





Board of Supervisors



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San Joaquin County

Adopted 2019 and 2020 State Legislative/Regulatory Platform and Policy Guidelines

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

January 7, 2019

The Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom
The Honorable Senator Cathleen Galgiani
The Honorable Assembly Member Jim Cooper
The Honorable Assembly Member Heath Flora
The Honorable Assembly Member Susan Talamantes Eggman

Dear Governor, Senator and Assembly Members:

The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors is pleased to provide you with the County's State Legislative Platform for the 2019-2020 Legislative Session. The Board has developed legislative proposals focused on policy and funding requests that the County deems absolutely critical to the health and well-being of our residents and shared constituents. San Joaquin County remains dedicated to efficiently providing needed public services even though demands for services continue to increase at a much more rapid pace than the revenue needed to provide them.

Any additional proposals to realign services from the State to counties must be accompanied by assured funding sources. It is highly possible that the Governor and the Legislature may propose new realignment proposals in health and human services. The Board of Supervisors will oppose any proposal which undermines funding for mandated services that the County must already provide. New responsibilities should come with new funding sources, not redirected funding sources. County flexibility should be increased, not reduced.

Another legislative focus for the County continues to be the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, including flood protection, emergency response, and preservation of agriculture. As San Joaquin County is home to approximately two-thirds of the Delta and constitutes the largest portion of the Delta's total agricultural land base at 55% - contributing over \$1 billion to the regional and State economy - we must participate extensively in all legislation, regulations, and policies regarding local water rights, water quality and quantity, governance, land use, flood management, sustainable river flows, agriculture, economy, and environmental issues relating to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

As the operator of a general acute care hospital, as well as the provider of clinical care for many residents, San Joaquin County urgently needs assurances of a stable and adequate funding source to meet the health care needs of its residents. Existing funding streams continue to be threatened during budget and additional realignment discussions, while mandated services remain. Federal budgeting and reform initiatives must continue to recognize the current health care delivery infrastructure and its financial underpinnings at the County's level.

Additionally, the County will be seeking additional funding sources to address the critical issue of permanent housing and homelessness, as well as addressing the scourge of opioid addiction.

The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors will continue to advocate for maximum local control and flexibility in the allocation of resources and the administration of County programs, and will continue to oppose any reductions in the current level of State funding for our County programs. Concurrently, as all levels of government continue to reduce expenditures, more local flexibility is necessary to maintain a maximum level of service to our shared constituents. Please refer to the attached document, which has been thoughtfully and carefully crafted, while deliberating and developing legislation in 2019 and 2020.

We appreciate your continued support for the vital services that San Joaquin County provides, and look forward to working with you to ensure they continue to be provided in a manner that provides outstanding support to our constituents. Please



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

(CONTINUED)

contact me, or County Administrator Monica Nino, at (209) 468-3203, should you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Robert V. Elliott, Chairman

Robert V. EDITO

San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

c: San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors
Robert Swift, Mayor, and Council Members, City of Escalon
Sonny Dhaliwal, Mayor, and Council Members, City of Lathrop
Mark Chandler, Mayor, and Council Member, City of Lodi
Benjamin Cantu, Mayor, and Council Members, City of Manteca
Leo Zuber, Mayor, and Council Members, City of Ripon
Michael Tubbs, Mayor, and Council Members, City of Stockton
Robert Rickman, Mayor, and Council Members, City of Tracy
Monica Nino, County Administrator
San Joaquin County Department Heads



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2016-2019

On December 15, 2015, the Board adopted three-year Strategic Priorities covering fiscal years 2016-2017 through 2018-2019. This is the final year of the Board established strategic priorities. The County Administrator will lead in the coordination of scheduling and developing an opportunity for the Board to revisit and update its strategic priorities early in the calendar year 2019. Until such time new priorities are developed, these Strategic Priorities will continue to be used as a guide when bringing new programs or initiatives to the Board.

1. Ensure Fiscal Responsibility

- a. Maintain a structurally-balanced budget.
- b. Responsibly consider resources to address the County's pension obligations and labor related costs.

2. Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities

- a. Encourage collaboration internally among County departments and externally with other governmental and/or community organizations that provide opportunities for disadvantaged; i.e., homeless, victims, and youth.
- b. Implement a Succession Plan, include training of the workforce, retention, recruitment and hiring.
- c. Develop and install technologies that broaden public access to County services and information more timely and efficiently.

3. Improve Public Safety and Enhance Overall Criminal Justice System

- a. Improve all aspects of the County's criminal justice system.
- b. Employ a case management approach to increase public safety focused on reducing recidivism.
- c. Expand support services and programs that prepare incarcerated individuals to successfully transition back to the community.
- d. Maximize uses of technology that advance public accountability and employee safety.

4. Promote Economic Development

- a. Focus on recruiting new businesses and industries and retaining existing businesses and industries that provide jobs with living wages and in support of local/new industry growth.
- b. Partner with local educational institutions to prepare workers to meet local job market demand.
- c. Improve those factors that are inhibitors; i.e., image, marketing.

5. Stay Informed and Proactive in Dealing with Water Issues

- a. Protect and strengthen the County's position in opposition to the Governor's California Water Fix/ EcoRestore projects.
- b. Manage and maintain the availability and quality of water.



CONTACT : Monica Nino, County Administrator nino@sjgov.org (209) 468-3203

The top legislative directive for all San Joaquin County departments is to make every effort to maintain or increase funding for the continued provision of critical local services to the residents of the County. In addition, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, through appropriate County departments shall:

ADMINISTRATION

- 1. Continue to monitor legislation, budgetary proposals, administrative and regulatory action which impacts County government, while advocating for maximum local control and flexibility in the allocation of resources, the administration of county programs, and delivery of community services.
- 2. Closely monitor legislative and administrative proposals, including a continued "shift in the State-local relationship" for State-local realignment, which would result in new responsibilities to the County, while advocating for adequate levels of ongoing funding to meet existing State mandates, as well as the new responsibilities.
- 3. Seek to ensure that any additional realignment of County and State services protects the County from unknown or unforeseen financial, administrative or risk liabilities.
- 4. Oppose any reductions to the current level of State funding for County programs.
- 5. Support maximum State and Federal funding participation directly to local agencies for various infrastructure projects critical to the economic vitality of San Joaquin County.
- 6. Support proposals which would provide the tools needed by San Joaquin County to attract economic development and create jobs in the County.
- 7. Aggressively oppose attempts by the Legislature to shift costs from the State to the County for mandated and/or non-mandated programs.
- 8. Oppose attempts by the Legislature and/or Executive Branch to take away, restrict revenue sources, or impose costly program changes without adequate funding.
- 9. Strongly oppose the transfer of County property tax dollars to any other entity.
- 10. Continue to oppose Federal and State fiscal sanctions against counties for failure to comply with State and/ or Federal laws when the errors are beyond the County's control.
- 11. Strongly oppose legislation which would reduce management rights as defined in the San Joaquin County Employer-Employee Relations Policy.
- 12. Oppose legislation which would result in rollbacks to Workers' Compensation Reform enacted by SB 899 (2004), and/or would expand current leave entitlements for employees beyond existing benefits.
- 13. Support legislation which would allow counties to recover fees, set by the State, that reflect the actual cost of providing service, similar to SB 676 (2009), which authorized the adjustment of statutory limits that counties, cities, or court services can charge for specified services.
- 14. Support departmental pursuit of additional funding opportunities associated with the State Budget process, and respond as timely and effectively as possible to legislative issues both by Board of Supervisors' action and, if time constraints exist, by the affected Department Heads with the concurrence of the County Administrator. If consideration by the Board of Supervisors is not feasible, the County Administrator will notify the Board.
- 15. Maintain close relationships with San Joaquin County's legislative delegation to foster greater advocacy and understanding of the County's issues.



