legislation and/or administrative action which would provide funding to implement a new technical standard for public safety interoperability communications in the Los Angeles Region.

4. Support legislation that would add drivers of vehicles requiring a commercial driver license employed by a local jurisdiction to the existing entities that are exempt, while performing duties related to restoration of services during an emergency, from restrictions related to the maximum number of hours of vehicle operation.

6.6 Fire

1. Support financial assistance to local governments for the acquisition of fire apparatus, including rotary and fixed-wing aircraft.

2. Support legislation mandating and/or funding the installation of fire protection systems in new commercial, educational and institutional facilities.

3. Support funding for the Office of State Fire Marshal for training, education, and code enforcement.

4. Oppose legislation that would require local fire agencies to assume responsibility for the disposal of illegal fireworks.

5. Support legislation that would require or encourage the use of fire-resistant building materials.

6. Support legislation that would provide funding for a standardized fire service training program.

7. Oppose proposals that impede the ability to ensure timely weed hazard abatement through use of most effective methods to eliminate fire risks.

6.7 Juvenile Justice

1. Support proposals to ensure that each county receives annual funding from the State General Fund for emergency assistance for juvenile probation services in an amount at least equal to the Federal TANF Grant funds received by counties in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 1995.

2. Support increased State funding for transitional housing programs for delinquent youth.

3. Support measures that expand truancy programs.

4. Support increased funding for programs for delinquent and/or emotionally disturbed minors who require intensive case management services or for alternatives to camp placement, including public/private partnerships.

5. Support measures that provide funding for the construction, renovation, rehabilitation and operation of juvenile justice facilities.

6. Support funding for prevention and intervention programs for youth at risk of becoming involved or who are currently involved in the juvenile justice system.

7. Support funding for programs, services and facilities that provide a continuum of mental health services to detained minors, including mental health screenings, assessments and treatment services.

8. Support funding for information technology initiatives that assist juvenile justice agencies to integrate, upgrade and maintain justice systems.

9. Support increased funding for the High-Risk Youth Education and Safety Plan which funds services to youths in transition from juvenile camps and ranches.

10. Support full funding of the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act.

11. Support legislation to extend Kin-Gap benefits to Probation youth.

12. Support legislation to address concerns related to juvenile justice reforms including adequate funding for new population and services, dedicated revenue source and annual cost adjustments, transition and start-up costs, protection against cost shifting, county recourse in the event of slow payments and inadequate rates, and education programs.

13. Support legislation for additional funding for Juvenile Court Community Schools which could include adopting an alternative to the average daily attendance formula that is agreed upon between the County and the Los Angeles County Office of Education. The County would support legislation seeking the maximum allowable funding for these schools in order to ensure that all youths in the juvenile justice system receive the level of educational services to which they are entitled.

14. Support legislation to provide or enhance the County's flexibility to deliver education services through multiple providers, including implementation of independent charter school programs designed to improve the delivery of educational services to minors in probation camps and halls.

15. Support legislation to enable the Probation Department to operate independent charter schools at probation camps and halls.

16. Support the California County Superintendents' Educational Services Association proposal to modify the current funding formula for juvenile court schools to one that is based on a bed-unit enhancement ADA model.

6.8 Probation

1. Support funding for the Developing Increased Safety through Arms Recovery Management (DISARM) Program.

2. Support State funding of adult probation services, and local assistance to cities and counties for correctional officer training programs.

3. Support legislation to assist probation departments in verifying that sex offenders and arsonists register with local law enforcement agencies, as required, by ensuring that probation departments are notified of violators who report directly to court.

4. Oppose measures that impose a reduction in probation officer caseloads without adequate funding.

5. Support measures to hold convicted persons accountable for the costs of probation services based on their ability to pay, and authorize collection by the Department of Corrections of court-ordered financial obligations payable to counties and county agencies from State prisoners and parolees.

6. Support legislation to fund continuous electronic monitoring programs for probationers.

7. Support legislation to allow probation departments to register narcotics offenders when the Chief Probation Officer determines there is a need to perform this task and when the resources are available.

8. Support legislation to restore the ability of the Board of Supervisors to order the distribution of court ordered installment payments.

9. Support legislation to authorize government agencies to exchange information regarding probationers to the full extent authorized by Federal law, while ensuring adequate due process protections.

10. Support funding for adult probation programs to reduce recidivism in the local and State criminal justice system.

11. Support legislation to authorize local governments to participate with the appropriate State agencies in post-release program planning at State prisons for those inmates to be released in the County for the purpose of providing these inmates with effective treatment programs consistent with the maintenance of public safety. This program should be operated in a manner that provides the

County with information on the needs of the parolee population prior to release so it may plan these services in a timely manner.

12. Support legislation to encourage State and local agencies to collaboratively prepare and implement inmate plans for treatment and programming at the earliest possible time during their incarceration in order to maximize the length of time available for effective treatment.

13. Support legislation to require the State to provide full funding for the treatment and programming needs of its parolees in the community.

14. Support legislation specifically authorizing day reporting centers for probationers. These centers are designed to increase supervision of probationers to ensure they receive appropriate types of program services and treatment.

15. Support proposals to authorize the creation and operation of multi-disciplinary teams to share case information related to an adult probationer that is deemed appropriate to determine the proper treatment, supervision and disposition of that person.

6.9 Disaster Preparedness

1. Support funding of local efforts to prevent and prepare for acts of terrorism while minimizing duplication of responsibilities.

2. Support legislation to facilitate prosecution of terrorist threats, and establish reasonable punishments.

3. Support the pass-through of Federal homeland security funds to counties based on threat levels, population, and relative need.

4. Support funding to develop a coordinated public information program to communicate health risks and disseminate health information in preparation for and in response to a terrorist attack.

5. Support funding for decontamination capabilities at all hospitals.

6. Support funding to establish regional disaster response field hospitals to respond to medical needs during a disaster or terrorism incident.

7. Support funding to ensure an adequate and stable supply of vaccine, antidotes, medications, medical supplies, and blood products, and the development of a plan to distribute them in an emergency.

8. Support funding to enhance preparedness of the public health system and Emergency Medical Service providers to respond to chemical, biological, and other forms of terrorism.

9. Support funding of security improvements and equipment for critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, dams, flood control, food and water supply, mass transit facilities, hospitals, and other public structures.

10. Support development and funding of a coordinated mental health response in the event of a terrorist attack.

11. Support legislation to fund the creation and dissemination of emergency, health or criminal history information, while ensuring adequate due process protections.

12. Support legislation to fund staffing, training and the purchase of rapid response emergency equipment for first-responder teams including police/sheriff, firefighters, health, coroner, hospital emergency staff, and other medical professionals.

13. Support legislation that increases funding and/or augments resources for protection against and response to bioterrorism and agroterrorism threats and events that present a risk to the safe supply of food and fiber.

14. Support measures that provide funding for hospitals to respond to disasters and emergencies.

7. Maintenance of Effort/Mandate Relief

1. Support legislation to set a date certain for the payment of deferred SB 90 reimbursements so that local governments will be able to borrow against them.

2. Seek SB 90 reimbursement for special education-mental health mandates from increased Federal IDEA funds received by the State or under Proposition 98.

3. Support proposals to amend the California Government Code to eliminate the exclusion of SB 90 mandated reimbursements from any order by the State Water Resources Control Board or by any Regional Water Quality Control Board.

4. Support limiting State administrative fees to the State's actual costs for mandated administration.

5. Support streamlining or elimination of administrative mandates to focus limited resources on services.

6. Oppose any increase in the County's Trial Court Funding maintenance of effort above the agreement reached in AB 233 (Escutia) and subsequent actions providing MOE relief.

7. Oppose any measure to earmark or otherwise encumber the discretionary revenues available to counties as a result of AB 233 (Escutia) and subsequent actions providing MOE relief.

8. Support proposals to allow counties to apply for maintenance-of-effort relief when facility costs are included in the MOE base and remain an ongoing County responsibility.

8. Mental Health

1. Support legislation to establish coverage parity for mental health care and substance abuse disorders on par with coverage for physical disorders including specific penalties or consequences for non-compliance.

2. Support reform of the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act and related laws in a manner that would assist and protect the mentally ill, and increase funding for services mandated by the Act.

3. Support development and implementation of State technical assistance and training programs to achieve an appropriate reduction in the use of seclusion and behavioral restraints in mental health facilities.

4. Support fully funded outpatient treatment services for all individuals who may be either involuntarily committed or seek voluntary treatment.

5. Support legislation to fund mental health services for children including prevention and early intervention, multi-disciplinary approaches and training, children's systems of care, Community Treatment Facilities, treatment for juvenile offenders, coordination of transitional youth services, and school based mental health services.

6. Support legislation to provide increased funding for mental health services for adults and older adults including adult and homeless systems of care, Adult Protective Services, Public Guardian and Conservatorship Services, substance abuse treatment, Institutions for Mental Disease reform, joint law enforcement and mental health teams, and expansion of the Healthy Families Program to include parents.

7. Support proposals to restore Healthy Families mental health benefits to encourage the provision of full-scope mental health services by public agencies.

8. Support legislation to fund mental health services to CalWORKs recipients, multi-agency training and coordination for suicide prevention, emergency services for disaster relief response, and recruitment, training and retention of mental health professionals.

9. Support increased funding for specialized mental health training to law enforcement personnel and probation officers.

10. Support increased funding for prevention, diversion, housing, and intervention services for mentally ill adults and delinquent and/or emotionally disturbed minors to divert them from the criminal justice system.

11. Support proposals that require managed care plans to contract with, and/or reimburse, counties for crisis mental health services provided to managed care beneficiaries at the full cost of providing the service.

12. Support full and timely funding of Federally-mandated mental health services for special education students under the AB 3632 Program, and support restructuring of the program to transfer responsibility from counties to school districts.

13. Support adequate funding of County-operated Medi-Cal managed mental care plans, and support the establishment of regulations that effectively support the provision and monitoring of high-quality mental health services.

14. Support proposals that enhance increased treatment for the mentally ill homeless individuals, families, and children.

15. Support legislation to provide funding for mental health and substance abuse treatment for locally incarcerated juveniles and adults.

16. Support legislation to fully fund a complete continuum of mental health services and facility placements or housing options for parolees released to the community.

17. Support efforts for full reimbursement of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) and SB 90 claims within 90 days of the County's submission of a claim for mental health services.

18. Support legislation to restore past funding reductions to Fee-for-Service providers to ensure a continuum of services options for Medi-Cal recipients needed to maintain the community mental health system.

19. Support proposals to allow local Child Death Review Teams to expand the scope of child suicide death reviews to include suicides of young adults from 18 to 24 years of age.

20. Support efforts to increase mental health education and training slots at public universities and teaching hospitals, expand workforce development funding and training programs for mental health and other allied health professions and increase efforts to recruit mental health specialists to work with primarily poor and medically uninsured patients and patients in difficult-to-reach areas.

21. Support efforts to provide cultural and linguistic competence standards for all mental health programs in order to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate care.

22. Support proposals to increase the utilization of mental health services in ethnic communities through the development of culturally appropriate outreach messaging and marketing campaigns.

23. Support legislation that will allow county mental health departments greater flexibility regarding specific assistance such as transportation and wraparound services for children, funded through Early and Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Medi-Cal in response to the Katie A. lawsuit, which is a negotiated settlement agreement requiring services to be provided in the home rather than in residential placements.

8.1 Residential Facility Safety

1. Support legislation to establish adequate and equitable care and supervision payment rates for private, residential care facilities that serve persons with psychiatric disabilities.

2. Support legislation to authorize appropriate access for County Patients' Rights Advocates to facilities that are not licensed, and alleged to be in violation of licensing law or regulation, in order to monitor conditions and make a determination regarding appropriate placement and safety of facility residents.

3. Support legislation to expand sanctions to enforce the citation of a community care facility determined to be unlicensed, including: 1) granting County Health Officers authority to close an unlicensed facility, 2) establishing clear criteria for such a closure, and 3) allowing the District Attorney the flexibility to determine if the matter will be adjudicated as a misdemeanor or a felony.

4. Support legislation to require the State to regulate and establish standards for Sober Living Homes to ensure their safety.

9. Revenue and Taxation

1. Support full State funding of the schools' share of the cost of property tax administration.

2. Support legislation to provide the County with greater flexibility to increase the local sales tax in light of the 1.5 percent local sales tax cap.

3. Support proposals to provide for a fee on alcohol consumption to be used to fund trauma and emergency care.

4. Support legislation to distribute the growth in sales tax revenue within counties on a per-capita or other basis that reflects the service responsibilities of counties.

5. Support proposals to mitigate County exposure to property tax refunds on State-assessed properties, including the establishment of a rebuttable presumption for values established within a defined range of "fair market value."

6. Support legislation to establish a procedure for notifying new property owners of any outstanding tax obligations following a property sale, and providing that penalties and interest will apply only if the new owner then fails to pay on time,

provided that sufficient time is allowed counties to process notices and counties are reimbursed for costs.

7. Support legislation to clarify that, prospectively, interest on property tax refunds shall be computed from the date of payment of each installment.

8. Support legislation to clarify that property tax refund issues are not subject to class action law suits.

9. Oppose legislation that interferes with the County's ability to quickly resolve requests for changes in assessment or restricts the assessment appeals board's ability to deal with a sudden, large increase in the number of appeals.