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- 16. Advocate for State organizational structures to maximize leadership and support for County services and programs.
- 17. Oppose any efforts to diminish Proposition 10 (First 5) and Proposition 63 (Mental Health Services Act) funds, or to impose restrictions on local expenditure of the funds. Oppose efforts to lower, or eliminate the State's fiscal support for County programs, with the expectation that the State will backfill the loss of Proposition 10 and Proposition 63 revenues.
- 18. Support legislation or regulatory changes that would give greater flexibility for the County to implement pension reform based upon sustainability and affordability of the plan's fiscal health.
- 19. Continue to monitor collaborative proposals for multi-agency participation to protect the fiscal and programmatic interests of San Joaquin County.
- 20. Support cost-effective, State-funded efforts to provide for the health and safety of public employees in the administration of their duties.
- 21. Monitor legislation which would impact land use, building standards, and housing requirements.
- 22. Seek and advocate in support of budget proposals to reimburse counties for any and all State-mandated elections, including costs for mail ballots and special elections called by the Governor.
- 23. Support legislation, regulatory changes, and/or administrative efforts which would authorize San Joaquin County to conduct an all-mailed ballot election for any election, including special elections called by the Governor.
- 24. Support legislation, regulatory changes, and/or administrative efforts that would provide funding to San Joaquin County in order to address the serious issue of homelessness. This includes funding that would: improve the quality of data collected, provide rental assistance and job readiness programs, and would encourage and improve collaboration between the County, cities, agencies, and the private sector to reduce and eliminate the permanent housing crisis that plagues many Central Valley counties, including San Joaquin County.
- 25. Support legislation or budgetary proposals which would provide funding assistance to local governments for renewal energy projects.
- 26. Support legislation or budgetary proposals which would provide funding assistance to local governments for electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- 27. Support legislation and budgetary proposals to fund the costs for counting everyone once for the 2020 census.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

- 28. Support a State program that would provide funding for start-up costs including staffing costs for the expansion of jail beds, including health-related beds, at the San Joaquin County Jail facilities.
- 29. Advocate in support of State funding for the development of information technology infrastructure.
- 30. Seek that counties be given the opportunity to analyze the impact, assess the feasibility, and determine the acceptability of any juvenile justice proposal that would realign services from the State to the local level. As with any realignment, responsibility and authority must be connected, and sufficient resources, with a built-in growth factor adjustment, must be provided.



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- 31. Advocate in support of funding for local governments to provide facilities for additional programming options for juveniles who are no longer under the jurisdiction of the Department of Juvenile Justice, including funding to construct or refurbish juvenile camps, ranches, and related facilities for treatment services and programs.
- 32. Advocate that the enforcement of minimum facility standards be dependent upon State financial assistance.
- 33. Support legislative and administrative efforts which would reduce overcrowding of juvenile detention facilities and improve the chances for treatment and rehabilitation of lesser offenders.
- 34. Support legislative and administrative funding opportunities which provide ongoing resources and funding streams to sustain a Family Justice Center.
- 35. Advocate for legislative and administrative funding to expand opportunities for restorative justice programs.
- 36. Support legislative and administrative funding opportunities which develop programming opportunities to combat human trafficking and the commercial exploitation of children.
- 37. Advocate for the development of programs which support the coordination of response efforts to events involving mass casualties and other critical incidents amongst local, State and Federal services and programs.
- 38. Support legislation and administrative efforts that would provide funding to counties, in partnership with Department of Justice, to dismiss and seal past convictions in a timely manner.
- 39. Support legislation and administrative efforts that provide funding to implement changes to officer involved critical incidents by creating community-based partnerships with law enforcement.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 40. Seek, advocate, and support State funding of economic development financial incentive programs.
- 41. Seek and support legislation, budgetary proposals, regulatory and/or administrative action that would further the development and enhancement of the Innovation Hub (iHub) San Joaquin program.
- 42. Seek and advocate in support of State incentives, including regulatory, administrative and legislative proposals, and pursue legislation to accelerate economic development in San Joaquin County.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- 43. Oppose legislation or regulatory action which would weaken existing or future San Joaquin County ordinances relating to the local regulation of bio-solids as a soil amendment or fertilizer.
- 44. Oppose legislation or regulatory action related to the land application of organic materials unless the health and safety of the public and the environment are protected.
- 45. Support legislation or regulatory action which promotes the recruitment and retention of Environmental Health workers.
- 46. Support legislation or regulatory action which provide access to locally-derived data required to be stored in State-maintained databases and which promote local input into the development and maintenance of these database systems.



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- 47. Support legislative efforts which provide tools and resources to enhance the County's efforts to manage and maintain the availability and quality of water.
- 48. Oppose legislation which does not adequately provide for the protection of public health and safety, especially relating to food production, storage, delivery, and minimum housing standards.
- 49. Oppose legislation or regulatory actions that impose new mandates or additional mandates to existing programs without adequate and ongoing funding sources or mechanisms or adequate enforcement processes.

GENERAL SERVICES—FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

- 50. Oppose attempts by the Legislature and Executive Branch to propose unreasonable impacts to customer utility rates and bills and/or an unfunded State-mandated local program with the implementation of SB 100 and Executive Order B-55-18 and the goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.
- 51. Support attempts by the Legislature to provide funding assistance to local governments to retrofit existing facilities to reduce energy consumption with the implementation of SB 100 and Executive Order B-55-18 and the goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.
- 52. Oppose further attempts by the Legislature to propose that utility ratepayers pay for costs associated with fires when electric companies have not reasonably acted to maintain its equipment and infrastructure before the fires.