10. Support legislation and regulation to uniformly apply tax and fees on utilities and similarly situated companies competing in California.

11. Support legislation to protect counties from refund claims based upon the application of Proposition 62 to taxes imposed in reliance upon applicable case law regarding the unconstitutionality of Proposition 62.

12. Support proposals to expand the type of debt that can be referred to the California Franchise Tax Board (FTB) intercept program to include debts owed to the County Probation Department and the Department of Health Services, and enable counties to access FTB tax return information for collection purposes.

13. Support legislation to require the Board of Equalization to identify the fiscal impact of any new or revised rule, regulation or instruction.

14. Oppose proposals that would pre-empt the ability of local governments to negotiate compensation for the use of rights-or-way by telecommunication companies.

15. Support legislation to clarify that the State Board of Equalization has sole responsibility for determining whether or not an organization may qualify for property tax welfare exemptions and that counties have sole responsibility for verifying that the uses of individual properties qualify for welfare exemptions.

16. Support legislation to clarify that, in addition to the right to inspect an assessee's records for purposes of assessment, an assessor has the right to copy those records.

17. Oppose legislation to require a trial de novo for property tax appeals.

18. Support legislation to require marina or storage facility operators to report vessels at their location to the county assessor for the purpose of assessment.

19. Support legislation to require manufactured home park operators to report the names, mailing addresses, park space number and description of resident homes to county assessors.

20. Support proposals to improve tax compliance related to non-reporting of corporate ownership transfers, including those properties that typically transfer without a recorded deed.

21. Oppose legislation that would give redevelopment agencies, cities and other public agencies that receive property tax revenues standing as third-party participants in assessment appeal proceedings relating to properties that are located in the agencies' jurisdiction or legislation that would require the clerk of the board to send notice of hearing to third-parties.

22. Oppose measures that jeopardize local revenues resulting from the provision of voice (telephone), video (cable) and data (internet) services.

23. Support legislation to fund or restore State reimbursement to counties for property tax administration functions.

24. Support legislation to allow each person 55 years of age or older, regardless of marital status, the right to use the one-time lifetime exclusion for the transfer of a primary residence Proposition 13 base year assessed value to a replacement residence pursuant to the Revenue and Taxation Code.

25. Support legislation to promote Statewide uniformity of procedures and guidelines by the State Controller for mandated functions performed by county auditor-controllers, such as property tax appointments, management of administrative costs, accounting, and redevelopment activities. The lack of a consistent set of State guidelines creates financial exposure for counties when taxing entities make complaints based on these procedures, whose applicability the State has neither endorsed nor formally adopted.

10. Social Services

10.1 Reforming the Safety Net and Promoting Self-Sufficiency

1. Support proposals for State and local governments to work together as partners to balance resources, eligibility and benefits, and forge new partnerships with business, nonprofit, and religious organizations to promote individual self-sufficiency.

2. Oppose proposals which would reduce available Federal matching funds for health and human service programs by capping State General Fund contributions.

3. Support proposals to allocate block grant funds based on actual costs and caseloads for various functions such as assistance grants and employment services.

4. Support a single integrated safety net which pools Federal, State, and county resources.

5. Support the maintenance of a Statewide safety net because counties cannot afford to aid persons who are ineligible for Federal benefits under welfare reform.

6. Support a Statewide safety net that covers legal immigrants while holding sponsors, when available and able to pay, financially liable for sponsored immigrants.

7. Support the use of savings from welfare reform to finance safety net services, especially for vulnerable persons losing Federal eligibility who otherwise would be a County responsibility under Section 17000 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

8. Support increased funding for the provision of services to non-custodial parents to help them meet their responsibilities to their children, including services aimed at increasing their income, payment of child support, parenting skills, and positive relationships with their children.

9. Support efforts to lift the cap on State Food Stamp Employment and Training funding and require the State to fully fund the non-Federal match.

10. Support efforts to maximize Federal funding for Medicaid, Food Stamps, child welfare services, child support, and child care.

11. Support options to simplify the administration of public assistance programs such as CalWORKs, Medi-Cal and Food Stamps, including seeking any necessary Federal waivers.

12. Oppose efforts to make counties responsible for any Federal penalties resulting from circumstances beyond their control including inadequate Federal and State administrative funding as well as unclear Federal and State program instructions.

13. Support adequate funding to cover new Federal mandates for data collection, verification, reporting, and fraud detection systems, while maintaining priority for previously approved automated systems such as the County's LEADER project.

14. Support funding to modify the County's automated systems in any legislation containing policy changes that impact those systems.

15. Oppose proposals to repeal State law that allows the first $50 of child support payments to be passed on to CalWORKs participants.

16. Support funding for ongoing procurement, development, maintenance activities, and hardware replacement for the County's LEADER system.

17. Support proposals to give counties the flexibility to develop and translate CalWORKs screening and evaluation forms into non-English languages if the State has not provided translated versions of the forms.

18. Support proposals which provide for the uniform implementation of electronic signatures in social services programs including CalWORKs, Medi-Cal, Food Stamps, In-Home Supportive Services, and Child Welfare Services.

10.2 CalWORKs

1. Support measures that promote economic self-sufficiency through partnerships with public, private, nonprofit, and religious organizations to hire CalWORKs participants and provide limited community service and work experience opportunities.

2. Support measures that enable counties to develop coordinated systems, which include, but are not limited to, Employment Development Department and Department of Social Services programs that assess CalWORKs participants, and identify and develop the employment, training, or community work experience activities to which CalWORKs participants can be referred.

3. Support an equitable allocation of CalWORKs funds to counties based on relative need.

4. Support legislation to exempt the full value of one vehicle per household and/or a greater portion of a vehicle's value from the CalWORKs vehicle asset limit to ensure that clients have reliable transportation.

5. Support the full funding of CalWORKs Performance Incentives.

6. Support a Statewide safety net to cover hardship cases, such as families with abused or neglected children, the disabled, families and emancipated foster youth at risk of homelessness, children, or parents who are not readily employable beyond the five-year limit on Federal TANF benefits, and adults who have complied with the work requirements but are unable to find employment through no fault of their own.

7. Support expansion of the State's financial commitment to local welfare-to-work programs that promote self-sufficiency among welfare recipients/applicants, non-custodial parents of children receiving TANF benefits, and Food Stamp applicants/recipients.

8. Support the use of TANF funds to provide employment-related and supportive services to non-custodial parents of children receiving TANF benefits, as permitted under Federal law.

9. Support a Statewide safety net for families in which a member may be disqualified from receiving TANF benefits due to drug-related convictions, if that family member has successfully completed a qualified drug rehabilitation program and remains drug free.

10. Support efforts to fund and maintain the Statewide Fingerprint Imaging System (SFIS) for the CalWORKs and General Relief programs.

11. Support legislation that excludes special military pay when determining CalWORKs eligibility for families of deployed members of the armed services.

12. Support proposals that reduce barriers and increase the participation of pregnant or parenting teens in the Cal-Learn Program.

13. Support proposals that simplify the CalWORKs Child Care Program to increase access and eliminate child care as a barrier to welfare-to-work activities and employment.

14. Support proposals that would provide a limited State-funded Food Stamp grant to families receiving Food Stamps only where a parent or relative caregiver is working a sufficient number of hours to meet the Federal TANF work participation rate.

15. Support proposals that would allocate new State funds for counties to conduct approved Food Stamp outreach activities.

16. Support proposals that would encourage all Cal-Learn youth to enroll and stay in school, actively participate in the Cal-Learn Program, and not seek employment as an alternative to school, but in conjunction with formal education that leads to at least a high school diploma.

17. Support proposals to exclude Cal-Learn youth from the base calculation of the Federal work participation rate.

18. Support proposals to require that non-exempt CalWORKs adults attend the Welfare-to-Work Appraisal appointment as a condition of initial adult eligibility for cash assistance.

19. Support proposals to provide a short-term extension of CalWORKs cash assistance and Medi-Cal benefits for families participating in the Family Reunification Program who were receiving CalWORKs assistance and Medi-Cal when the child(ren) in the families were removed due to abuse or neglect.

10.3 Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

1. Support the equitable pass-through of the maximum amount of Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds to workforce investment boards that

administer the program at the local level, without additional requirements on the use of funds.

2. Support consultation with local officials during revision of the Federal-mandated five-year strategic plan, especially with respect to local performance measures.

3. Support establishment of performance levels for all target populations (adult, dislocated workers and youth) that are reasonable and do not penalize local areas with high unemployment rates and disproportionate numbers of hard-to-employ persons, or which target employment and training services at the hard-to-employ.

4. Support the use of all of the Governor's WIA set-aside dollars (15 percent discretionary funds) to provide workforce investment services in the State of California, and to provide employment and training services for evacuees of natural disasters who relocate to California.

10.4 Citizenship and Legalization Assistance

1. Support increased funding for citizenship assistance with priority for services given to immigrants who have lost Federal benefits and to immigrants with special needs, such as the elderly and disabled, with allocations to counties based upon their share of the total number of legal immigrants statewide.

2. Support funding to assist in the legalization of immigrants covered under the Legal Immigration and Family Equity Act.

10.5 Domestic Violence

1. Support increased funding for services to domestic violence victims and their children, including increased funding for outreach, case management and legal services, for domestic violence victims and their families in unserved and underserved populations.

2. Support proposals to create a separate State allocation for domestic violence services to CalWORKs recipients.

3. Support efforts to promote domestic violence prevention and intervention through public awareness, education, and counseling.

4. Support legislation to foster coordination and collaboration between the various agencies providing domestic violence services.

5. Support legislation to provide additional funding for transitional shelters for victims of domestic violence.

10.6 In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

1. Support legislation to reestablish an 80 percent funding formula for State participation in IHSS wages and benefits above the minimum wage or develop an alternative way to increase State participation in IHSS wages and benefits above the minimum wage.

2. Support proposals to ensure the delivery of all eligible services, quality of care, the health and safety of IHSS consumers, and the integrity of the IHSS Program.

3. Support proposals to improve program integrity and prevent fraud in the In-Home Supportive Services Program.

10.7 Senior and Adult Services

1. Support increased funding for Adult Protective Services (APS) Programs to enable counties to ensure the safety and protection of abused and neglected elders and dependent adults and to meet new State mandates to the programs and associated increases in APS client caseloads.

2. Support measures to ensure that counties have priority for adult protective services funding over agencies which do not have State-mandated responsibilities.

3. Support increased IHSS funding with emphasis on respite care and the establishment of community-based, long-term care programs.

4. Support proposals that promote the use of less costly home and community-based care alternatives to the institutionalization of disabled persons, including by allowing funding to follow persons to home and community-based care services, such as IHSS.

5. Support legislation or budgetary actions to provide a tax credit to individuals who provide in-home care for elderly parents or other family members.

6. Support legislation to provide State funding for emergency IHSS providers to allow recipients to continue to receive IHSS services when the regular provider becomes ill or is otherwise unavailable to provide care.

7. Support reestablishment and full funding for the Special Circumstances Program to provide assistance to eligible, low-income aged, blind and disabled persons.

8. Support increased funding for aging programs such as Linkages, Multipurpose Senior Services Program, Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Centers, and Home Delivered Meals.

9. Support funding for construction, renovation and/or acquisition of centers serving senior citizens.

10. Support State funding for elder abuse forensic examination programs.

11. Support proposals that would allow the pass-through of Federal funds appropriated for programs authorized under the Older Americans Act to the California Department of Aging and subsequently to the area agencies on aging in the absence of an enacted State budget.

12. Support proposals that promote the coordination of services such as Older Americans Act Programs, In-Home Supportive Services, Adult Day Health Care Services, Caregiver Resource Centers, and Adult Protective Services into an integrated long term care system.

13. Support proposals to facilitate the State's implementation of its Olmstead Plan, which prohibits the unnecessary institutionalization of individuals with disabilities, through the inclusion of appropriate access to community-based services and placement options.

14. Support proposals that would increase the types of professions required to report suspected cases of elder abuse.

15. Support proposals which require the licensing, oversight and regulation of conservators, establish a Probate Ombudsman Program, and provide sufficient resources to conduct investigations of conservators through the Probate Court and the Public Guardian Program.

16. Support proposals which would increase funding for the Senior Nutrition Program.

17. Support proposals that would allow the County to recover costs associated with severe weather-related emergency services to Adult Protective Services clients.

10.8 Community Services Block Grant Funding

1. Support the equitable allocation of Federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding based on the 2000 Census, or a need-based formula, and oppose the use of CSBG grant funds to supplant existing funding of local programs.

10.9 Veterans

1. Support increased efforts to reduce homelessness for veterans and their families, increase affordable housing, mental health services, training, placement and employment opportunities, and provide other essential assistance to those who have honorably served in our armed forces.

10.10 Service Delivery

1. Oppose efforts to privatize and/or centralize eligibility processing for Medi-Cal, CalWORKs, and/or Food Stamps at the State level.

10.11 Homelessness

1. Support proposals which increase funding for homeless assistance programs, including supportive housing, supportive services, and emergency services, increase local flexibility over the use of homeless assistance funds, simplify and reduce administrative requirements, and more equitably distribute funds based on relative need.