GENERAL SERVICES—OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

- 53. Regional Response Seek, advocate, and support regional coordination of Federal, State, and local agencies' efforts to patrol levees and to identify and respond to threats to levee integrity. Encourage the State to facilitate and support SJC's efforts to create a regional coordination system for flood response. In an emergency, the coordination system would provide all appropriate local agencies access to a) Levee patrol results for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta; b) all identified levee problems within that area; and c) Federal, State, and local resources available to respond to levee issues.
- 54. Basin-Wide Management of Flood Fight Resources Encourage the State and Federal agencies to facilitate the development of systems for the centralization of dispatch of materials/supplies needed to prevent levee failure or minimize flooding in the event of a levee failure. Use of the internet to deploy such systems should be considered.
- 55. Removal of Obstacles in Response to Levee Problems Encourage the State to work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to remove regulatory and other administrative rules which currently impede local, State, and Federal agencies in responding to a levee issue.
- 56. Regional Flood Contingency Planning Advocate in support of coordination of State and local efforts to complete specific planning for responding to Delta levee issues and/or failure.
- 57. Support efforts to provide access to affordable flood insurance for property and business owners in the County including agriculture and legacy communities located in the floodplain.
- 58. Support efforts that ensure prompt emergency action is taken to prevent and mitigate levee failure in the San Joaquin Delta.
- 59. Oppose legislation that would reduce emergency funding for the quick repair of failed levees in San Joaquin County.



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HEALTH CARE

- 60. Advocate for maximum local control and flexibility in the administrative responsibilities for health care services for which San Joaquin County has been transferred authority.
- 61. Support simplification of regulations, contract requirements, and reimbursement claim mechanisms to ensure flexibility and maximum financial support of local health care delivery systems.
- 62. Aggressively oppose reductions in Medi-Cal, and other health care funding which would result in decreased access to health care and/or would shift costs or risk to the County. Ensure that State programs protect the County from unknown or unforeseen financial, administrative, or risk liabilities.
- 63. Oppose legislative, administrative, realignment and/or regulatory efforts that would impose unfunded mandates or regulations impeding the efficient and effective delivery of health care services at the local level, including health facility standards.
- 64. Advocate for the protection of County safety net functions and facilities in the changing market under State and Federal health care reform.
- 65. Advocate that the Legislature and State Administration consider potential impacts of health care legislation, regulations, and/or guidelines to the local health care delivery systems, economy, resources, and job market prior to adoption.
- 66. Advocate for health care and public health funding formulas that equitably reflect San Joaquin County's demographics, health burdens and support of the County safety net.
- 67. Advocate in support of policies which promote healthy eating and increase access to opportunities for physical activity.
- 68. Support legislative and budgetary proposals for local health department programs which would a) address prevention of chronic health conditions, b) fund injury and violence prevention, c) support and enhance local disease control and prevention, d) provide a sustainable disease control and outbreak response infrastructure that would include epidemiology, surveillance, investigation, and response, e) support public health infrastructure development to enable national accreditation and, f) support emergency, bioterrorism, and pandemic influenza preparedness, response, and infrastructure development to address public health threats and emergencies.
- 69. Support budgetary appropriations to local public health department programs for the control of communicable diseases, including tuberculosis, and advocate that Medi-Cal funding for tuberculosis is exempt from State funding reductions to Medi-Cal.
- 70. Advocate in support of funding for health care information technology infrastructure to enhance the quality of patient safety, the reporting of diseases to Public Health, and the delivery of health care services.
- 71. Advocate for health system integration efforts to ensure safe, secure and appropriate data sharing, seamless care delivery and enhanced outcomes.
- 72. Advocate for policies that reduce health inequities within our communities by ensuring equal opportunities in everyday choices, especially those environmental and social-economic factors that impact personal and public health. These include housing, education, training, jobs, transportation, safe neighborhoods, and places for daily physical activity.
- 73. Ensure full implementation of mental health parity, which requires health plans to cover and authorize



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mental health and substance use disorders treatment on par with physical health services.

- 74. Support the authority of the County to determine the appropriate assessment, treatment and placement of psychiatric patients, including treatment in Emergency Departments.
- 75. Oppose legislation or regulations which seek to alter the transportation, destination, or medical screenings for psychiatric patients which will unduly burden the limited number of psychiatric beds available in the community.
- 76. Support the Organized Delivery System for Drug Medi-Cal to address Substance Abuse Disorders to ensure counties have the ability to effectively manage the delivery system to provide accessible, effective treatment services and the authority to provide the oversight required to ensure high quality, cost effective services through such tools as selective contracting.
- 77. Support legislation or regulations which would serve to sustain or improve reimbursement for Local Initiative Health Plans participating in the State's health care programs and to ensure the Local Initiative continued support of the County safety net health system.
- 78. Support the County's established Federally Qualified Health Center Look-A-Like Clinics (FQHC-LAL); ensure appropriate and equitable treatment of County affiliated FQHC's regarding payments, cost-based services, reporting and operational requirements.
- 79. Support efforts that promote integration of primary care and behavioral health and allow for appropriate payment for such services or visits.
- 80. Support health care reform that does not jeopardize the current health care delivery infrastructure and its financial underpinnings at the County's level, and urge careful deliberation to ensure that all of our residents have access to affordable and meaningful health care.

PUBLIC WORKS—GENERAL

- 81. Oppose legislation or administrative proposals that would unreasonably limit the County's discretion in reviewing, imposing conditions and mitigations upon, and permitting private telecommunications and other equipment within the public right-of-way or on private property, including but not limited to prohibiting aesthetic and other environmental considerations; eliminating the ability to require public benefits in exchange for use of public infrastructure; imposing unreasonable review timelines; and circumventing conventional local agency review and public input processes.
- 82. Seek, advocate, and support legislative action that supports and/or funds innovation and deployment/use of new and emerging technologies for the purposes of improving mobility and/or safety.
- 83. Seek, advocate, and support legislation for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reform that streamlines the environmental compliance process and related permitting.

PUBLIC WORKS—FLOOD PROTECTION

- 84. Seek, advocate, and support legislation and/or budgetary proposals which would require coordinated planning and funding levels for comprehensive levee evaluations and flood protection, and improvements to existing flood protection/levee systems (project and non- project levees) to achieve enhanced urban flood protection statewide.
- 85. Aggressively oppose legislative efforts to shift State and Federal liabilities and obligations to local land use and levee maintenance agencies. While it is necessary for local agencies to act responsibly when approving



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development in and near existing floodplains, it is inappropriate to subject local agencies, which approve development in a manner consistent with existing law, to liability for flood damages due to conditions over which the agencies have no control.

- 86. Support legislation or regulatory changes which would mandate coordination between State and Federal agencies relative to flood protection and floodplain management regulations.
- 87. Oppose legislation or regulatory efforts which would impose arbitrary increases in flood protection standards without sufficient feasibility studies, including financial impacts and identification of funding sources for local implementation.
- 88. Oppose legislation or regulatory efforts which would result in a duplication of efforts between local floodplain administrators and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board with regard to the evaluation of local development projects.
- 89. Oppose arbitrary imposition of enhanced flood protection standards which apply only to the Delta and/or the Central Valley and are inconsistent with other Statewide standards.
- 90. Support legislative, administrative or regulatory efforts which would streamline the permit process for the removal of silt from flood control and Delta waterways, and provide the required funding.