2. 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.

3. Support creation and funding of a State plan to end homelessness, and the reconvening of a State-level Interagency Council on Homelessness comprised of representatives from all State cabinet departments responsible for programs or activities that affect homeless persons and the agencies that serve them.

4. Support proposals to improve the discharge policies and procedures of State prisons, hospitals and any other agencies with residential services, to ensure that persons are not homeless at the time of release.

5. Support proposals to increase services and benefits for CalWORKs homeless families and services and benefits to prevent homelessness among families receiving CalWORKs.

11. Transportation

1. Support legislation to increase the fines for rail transit rights-of-way violations to make them comparable to fines for running a red-light or illegally driving in an HOV lane.

2. Support funding for the 1989 Retrofit Sound Wall and the post-1989 Sound Wall lists.

3. Support funding for pedestrian and bicycle-oriented projects such as crosswalks, lighting, bicycle lanes, and traffic controls that safely promote the use of self-powered modes of transportation.

4. Support dedicated funding for transportation required by the Welfare-to-Work Program.

5. Support an increase in grade separation funds if regional transit programs are not harmed and the funding received by the County of Los Angeles Department

of Public Works from gas tax revenues is not reduced and the project funding received from the State Transportation Improvement Program is not significantly reduced.

6. Support the direct allocation of funds to local governments for the preservation of local streets and roads, without reducing other transportation funds or impacting other agencies.

7. Support the protection of revenues received from the sales taxes on gasoline under Proposition 42 to ensure that these funds are used to fund transportation improvements.

8. Support the redirection of Federal minimum guarantee funds from the State Transportation Improvement Program to the Regional Surface Transportation Program.

9. Support legislation to reduce the vote requirement for enacting a county-wide sales or gas tax transportation measure.

10. Oppose legislation to relinquish State highways to local agencies without the State first restoring them to good repair.

11. Oppose legislation that would reduce the ability of local and regional transportation agencies to prioritize transportation projects with the State.

12. Support legislation allowing the use of automated enforcement systems to enforce speed limits on local streets and school zones.

13. Support rail safety legislation that is designed to prevent accidents and increase California's control over rail safety.

14. Oppose legislation and/or proposals that allow large combination vehicles (LCVs), such as triple trailer trucks to operate in California or attempts to increase the size or weight of combination vehicles.

15. Support the inclusion of funding for grade separations and local road improvement projects in any proposed statewide infrastructure bond measure.

16. Support a statewide infrastructure repair and expansion program that includes substantial funding for urban mass transit priorities in Los Angeles County and throughout California.

17. Support legislation to fund the inland port in the Antelope Valley.

12. Utilities and Infrastructure

12.1 Energy

1. Support the expansion of electric generation and supply in California, including a waiver of air quality emission standards when electricity supply is critically low.

2. Support an exemption to allow public agencies to extend the use of emergency generators when electrical blackouts are imminent.

3. Support increased funding to public agencies to encourage reduced consumption, develop alternative energy sources, and shift usage to non-peak hours.

4. Support funding for a grant program to encourage electric, and solar retrofitting of public and private buildings.

5. Support authority for local governments that produce power to serve their own facilities utilizing the transmission and distribution lines of public or investor-owned utilities.

6. Support "direct access" legislation that would provide customers, such as the County, with a choice of retail electricity suppliers.

7. Support legislation that allows local government to purchase or generate and deliver electricity for its facilities independent of community choice aggregation plans.

8. Support funding to encourage local governments to install traffic signals with an independent power source provided the power source is equivalent or cleaner than the current supply.

9. Support proposals to assist low-income and elderly households with energy assistance, such as payment subsidies, conservation education, weatherization, and energy efficiency improvements.

10. Support proposals that would increase access to funding under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program in Los Angeles County.

11. Support proposals which ensure that local government is offered fair and economical pricing of energy by public generators.

12. Support legislation to assist and encourage local businesses and homeowners to implement green energy programs (such as wind turbines, solar panels, and energy-efficient appliances) to reduce demand on local and regional power grids, as long as the legislation includes provisions which protect the County's ability to analyze environmental impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act

and preserve the County's ability to exercise discretion in regulating land uses in our unincorporated communities.

12.2 Telephone Services/Telecommunications

1. Support efforts to establish technology-specific area codes in order to reduce the proliferation of area codes for regular telephone customers.

2. Support proposals that improve the management of numbering resources applicable to telecommunications carriers, and avoid the premature exhaustion or split of an area code.

3. Support measures that promote universal access to telecommunication services including voice, video, data, and the Internet.

4. Oppose measures that restrict local control over the public rights-of-way.

5. Oppose measures restricting local authority over emergency alert communications systems.

6. Support measures 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.

CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES

The main policies and activities on climate change adopted by the Board are summarized below. They include key legislation such as **County-supported AB 32**, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, the membership requirements of the **Cool Counties Program**, and **County-supported SB 375**, which addresses greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector through regional transportation plans. The County is also participating in the Los Angeles Regional Collaborative for Climate Action & Sustainability.

AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006

Los Angeles County's Climate Change policies are rooted in **AB 32 (Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006)**, which will establish a series of regulatory and market mechanisms to reduce carbon emissions in California to 1990 levels by the year 2020, a reduction of approximately 25 percent under "business as usual" estimates. As defined in the law, greenhouse gases include all of the following: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. These are the same gases listed as greenhouse gases in the Kyoto Protocol which is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The major feature of the Kyoto Protocol is that it sets binding targets for 37 industrialized countries and the European community for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB), under the California Environmental Protection Agency, is to prepare plans to achieve the objectives stated in the Act. It is required to: establish by January 1, 2008, a statewide greenhouse emissions cap for 2020, based on 1990 emissions; adopt a plan by January 1, 2009, indicating how emission reductions from significant greenhouse gas sources will be achieved via regulations, market mechanisms and other actions; adopt regulations by January 1, 2011, to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gases, including provisions for using both market and alternative compliance mechanisms; and ensure public notice and opportunity for comment for all CARB actions. Prior to imposing any mandates or authorizing market mechanisms, CARB shall evaluate several factors, including but not limited to impacts on California's economy, the environment, and public health; equity between regulated entities; electricity reliability, conformance with other environmental laws, and to ensure that the rules do not disproportionately impact low-income communities.

Cool Counties Program

As part of the County's commitment in becoming a "Cool County," it pledged to "urge Congress to enact a national program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 80 percent below current levels by 2050." The County is also committed to reducing its own contributions to climate change by the same amount through our internal operations; demonstrating regional leadership to achieve climate stabilization and

protection for our communities; and helping our communities to become climate resilient.

County Activities

It is increasingly recognized that local governments, such as the County, are at the forefront of climate change initiatives. Buildings, land use, and transportation are all major targets of opportunity for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and all are subject to substantial local government control. In recognition of these opportunities, the County has adopted numerous measures that will combat climate change, including adopting a goal to reduce energy consumption in County facilities by 20 percent by 2015, and requiring that all new County buildings be "green" certified.

The County Energy & Environmental Team, created as a result of the Board of Supervisors' approval of the County's Energy & Environmental Policy on January 16, 2007, monitors, evaluates, and makes recommendations on State rules and regulations and assesses the impact of any Federal or State legislation that may affect the State and County's implementation of AB 32. Adoption of this policy included a directive for the County to join the California Climate Action Registry to assist the County in establishing goals for reduction of greenhouse gas, developing measurement processes and reporting results through the Energy and Environmental Team to the Board of Supervisors.

County energy and environmental activities, which are coordinated through the Internal Services Department, encompass a variety of internal and external actions and responsibilities. The Energy and Environmental Policy Team is responsible for internal energy and water efficiency, green buildings, recycling and use of renewable resources, AB 32 monitoring, greenhouse gas reporting, public outreach, and education. More information is available at http://green.lacounty.gov

The County is also involved in a number of external activities involving ordinances affecting green building and drought tolerant landscaping. For instance, County staff monitors legislation at all levels of government; is developing AB 32 regulations related to transportation, land use, and waste management; and reports on greenhouse gas reduction plans. Other activities include support of legislation to ban plastic bags and the use of Styrofoam, promoting use of public transit and incentives to encourage the use of hybrid vehicles, and coordination of greenhouse gas reduction activities with organizations such as the Southern California Association of Governments.

Legislative Policies

With the goals of AB 32 as its guiding principle and its support of SB 375, the County has supported legislation and developed policies affecting transportation and land use.

SB 375 (Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008), among its many provisions, would reduce greenhouse gas emissions through land use planning goals that position new development projects to reduce the amount of time people spend in their cars, and develop alternative transportation options. SB 375 attempts to shorten the distance between neighborhoods, employment, shopping, and recreation. It is built on the following principles which the County supports.

- Reduced urban sprawl, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, increased use of mass transit and more affordable housing;
- Development of a comprehensive plan that includes land use and transportation strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
- Manageable increases in urban density around mass transit to encourage employment growth, affordable housing, protection of farmland, and cleaner air.

SB 375 provides incentives for local governments and developers to follow planned growth patterns and enhances the CARB's ability to reach AB 32 goals. The legislation directs the CARB to set greenhouse gas reduction targets for regions of the State and work with California's 18 metropolitan planning organizations to align their transportation, housing, and regional land-use plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a "sustainable communities strategy."

A companion bill to SB 375 is **County-supported SB 732 (Chapter 729, Statutes of 2008)**, which would create the Strategic Growth Council, which, among its responsibilities, could recommend policies and investment strategies to the Governor, Legislature, and appropriate State agencies to encourage the development of sustainable communities; provide, fund, and distribute data and information to local governments and regional agencies to assist in developing and planning sustainable communities; and manage and award grants to local government and regional agencies.

In these areas, the County has additional legislative policies on transportation and land use to:

<u>Transportation and Land Use</u>

- Promote motorized transportation practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Promote non-motorized transportation options with the same goal;
- Promote transportation demand measures;
- Promote mixed use development;
- Promote transit-oriented development; and
- Promote the protection and preservation of natural areas.

Climate Change Markets

In addition, consistent with its support of AB 32, the County supports creation of climate change markets whereby State-wide reductions in emissions would be achieved through a combination of direct regulation and "cap and trade" market limits for certain industrial sectors. Under "cap and trade," companies or other groups would be issued emission permits and required to hold an equivalent number of allowances or credits which represent the right to emit a specific amount. The total amount of allowances and credits cannot exceed the cap, limiting total emissions to that level. Companies that need to increase their emissions must buy credits from those who pollute less. In effect, the buyer is paying a charge for polluting, while the seller is rewarded for having reduced emissions by more than what was required. Over time, the cap will be reduced. The County supports "cap and trade" to the extent that government programs that reduce emissions would contribute toward industrial sector goals. The County will continue to support legislation to:

- Provide a "market-based" national program for greenhouse gas reductions;
- Promote the reduction of local, regional and national greenhouse gases;
- Provide funding or allocations or credits directly to local governments for greenhouse gas reduction programs;
- Provide credits to local governments for greenhouse gas reduction programs; and
- Promote collaboration on regional greenhouse gas reduction strategies and programs.

In addition to these policies, the County has supported legislation on energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, energy efficient fleet and vehicle use, waste management and reduction, alternative transportation, green buildings, and green purchasing. Some examples are listed below.

Energy Efficiency

- Promote waste reduction;
- Promote energy efficiency in residential and commercial buildings and green building certification for County facilities;
- Provide funding for local government energy efficiency programs; and
- Provide for local government administration of energy efficiency programs. Currently, in California, all energy efficiency programs funded by ratepayer contributions are administered by public utilities. Many local governments, including the County, are well-equipped to administer their own programs.

Renewable Energy

- Promote the use of energy from renewable resources;
- Promote incentives for residential and business buildings that generate energy from renewable resources;
- Provide funding for local government renewable energy programs;

- Provide renewable energy credits for local government programs and projects; and
- Allow local governments to receive credit from existing accounts for power generated at other locations on the utility grid. Current regulations do not allow a local government to maximize renewable electricity potential at some locations because the sale of its excess power to a utility is not as economically beneficial as using the renewable electricity to offset its own demand at other locations. This policy will allow local governments to receive credit for energy produced from their own renewable resources against electricity usage on facilities other than the plant where the renewable generator is located. This approach is consistent with the County's existing agreement with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for the Civic Center cogeneration plant.

Water Conservation (Adopted in Sacramento Update of October 5, 2007)

- Promote local water reliability and conservation;
- Protect and improve water quality;
- Create new water supplies using a variety of approaches including recycling, enhanced storage capacity through seismic retrofit of existing structures and increased use of spreading grounds and debris basins;
- Provide a reliable Statewide conveyance and local water storage system to deliver water supplies to Southern California;
- Authorize a significant level of water supply bond funding and appropriations consistent with the above principles; and
- Allocate competitive grant funds primarily on the basis of population to State recognized Integrated Water Management regions.

Fleet and Vehicle Use

- Promote use of incentives for purchase of hybrid vehicles; and
- Promote equipment retrofitting to maximize fuel efficiency and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Waste Management and Reduction

- Promote green purchasing;
- Promote recycling;
- Promote flexibility in meeting the waste diversion requirements of the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939); and
- Promote legislation to impose fees on plastic carryout bags for litter prevention, to reduce consumption of plastic carryout bags, and to increase recycling of used plastic carryout bags.