PUBLIC WORKS—SOLID WASTE

- 91. Support legislative and administrative efforts which would require an economic evaluation and finding of a positive benefit-to-cost ratio before new regulations are implemented.
- 92. Oppose legislation or changes to current regulations which would allow the processing of radioactive and semi-hazardous wastes at Class III landfills.
- 93. Advocate and support legislation, administrative and regulatory proposals which would provide for the development and implementation of waste diversion, alternative disposal technology, and recycling programs, including recycling market development, which provide local benefits.
- 94. Support legislation which would provide incentives for development of "landfill gas to energy" and "waste to energy", and streamline related permitting processes.
- 95. Oppose legislation which would impose new solid waste disposal requirements on local government unless the funding mechanisms needed for implementation are provided.
- 96. Support legislation which would require that State and Federal facilities comply with State-imposed waste diversion mandates, or provide local jurisdictions relief from diversion mandates for waste over which they have no control.
- 97. Oppose legislation which would increase State disposal fee surcharges on local landfills.
- 98. Oppose legislation which would ban landfill disposal of new categories of products, unless an alternative disposal plan and related programs and infrastructure are in place ("ban without a plan").
- 99. Support legislation which would require development of balanced sustainable plans for community growth that incorporate waste diversion principles and enhanced use of "green" technologies.
- 100. Support legislation and/or new regulations which would promote the development of cost-effective programs to increase the use of rubberized asphalt.
- 101. Oppose legislation and/or regulatory changes which would increase post-closure requirements for landfills.



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PUBLIC WORKS—TRANSPORTATION

- 102. Seek, advocate, and support legislative action which would serve to: ensure a stable source of transportation funding to counties; protect and secure local transportation funds from being eliminated, delayed or diverted away from counties; provide flexibility in administering local transportation programs and services; and increase funding for local transportation projects.
- 103. Continue to advocate that California receive its fair share of contributions from the Federal Highway Trust Fund.
- 104. Advocate in support of a sustainable, long-term solution to ensure the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund.
- 105. Advocate for cities and counties to share equitably in the growth of Federal revenues available to California for the network of local roads which are experiencing increased traffic and functioning as secondary highways.
- 106. Continue to support legislation and/or budgetary proposals which would provide dedicated funding to address local transportation needs.

PUBLIC WORKS—WATER RESOURCES

- 107. Support legislation, regulatory reform, funding, and/or budgetary proposals which would address groundwater overdraft, water quality and supply issues in San Joaquin County.
- 108. Support legislation and/or regulatory reform which would serve to restore the San Joaquin River in-stream flows to the Delta in accordance with adopted resolutions and water resources planning documents in the County.
- 109. Advocate and support legislation or regulatory efforts which would provide for the use of surface water to recharge critically over-drafted groundwater basins, and to define and streamline State regulatory permitting processes for aquifer storage and recovery.
- 110. Seek and support State policy and planning which would provide for comprehensive flood protection projects, including the development of additional surface water storage facilities as defined under adopted Integrated Regional Water Management Plans.
- 111. Support legislation which would provide new water supplies in the State to be developed through greater conservation, recycling, conjunctive use of ground and surface water, desalination of brackish and ocean waters, additional local water storage facilities, water reclamation, and improved management of flood waters.
- 112. Support legislation which would provide for local and regional water resource management activities to develop projects for improved conjunctive use, recharge capability, and groundwater storage and use.
- 113. Seek and support legislation which would facilitate prevention of and recovery from flood, seismic, and other potential emergencies in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta levee system.



1. PUBLIC SAFETY INTEROPERABILITY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

LEGISLATIVE PROJECTS

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Improve Public Safety and Enhance Overall Criminal Justice System

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate, and support legislation and/or budget appropriations which would provide funding assistance for a Public Safety Interoperability Communication System.

BACKGROUND:

San Joaquin County (SJC) is seeking State and Federal assistance to complete the implementation of a Public Safety Interoperability Communication System to provide emergency radio communications interoperability for all public safety agencies within SJC.

San Joaquin County and public safety agencies within the County use different radio frequencies to communicate and, consequently, do not have the capability to directly communicate with each other.

Consistent with the Board's Strategic Priority "Improve Public Safety and Enhance Overall Criminal Justice System", SJC is prepared to consolidate the region's radio frequency resources to a trunked radio communications technology. Through targeted investments utilizing State and Federal grant funds as well as County funds, SJC has successfully built the foundation for a Public Safety Interoperability Communication System. SJC has completed the construction of needed radio communication tower sites, upgraded the capacity and resiliency of existing radio communication tower sites, and successfully implemented core radio communications equipment necessary to operate an interoperable radio communication system.

Once completed, the Public Safety Interoperability Communication System will provide full radio system interoperability for first responders in SJC. This project is consistent with the SJC Radio Communications Master Plan (Master Plan), which was developed by a committee comprised of representatives from the public safety agencies within the County. Agencies represented on the committee included Emergency Medical Services, City and Rural Fire Districts, Sheriff and City Police Chiefs, Office of Emergency Services, and other County public safety agencies. All of these agencies have adopted the Master Plan and have agreed to operate on a public safety trunked radio system. Agencies have also agreed to share resources to accomplish this goal. When completed, this public safety radio communication system will improve the safety and response capability of first responders.

To complete the implementation of the Public Safety Interoperability Communication System, approximately \$9,160,205 of additional funding would be necessary.

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$9.2 million **TOTAL PROJECT COST:** \$20.5 million

(PROJECT LITERATURE AVAILABLE)

Sheriff: Steve Moore, Sheriff | smoore@sjgov.org | (209) 468-4311 Information Systems Division: Jerry Becker, Assistant County Administrator | jbecker@sjgov.org | (209) 468-3960



2. HEALTH CARE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

LEGISLATIVE PROJECTS

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

- 1. Seek, advocate, and support legislation and/or budgetary appropriations to fund the Information Technology Infrastructure Project and to ensure continued implementation.
- 2. Seek, advocate and support legislation to amend 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 2 to permit information sharing between health care providers.

BACKGROUND:

San Joaquin County's Health Care Services Agency (HCSA) and San Joaquin General Hospital (SJGH) are the safety net providers for San Joaquin County (SJC). Due to fiscal constraints, the HCSA and SJGH have historically underinvested in information technology. Although SJGH is making a considerable investment in the Cerner system (a comprehensive Health Information System), annual operating budgets continue to have very limited capacities to fund improvements to SJC's health information technology infrastructure. The County seeks additional State and Federal government assistance toward technology improvements in order to maintain the viability of SJC as a cost-effective safety net provider.