Green Buildings

- Promote Statewide green building standards for new construction; and
- Promote existing building performance benchmarks.

Alternative Transportation

- Promote high speed rail;
- Promote vehicle efficiency standards; and
- Promote alternative fuels.

Green Purchasing

- Promote Styrofoam/plastic bag ban; and
- Promote recycled content purchases.

These existing policies will be incorporated into separate climate change sections of the Updated State and Federal Legislative Agendas. Existing Federal and State policies are outlined below.

Current Federal and State Policies Affecting Climate Change

Federal Policies

Air, Water and Resources

- Support proposals which provide funding or tax credits for projects to improve air quality, or to 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.
- Support proposals which improve the reliability, quality, and security of water supplies for the County.
- Support proposals which provide funding to states and local governments for compliance with regulations to reduce emissions from mobile and fixed sources through efforts such as the conversion of vehicle fleets to alternative fuels.

Surface Transportation

- Support proposals to increase funding for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAG) program which funds transportation projects that lower emissions to assist states in meeting Federal air quality standards, and targets a greater share of CMAG funds to areas with the worst air quality.

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.

Utilities and Energy

- 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 developing local energy strategies.

State Policies

Environment, Natural Resources and Recreation

- Support funding to assist local government to purchase and/or convert vehicle fleets to alternative fuels to improve air quality.

- Support funding to assist local government compliance with existing and pending regulations to reduce emissions from both mobile and fixed sources.

- Support measures to develop and increase the availability and use of alternative fuels, and retrofit of existing generators and fleets.

- Oppose cuts in assistance to local government fuel emission reduction programs.

- Support measures that promote the development of cleaner burning fuels and other feasible technologies that help meet Federal and State air quality standards.

- Support measures that allow for innovation and local flexibility in developing, maintaining, and expanding cost-effective programs that increase vehicle ridership.

- Support legislation that provides increased funding for the reduction of particulate matter emissions from on-road diesel vehicles and other diesel-powered equipment such as backhoes, forklifts, air compressors, and large portable emergency generators, independent of nitrous oxide emissions.

- Support proposals that provide authority to local and regional agencies to reduce locomotive, rail yard, port, and mobile source emissions.

- Support funding to maintain clean beaches and improve the water quality of coastal waters, estuaries, bays and near shore waters.

Environmental Protection and Open Space

- Support increased funding for environmental protection programs and capital projects, including resource, open space, and shoreline protection, as well as Santa Monica Bay and beach restoration.

- Support establishment of a Statewide endowment fund to protect, restore and maintain natural resource areas such as mountains, forests, beaches, park natural areas, preserves, wildlife/wildflower sanctuaries, greenways, riparian corridors, trails and other natural environments containing ecological, geological, habitat, cultural, recreational and scenic value.

- Support legislation to promote environmentally friendly programs that address reasonable protection of resources such as pesticide use, care of trees, ecological systems and open space, and use of gray and reclaimed water.

- Support measures which promote the preservation and restoration of Los Angeles County mountain, bay, watershed, river and wetland areas.

Recycling and Waste Reduction

- Support increased flexibility for local agencies to meet the waste reduction goals of the State Integrated Waste Management Act.

- Support legislation which promotes the development of alternatives to landfills such as conversion technologies, that protects public health and safety and the environment; establishes a viable permitting process for these alternatives based on performance standards father than prescriptive definitions; and provides full diversion credit for these alternatives under the California Integrated Waste Management Act.

- Oppose legislation to eliminate diversion credits for the use of green waste as alternative daily cover.

- Support legislation that would assist local governments in developing and enhancing source reduction and recycling initiatives.

Watershed Management and Flood Control

- Support funding for demonstration grants for projects that link watershed management, environmental restoration, recreation, open space and beach improvements.

- Support proposals which promote environmentally-friendly flood control improvements and projects, and do not diminish the performance of flood control systems.

- Support legislation to allow counties, flood control districts, and other public agencies to implement storm water fees, upon voter approval and/or consistent with the requirements of Proposition 218, to adequately fund clean water programs. (Board actions of 9/13/05 and 8/7/07)

- Support legislation funding the planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of watershed or multi-use projects including integrated water resource projects.

Water Supply

- Support funding for counties and other local agencies to treat groundwater for the removal of arsenic to meet United States Environmental Protection Agency

and California Department of Health Services standards, and funding to implement the most aggressive level of carcinogen removal from Los Angeles County Water Works District drinking water.

- Support legislation to improve the reliability of water imported into Los Angeles County.

- Support legislation to encourage water conservation and increase the efficiency of water use.

- Support State legislation that is directed at increasing the use of recycled water within Los Angeles County.

- Support legislation which promotes market development and manufacturer stewardship of products made of alternatives to polystyrene.

- Support legislation to: repeal the prohibition on any public agency, including local governments, from imposing a fee on plastic carryout bags at supermarkets and retail stores; and implement a statewide fee on plastic carryout bags, with the provision that funds raised would be directed to local governments on a per-capita basis for litter prevention and source reduction efforts; or, established statewide benchmarks to reduce the consumption of plastic carryout bags and increase at-store recycling of plastic bags.

- Support funding for a grant program to encourage electric and solar retrofitting of public buildings.

- Support proposals to assist low-income and elderly households with energy assistance, such as payment subsidies, conservation education, weatherization, and energy efficiency improvements.

HEALTH CARE REFORM POLICIES

The County has longstanding health care reform policies intended to preserve the fiscal integrity of the health care safety net, reduce the number of the uninsured, expand Medi-Cal and Healthy Families Program eligibility and coverage, and achieve the goal of universal coverage for children. The County also supports health care reform that will result in coverage for all Californians. County-supported measures consistent with that policy included Senator Kuehl's SB 921 of 2003, SB 840 of 2005, and SB 840 of 2008, which would have established a single payer universal health care system. SB 921 failed passage from the Assembly and both versions of SB 840 were vetoed by the Governor.

Other health care reform policies were developed in response to the special session on health care reform convened by Governor Schwarzenegger on September 11, 2007. On January 9, 2008, the County took a support and amend position on ABX1 1 (Nuñez), the vehicle for the Governor's health care reform proposal, which failed passage from the Senate. Support of ABX1 1 was conditioned on assurances that the legislation would allow the County to continue to offer trauma, emergency services, and complex specialty services on which our community relies, with the understanding that without our system there would not be sufficient capacity to treat the uninsured and the newly insured.

In addition to ensuring that the County continues to provide key services, the health care reform policies listed below generally seek to decrease the number of uninsured, with the goal of achieving universal coverage, and to decrease the cost to treat the uninsured.

- Support proposals to expand local and Statewide efforts to fund health coverage programs with the goal of universal health coverage, consistent with County support for health care reform measures which would provide coverage for all uninsured Californians.

- Support comprehensive health reform proposals that include coverage of low-income childless adults under a county managed care program, which would provide public hospital counties with a guaranteed stable patient base and fiscal stability.

- Support proposals that include Medi-Cal rates that reflect the full cost of providing care in our County hospitals for inpatient, outpatient, and Medi-Cal managed care services.

- Support proposals that provide share of cost guarantees for counties in the event that increases in Medi-cal rates and the number of insured patients do not compensate counties for any financial contributions they make to universal healthcare reform. If these increases do not materialize or fall short of expectations, the counties' share of cost should be reduced accordingly.

- Support proposals that recognize and fully reimburse costs for expensive life-saving care services such as trauma, emergency room, and other complex specialty services which operate under more expensive cost structures.

- Support proposals that give consumers financial incentives, such as a reduced share of cost, to use local managed care health initiatives which support the health care safety net.

- Oppose proposals that designate counties to be the employer of record for In-Home Supportive Services providers for the purpose of providing health care coverage because the Personal Assistance Services Council of Los Angeles County is the Public Authority that serves as the employer of record for these providers under existing law.

- Support proposals that fund healthcare workforce development programs to train the healthcare professionals necessary to successfully implement health care reform and to retrain healthcare employees in the existing workforce.

WATER SUPPLY AND RELIABILITY POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES

Background

Governor Schwarzenegger called for an Extraordinary Legislative Session on Tuesday, September 11, 2007, to improve California's water system to ensure a reliable water supply for the State's environment and economy. Only **SB2X 1 (Perata, Machado, Steinberg)**, which would appropriate funding from Proposition 1E, Proposition 84, Proposition 50, and Proposition 13, for a variety of water projects in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, was signed into law in this session which will end on November 30, 2008.

This session was convened partly in response to a Federal court ruling, which found that water pumping from the Sacramento–San Joaquin River Delta violates Federal law by degrading the environment and jeopardizing the existence of endangered fish species, such as the Delta smelt. Water experts indicate that this ruling could reduce the supply of water from Northern California by as much as 37 percent.

In addition to the court ruling, drought conditions in the Colorado River Basin and a Sierra snow pack that is now dangerously unreliable due to global climate change is leaving many communities throughout California facing mandatory restrictions on water use and/or rising water bills. In response, the Governor issued Executive Order S-06-08 in June 2008 declaring a statewide drought directing State agencies and departments to take immediate action to address these serious drought conditions.

Policies and Principles

In response to the Extraordinary Session, the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and the Department of Public Works (DPW) collaborated to develop a set of water principles to guide the County's advocacy efforts. The County's water principles stem from two broad policies: **1) support for the passage of water supply legislation to increase the reliability of State and local water supplies with appropriate infrastructure and equitable funding levels (Sacramento Update of October 5, 2007); and 2) support for a hybrid solution for the issue of water conservation, addressing both water storage and its quality and conservation, which was approved by the Board on October 16, 2007.**

The State Agenda also includes County policy to support legislation to: 1) improve the reliability of water imported into Los Angeles County; 2) encourage water conservation and increase the efficiency of water use; 3) increase the use of recycled water within Los Angeles County; and 4) maximize the amount of funding available to the County from the various bond acts.

Consistent with all these policies, the following principles were developed by the CEO and DPW.

- **Local Water Reliability and Conservation:** Preserve existing supplies and promote local supply reliability and conservation through various approaches including recycling, and groundwater recharge.

- **Protection and Improvement of Water Quality:** Protect and improve water quality including drinking water, groundwater, and urban storm water management.

- **New Water Supplies:** Create new water supplies using a variety of approaches, including preservation of water by recycling, enhanced storage capacity through seismic retrofit of existing structures, and increased utilization of spreading grounds and debris basins.

- **Conveyance and Local Storage:** Provide a reliable Statewide conveyance and local storage system to deliver water supplies to Southern California.

- **Bond Funding and Appropriations:** Authorize a significant level of water supply bond funding and appropriations consistent with the above principles.

- **Equitable Allocation Criteria for Regional Projects:** Allocate competitive grant funds primarily on the basis of population to State-recognized Integrated Regional Water Management regions.

Advocacy Positions on Water Extraordinary Session Legislation

Based on County water policies and principles, the following positions were pursued on six bills, which fall into two broad categories: legislation that would appropriate existing bond funding and bills that would create new bond proposals. The following positions were pursued in Sacramento on legislation that appropriated existing bond funds, and proposed new bond funding.

The County pursued legislation appropriating existing bond funds as follows:

- **Support if Amended AB 2X 4 (Villines)**, which would have appropriated a total of $553 million in bond funding from Proposition 1E (2006), Proposition 84 (2006), and Proposition 50 (2002) to the Department of Water Resources for a variety of water projects, particularly related to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This bill was held at the Assembly Desk.

- **Support SB 2X 1 (Perata, Machado, Steinberg)**, which would have appropriated a total of $820.973 million in funding from Proposition 1E (2006), Proposition 84 (2006), Proposition 50 (2002), and Proposition 13 (2000) to the Department of Water Resources and the State Department of Public Health for a

variety of water projects, particularly related to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This bill was signed by the Governor on September 30, 2008, and becomes effective January 1, 2009.

- **Support if Amended SB 2X 4 (Cogdill)**, which would have appropriated a total of $553 million in bond funding from Proposition 1E (2006), Proposition 84 (2006), and Proposition 50 (2002) to the Department of Water Resources for a variety of water projects, particularly related to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This bill was held in the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water.

The County pursued legislation to authorize new bond proposals as follows:

- **Support in Concept AB 2X 7 (Wolk)**, which would have enacted the Climate Change and Water Resources Protection Act of 2008, which would have incorporated climate change information into existing water planning efforts at the State and local level and required development of information on the effects of water development alternatives on climate change. This bill was held at the Senate Desk.

- **Support and Amend AB 2X 8 (Huffman, Caballero, Wolk)**, an urgency measure which would have enacted the Safe, Clean, Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2008 which would have authorized the issuance of $9.805 in bonds for specified water supply and water resource protection programs if passed by the voters at the November 4, 2008 Statewide General Election. This bill was held in the Assembly Committee on Water Parks and Wildlife.

- **Support if Amended SB 2X 2 (Perata, Machado, Steinberg)**, an urgency measure which would have enacted the Safe Drinking Water Act of 2008, which would have authorized the issuance of $6.8 billion in bonds for water supply reliability and environmental restoration if passed by the voters on February 5, 2008 as part of the statewide Presidential primary election. This bill was held on the Senate Floor.