Health Information Exchange (HIE) - \$500,000: SJC Safety Net Partnership (SNP) will develop and implement a HIE among safety net providers in SJC. The SNP consists of the SJC HCSA, Behavioral Health Services, SJGH, and Health Plan of San Joaquin and Community Medical Centers, Inc. Individually and collectively, the SNP provides critical access to a wide array of medical and behavioral health services for the majority of safety net patients in SJC. The SNP also serves the majority of Medi-Cal, uninsured and under-insured individuals in the County. In SJC, which has fewer resources than the more urban counterparts, health information technology has historically been underfunded. This has resulted in the development of organizationally unique but often incompatible systems that currently lack the necessary infrastructure to share patient information.

A collaboration with our partner Manifest MedEx has enabled the SNP to join an established HIE based on an enhanced and coordinated shared information technology which we are using to improve quality and yield greater cost efficiencies than that which can be obtained as individual organizations. The HIE provides a platform for sharing relevant clinical information between the entities. In turn, we expect this will lead to better access, better outcomes, and a healthier community and are developing population health analytics tools with Manifest MedEx to measure this through the data collected in the HIE. The ability to include substance use disorder treatment information would significantly enhance the potential for fully integrated health care services and more positive outcomes. The SNP was able to secure a start-up grant from the Blue Shield Foundation of California. This funding allowed the HIE project to go from a concept phase to a limited implementation phase. Additional funding would provide sufficient resources for a County-wide rollout within twelve months. The true benefit of a HIE only occurs when a critical mass of provider participation occurs.

Health Care Services Agency: Greg Diederich, HCSA Director | gdiederich@sjgh.org | (209) 468-7031 San Joaquin General Hospital: David Culberson, SJGH CEO | dculberson@sjgh.org | (209) 468-6042



2. HEALTH CARE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

LEGISLATIVE PROJECTS (CONTINUED)

Infrastructure Enhancements - \$500,000: New internal data needs are stressing the network backbone in terms of available bandwidth and reasonable redundancy to accommodate system maintenance with minimal interruption to clinical system access. Funding is needed to upgrade capability in high traffic segments - improving response time for all network users, support the delivery of diagnostic imagery in addition to the current radiology reports to remote physicians, and introduce routing redundancy in the network to provide business continuity in the event of scheduled network maintenance or individual component failures.

Data Loss Prevention and Information Security Monitoring - \$250,000: The introduction of an electronic medical record is certainly simplifying clinician access to critical patient information when and where they need it. This movement away from paper records also elevates the potential risk of a data breach as a compromised system could provide access to literally thousands of patient records. Two technologies have been identified to help mitigate this risk, one for front-end access management and one for back-end detection of unusual network behavior. The first technology will allow us to evaluate the effective permissions a specific user or security group has been granted through Active Directory. It will also allow us to only provide the access permissions needed by staff to do their job and will help reduce staff being granted access to information that is outside their scope of operation. The second technology will allow us to be alerted to workstations or servers that are behaving in a manner that is not consistent with their role. This would serve to identify systems that have been compromised or an internal user that is engaging in activity outside their scope of operation. Implementing these two new technologies will provide for a tightening of existing access management credentials and help detect inappropriate system activity that could lead to a serious data breach. For the second technology, we have initially acquired a product from CrowdStrike which has proven very successful at detecting and blocking attempts to compromise Health Care Systems computer assets including outside efforts to introduce ransomware into our network.

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$750,000 **TOTAL PROJECT COST:** \$1.25 million (approximate)



3. PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITY REPLACEMENT/ EXPANSION

LEGISLATIVE PROJECTS

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility, Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities, Improve Public Safety and Enhance Overall Criminal Justice System

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate, and support legislation which would create a funding program to construct new public health facilities, including a regional public health laboratory.

BACKGROUND:

The San Joaquin County Public Health Services facility was constructed over 50 years ago, in the 1960s, with Hill-Burton funds. Since that time, the County population has increased by more than 180%. The current building lacks the space necessary to provide critical disease prevention services to the continually expanding number of County residents. Over 10 years ago, it was determined that the building had reached the end of its useful life. There are significant structural barriers to implement safety features in the building. Additionally, costs to maintain and upgrade building infrastructure exceed appropriate fiscal allowances.

The San Joaquin County Public Health Laboratory has been designated as a Level B laboratory for the identification of agents that can be used as weapons of mass destruction. However, the existing facility is not sufficient for the necessary level of bio-containment capacity, or the increasing use by other counties as it serves as a regional public health laboratory. The San Joaquin County Health Care Services Agency has developed and is implementing a bio-terrorism preparedness and public health infrastructure plan.

The County seeks to:

- 1. Obtain sufficient space to provide health services in a safe and efficient manner;
- 2. Consolidate Public Health operations onto a single site; and
- 3. Plan sufficient space for future growth.

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$5 million **TOTAL PROJECT COST:** \$48.7 million (approximate)

Health Care Services Agency: Greg Diederich, HCSA Director | gdiederich@sjgh.org | (209) 468-7031

Public Health Services: Tamara Evans, PHS Director | tevans1@sjcphs.org | (209) 468-3410



4. ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE FACILITY

LEGISLATIVE PROJECTS

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility, Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities, Improve Public Safety and Enhance Overall Criminal Justice System

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate, and support legislation and/or budgetary appropriations to provide funding assistance for an Adolescent Substance Abuse Facility.

BACKGROUND:

San Joaquin County (SJC) has identified significant needs for a residential substance abuse treatment facility for adolescents ages 14 to 18. Studies conducted conclude that methamphetamine appears to be the drug most used, while marijuana, opioids and alcohol are also major drugs of choice among adolescents. It is estimated approximately 2,500 SJC youth are in need of treatment for alcohol abuse, and approximately 3,300 are in need of treatment for illicit drugs. The County seeks additional funds to provide a facility for these critical services. The only available option for adolescents needing treatment for alcohol abuse and illicit drug use is outpatient counseling services. If an adolescent needs more than outpatient counseling, no other treatments are available.

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$2.5 million **TOTAL PROJECT COST:** \$5.5 million

(PROJECT LITERATURE AVAILABLE)

Health Care Services Agency: Greg Diederich, Director | gdiederich@sjgh.org | (209) 468-7031 Behavioral Health Services: Tony Vartan, BHS Director | tvartan@sjcbhs.org | (209) 468-8752

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5. RECOVERY HOUSE REPLACEMENT

LEGISLATIVE PROJECTS

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility, Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities, Improve Public Safety and Enhance Overall Criminal Justice System

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate, and support legislation which would create funding for the construction of a substance use disorder treatment facility.

BACKGROUND:

The San Joaquin County Substance Abuse Services Recovery House facility was constructed prior to the 1960's on the grounds of San Joaquin General Hospital. It is a co-ed residential facility that now serves a county where the population has increased approximately 180% since its construction.

The existing facility is not conducive to the provision of current evidence based practices for the treatment of substance use disorders and is in need of repairs and renovations that would exceed the cost of its replacement. The mixing of populations from the justice system with those that have serious mental illness and or compounded physical health needs is inefficient and research shows detrimental to the low risk clients in the current setting. San Joaquin County needs to increase access and capacity of treatment in the community to meet regulatory standards and reduce those incarcerated for their behavioral health disorders.

The County seeks to:

- 1. Obtain sufficient space to provide substance use disorder treatment in a safe and effective manner;
- 2. Provide a facility that can service a diverse population appropriately on the same site; and
- 3. Have a plan that allows for growth as warranted.

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$4.5 million **TOTAL PROJECT COST:** \$9.0 million

Health Care Services Agency: Greg Diederich, Director | gdiederich@sjgh.org | (209) 468-7031 Behavioral Health Services: Tony Vartan, BHS Director | tvartan@sjcbhs.org | (209) 468-8752

6. CYBERSECURITY



LEGISLATIVE PROJECTS

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate, and support legislation and/or budget appropriations, which would provide funding assistance to enhance and improve cybersecurity capabilities for San Joaquin County.

BACKGROUND:

San Joaquin County (SJC) is seeking State and Federal assistance to provide SJC with the necessary tools to protect critical infrastructure from cyberattacks.

Consistent with the Board's Strategic Priority "Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities", SJC is constantly evaluating methods to protect its critical infrastructure that includes elections systems, telecommunications, information systems, and sensitive constituent data from being compromised. As identified in the latest Department of Homeland Security Grant guidance and with the establishment of the Cybersecurity Taskforce within the California Office of Emergency Services, cyberattacks have been deemed a major threat to critical infrastructure at both the Federal and State levels.

SJC's cybersecurity team constantly monitors its critical infrastructure to prevent, detect, identify, and mitigate potential threats. As the cyberattacks evolve and change in nature, so must the tools and procedures used to combat them. SJC has performed extensive analysis leveraging partners within the cybersecurity industry as well as State and local agencies to identify improvements to SJC's cybersecurity systems. SJC has developed a comprehensive plan to upgrade its cybersecurity systems that will require additional investments in technology and training to ensure that the County's critical infrastructure is protected from cyberattacks.

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$1.3 million TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$1.3 million

(PROJECT LITERATURE AVAILABLE)

Information Systems Division: Jerry Becker, Assistant County Administrator | jbecker@sjgov.org | (209) 468-3960



7. TOP TEN TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

LEGISLATIVE PROJECTS

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Promote Economic Development San Joaquin County's Top Ten Transportation projects are of regional significance, focusing on roadway safety and improvements that serve to advance economic vitality in the Central Valley region, which would be consistent with the Board's Strategic Priority to "Promote Economic Development".

Public Works: Kris Balaji, Director | kbalaji@sjgov.org | (209) 468-3100



7. TOP TEN TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

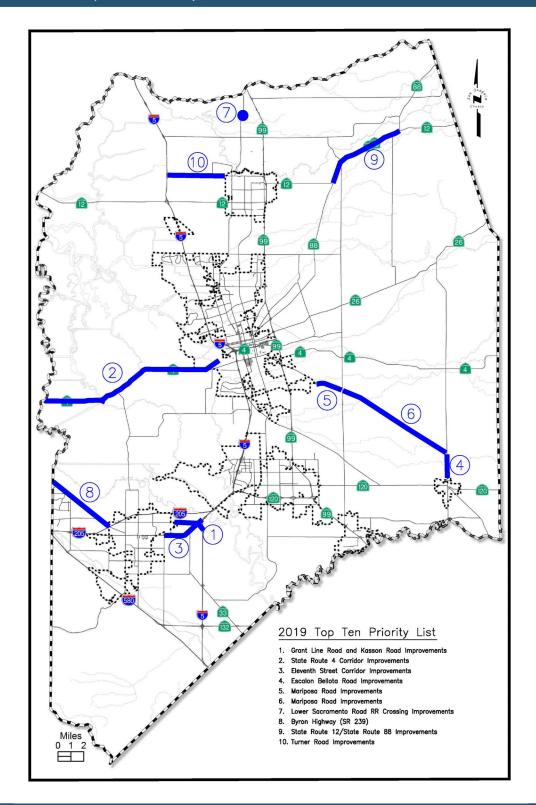
LEGISLATIVE PROJECTS (CONTINUED)

#	PROJECT	FUNDING REQUEST	DESCRIPTION
1	Grant Line Road and Kasson Road Improvements	\$20 million	Widen from 2 to 4 lanes, add curb, gutter and sidewalk in select locations in Banta, and add paved shoulders for a Class III Bike Route as shown in the San Joaquin County Bike Plan.
2	State Route 4 Corridor Improvements	\$5 million	Planning and Engineering studies, right of way acquisition and project design to widen State Route 4 from 2 to 4 lanes. Project limits include 1 major bridge at Middle River. Project length is approximately 16 miles.
3	Eleventh Street Corridor Improvements	\$9.5 million	Construct median and intersection improvements through this 4-mile corridor. The cost estimate allows for the construction of a roundabout at each of the intersections in the corridor.
4	Escalon-Bellota Road	\$2.7 million	Widen from 2 to 3 lanes/5 lanes and add 8' shoulders.
5	Mariposa Road (Jack Tone Road to Austin Road)	\$2.6 million	Widen from 2 to 3 lanes/5 lanes and add 8' shoulders.
6	Mariposa Road (Escalon-Bellota Road to Jack Tone Road)	\$2 million	Widen from 2 to 3 lanes/5 lanes and add 8' shoulders.
7	Lower Sacramento Road Rail- road Crossing Improvements	\$25 million	Improve safety and traffic operations at the Lower Sacramento Road railroad crossing near Woodson.
8	Byron Highway (State Route 239)	\$1 million	Includes widening the corridor to four lanes and two potential overpass projects at Mountain House Parkway and Central Parkway. TIER II - 2004 SJCOG RTP PROJECT LIST (Overpasses are Tier II - 2007 SJCOG RTP Project List, but considered Mountain House jurisdiction)
9	State Route 12/88 Improvements (Lockeford Bypass)	\$10 million	Project to provide 4 lanes (2 lanes EB and 2 lanes WB) from State Route 12/88 west to State Route 12/88 east. Ultimate alternative selected may include multiple minor structures. Project length is approximately 9 miles.
10	Turner Road Improvements	\$3.2 million	Project will widen the shoulders along Turner Road and add turn lanes at the intersections. Project limits include 1 minor structure and 1 at-grade railroad crossing. Project length is approximately 4.5 miles.



7. TOP TEN TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

LEGISLATIVE PROJECTS (CONTINUED)





8. CALIFORNIA MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL METHAMPHETAMINE PROGRAM

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Improve Public Safety and Enhance Overall Criminal Justice System

ISSUE:

The proliferation and trafficking of methamphetamine drug laboratories and other illegal drugs continues to be a serious problem in San Joaquin County.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate, and support efforts which would:

- 1. Increase funding to local law enforcement agencies to combat the production, trafficking, and sale of methamphetamine and other illegal drugs;
- 2. Increase funding for the California Multi-Jurisdictional Methamphetamine Program and other programs targeted at combating illegal drug production and trafficking; and
- 3. Support legislative efforts and/or budgetary proposals which would sustain the current level of funding to combat illegal drugs, and oppose budget reductions to the Methamphetamine Program.

BACKGROUND:

Production and trafficking of methamphetamine continues to be a significant issue in San Joaquin County (SJC) in spite of the increased seizures of large-scale clandestine laboratories. Although Federal and State laws have been enacted to curtail and restrict the sales of precursor chemicals, drug trafficking organizations have adapted and continue to transport large quantities of methamphetamine into California. In addition, marijuana and cocaine trafficking is increasing in SJC. Increased Federal and State funding is necessary to maintain high-level enforcement to combat this issue, and to address the growing operating costs, including technological costs of keeping abreast of the sophisticated and elusive drug trafficking organizations.

Sheriff: Steve Moore, Sheriff | smoore@sjgov.org | (209) 468-4311



9. EARLY RELEASE OF STATE PRISONERS

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Improve Public Safety and Enhance Overall Criminal Justice System

ISSUE:

The State of California continues to be under significant pressure to reduce the State's prison population.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate and support legislation and/or budget appropriation which would provide sufficient funding to counties to address issues related to:

- 1. The Public Safety Realignment Program; and
- 2. The early release of State Prison inmates through any other programs enacted by the State.

BACKGROUND:

Under Assembly Bill 109 (AB 109) (2011), the State realigned release of State prison inmates to local "Post Release Community Supervision". New non-violent/non-serious/non-sex offenders sentenced after October 1, 2011 must now serve their State Prison sentence in local county jails. In addition, parole violators are no longer eligible to serve their revocation in local county jails. This local community supervision has placed significant demand on local services, including Probation, Sheriff Custody, Behavioral Health, District Attorney, Public Defender, Court and a variety of other local services and agencies. Current demand for programming under AB 109 exceeds realignment funds allocated to San Joaquin County. In order to meet benchmarks set by the courts, the State has implemented a variety of measures, one of which has been to change custody credits. While this measure taken in spring 2014 did result in the early release of some offenders, the State financially compensated counties for this increase in supervision terms. Additionally, with the passage of Proposition 57, the State implemented significant changes as part of a durable solution, which includes the expansion of parole consideration and credit earning, which results in additional inmates being released early and/or shifted to local jurisdiction. Funding has been included in the State Budget for Probation Departments to supervise this population earlier than expected under prior credit earning schemes. While the State of California has currently met the population cap, it continues to be under a population reduction order. It is imperative that the State continue to provide resources to counties for services needed to meet the demands of these ongoing population shifts from State to County jurisdiction.

Probation: Stephanie L. James, Chief Probation Officer | sjames@sjgov.org | (209) 468-4077



10. STABILIZATION OF FUNDING FOR THE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PERFORMANCE INCENTIVES ACT (SB 678)

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Improve Public Safety and Enhance Overall Criminal Justice System

ISSUE:

The funding stream needs to be stabilized in order for county probation departments to put the necessary programs and services into place to have long-term success at addressing the needs of the offenders and reducing recidivism.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Support legislation and budget proposals that would provide a stable funding source to incentivize counties to reduce State Prison population through improved local population and supervision practices and capacities, and to reduce the percent of adult probationers sent to prison for a probation failure or for a commission of a new crime.

BACKGROUND:

The California Community Corrections Performance Incentives Act (SB 678) was enacted in 2009. This was the State's first attempt at reducing the State Prison population by incentivizing counties to improve local probation supervision practices and capacities in an effort to reduce the percentage of adult probationers sent to prison for a probation failure or for a commission of a new crime. The State determines the county's probation failure rate (compared to the county's average adult felony probation population during the same period) and compares it to the baseline probation failure rate that was established in 2006-2008. A portion of the "State savings" is then shared with the county.

In 2011-2012, the San Joaquin County Probation Department was allocated \$1.2 million and in 2012-2013, \$3 million. In 2013-2014, the SB 678 formula was changed to include any person convicted of a felony offense under probation supervision, mandatory supervision, or post release community supervision and included those sentenced to State Prison or a local prison sentence or had supervision revoked and were sentenced to the County jail for that revocation. In 2014-2015, the "State savings" that is shared with counties equates to the cost to the State to incarcerate an inmate in a contracted facility (\$27,309). Since the passage of the new SB 678 funding formula, San Joaquin County's allocation has stabilized. In 2013-2014, the San Joaquin County Probation Department was allocated \$2.1 million; in 2014-2015, \$3.1 million; in 2016-2017, \$2.3 million; and in 2017-2018, \$2.27 million.

However, at any time, if the County does not meet its baseline projections, funding is reduced to \$200,000. A variance in funding hinders probation departments from spending all of their allocations in hiring additional probation officers and expanding programs and services. The reduced revenue could force programs and staffing to be eliminated. It is important to note that Statewide for 2014-2015, 17 counties did not meet baseline numbers and subsequently only received \$200,000. San Joaquin County was identified as one of six counties that received a "High Performance Grant". If funding was reduced to \$200,000, the specialized programs and services provided through SB 678 funding would be at risk for elimination. Should the funding formula again be changed, special consideration will need to be made to ensure stability in the funding stream.

Probation: Stephanie L. James, Chief Probation Officer | sjames@sjgov.org | (209) 468-4077



11. UNREIMBURSED TRIAL COURT EXPENDITURES

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Improve Public Safety and Enhance Overall Criminal Justice System

ISSUE:

Rule 10.810 of the California Rules of Court specifically excludes some costs which are clearly court-related, thus shifting those costs to the counties. Furthermore, the Sheriff is mandated to provide courtroom security. Therefore, the State should fund all costs associated with court security.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate and support legislation and/or budget appropriation which would provide sufficient funding to counties to:

- 1. Expand the definition of "allowable" trial court expenditures under Rule 10.810 of the California Rules of Court to include all court-related costs that are currently paid by counties;
- 2. Provide a budget appropriation to fund "allowable" costs under the Superior Court Law Enforcement Act of 2002 (SB 396); and
- 3. Cover local courts actual cost provisions for security services or authorize the Sheriff to reduce services as necessary to meet budget reductions made necessary by a local court.

BACKGROUND:

Rule 10.810—Local trial courts receive funding only for expenditures falling under categories listed in Rule 10.810 of the California Rules of Court prepared by Judicial Council. Rule 10.810 specifically excludes some costs which are clearly court related, thus shifting those costs to the counties. Examples include the courts' fair share of building and grounds maintenance in the courthouses, juror parking, bus passes, office overhead, in-custody defendant transportation, and holding cell personnel necessary for the court security function. The Superior Court Law Enforcement Act of 2002 (SB 396), Section 69927 (4), defines, among other things, the cost of support staff for the court security function as "allowable" costs; however, provisions for funding were not provided by the Legislature.

Court Security—Local trial courts receive funding through the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to operate. One of the areas funded in this method is the provision of Court Security Services by the Sheriff to the local courts. Pursuant to Government Code Section 69927, certain costs are reimbursable only to the extent funds are made available by the Legislature. In July 2009, the Legislature reduced the amount reimbursed to the Sheriff by 4.62%; however, the Legislature requires the Sheriff to continue to provide the same level of services to the Courts. This same legislation gave the local court the ability to refuse to pay for any post-employment health care costs for Sheriff staff. In effect, the Legislature has shifted these costs to the Sheriff, and ultimately to the counties. To the extent a court cannot pay the costs, the Sheriff shall not be required to provide the service.

Sheriff: Steve Moore, Sheriff | smoore@sjgov.org | (209) 468-4311

OPACION COUNTY

12. BODY WORN CAMERAS

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Improve Public Safety and Enhance Overall Criminal Justice System

ISSUE:

The use of Body Worn Cameras (BWCs) has dramatically increased the workload of Public Defenders who have an ethical obligation to review all discovery provided, including many hours of recordings from BWCs.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate, and support legislation and/or budget appropriation, which would provide sufficient funding to counties to address issues related to the use of BWCs by law enforcement agencies.

BACKGROUND:

San Joaquin County supports the deployment of new and emerging investigation technology. However, the use of BWCs has significantly increased the workload in the Public Defender's Office. BWCs are electronic recording devices that capture audio and video when activated. Law enforcement agencies use these devices to record statements by witnesses, victims and suspects, document crime scenes and for other investigative purposes. Stockton Police Department purchased 275 BWCs in 2015 and as of July 2017, require BWCs be worn by all officers responding to calls or enforcement. Other law enforcement agencies such as San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department, Tracy Police Department and Lodi Police Department have also outfitted some of their officers. All law enforcement agencies who record interviews often only briefly summarize statements in the crime report and direct the reader to refer to the BWC recording for a complete statement. Prior to BWC technology, interviews were videotaped or audio recorded primarily in homicides and high profile or serious cases. With the implementation of BWCs, almost every encounter is now recorded. This has dramatically increased the workload of deputy public defenders who have an ethical obligation to review all discovery provided, including many hours of BWC recordings. In addition to the many more hours spent reviewing BWC recordings, California Rules of Court Rule 2.1040 (b) requires that, unless good cause is found, the party offering the recording must provide a transcript of the electronic recording. The workload to the Department has dramatically increased by the need to transcribe the statements captured on the BWC recording.

Public Defender: Miriam Lyell, Public Defender | mlyell@sjgov.org | (209) 468-2756



13. Assistance for Sex Offender Registration Act

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Improve Public Safety and Enhance Overall Criminal Justice System

ISSUE:

The passage of Senate Bill 384 (SB 384) to change the requirement of sexual offenders from a life registry to a tiered system by filing a petition with the court is expected to significantly increase the workload of impacted agencies.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate, and support legislation and/or budget appropriation, which would provide sufficient funding to counties to address the great impact that SB 384 will have beginning January 1, 2021.

BACKGROUND:

California is one of four states that still requires all sexual offenders to register for life. With the passing of SB 384, known as the Sex Offender Registration Act, on October 6, 2017, Governor Jerry Brown signed legislation that would change the present structure into a three-tiered system. Beginning January 1, 2021, SB 384 will dramatically change how California manages its sex offender registry system by moving from lifetime registration for sex offenders to a new-tiered registration system that allows for termination from the registry depending on tier assignment. In addition, beginning on July 1, 2021, individuals seeking discharge from the registration requirement may file a petition with the court to remove a Penal Code Section 290 registrant from the requirement to register as a Sexual Offender. With the ability for sex offenders to petition to be removed from the public and police registries, it is anticipated to greatly impact and increase the workload of many agencies.

Public Defender: Miriam Lyell, Public Defender | mlyell@sjgov.org | (209) 468-2756



14. FUNDING FOR REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Improve Public Safety and Enhance Overall Criminal Justice System

ISSUE:

People who have criminal records experience barriers to reintegration into society and there is a lack of sufficient programs to support community reentry for many individuals and their families.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate and support legislation and/or budget appropriation, which would provide sufficient funding to counties for Clean Slate and Second Chance remedies.

BACKGROUND:

A criminal record follows clients around for years and has a negative impact on the social life, career path, and family life of clients. In the last few decades, the collateral consequences of having felony convictions have worsened. There are hundreds of laws restricting the types of jobs or professional trades open to people with felonies, and restrictions that prevent access to housing, loans and childcare assistance. The results have been devastating. Even after people have completed their sentences, they face substantial barriers to becoming stable and productive community members. The Public Defender is dedicated to serving the diverse needs of the community and its justice system by furnishing clients with competent, effective, loyal, ethical, compassionate, and efficient advocacy and this work is legally mandated. Penal Code Section 4852.08 states that a petitioner shall be represented by the public defender if s/he does not have counsel after filing to seek a certificate of rehabilitation and pardon. The Clean Slate Program would improve the County's criminal justice system by allowing people who have had contact with the criminal justice system to be successful in rejoining their community by cleaning up their criminal record and removing or reducing the collateral consequences of criminal convictions, including barriers to employment, housing, education and licensure. People who have jobs, access to professional trades, licensures and housing have a lower recidivism rate. It is imperative to invest in Clean Slate and Second Chance programs to help people successfully reintegrate into families, communities, and society.

Public Defender: Miriam Lyell, Public Defender | mlyell@sjgov.org | (209) 468-2756

15. Propositions 47 and 64



LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Improve Public Safety and Enhance Overall Criminal Justice System

ISSUE:

Propositions 47 and 64 have dramatically increased the workload of the District Attorney's Office who has a legal obligation to be responsive to petitions for resentencing, as well as attorney time spent litigating motions. Without funding, no data is being collected or analyzed to determine if stated goals are being achieved.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate and support legislation and/or budget appropriation, which would provide sufficient funding to counties to address issues related to:

- 1. Conducting research and data analysis of Propositions 47 and 64 to ensure effective use of resources and achieving stated goals.
- 2. Allowing the State and County to develop employment and housing opportunities for previously incarcerated members of our community.
- 3. The ability to report the implementation of the propositions and corresponding programs and achieving the stated goals.

BACKGROUND:

Proposition 47 went into effect in November 2014. This law changed certain low-level crimes from potential felonies to misdemeanors. Proposition 64 was passed in November 2016 and legalized the responsible use of marijuana by adults 21 and over and reduced the criminal penalties for most remaining marijuana offenses from felonies to misdemeanors and some misdemeanors to infractions. Similar to Proposition 47, petitions are required to be filed for clients with closed cases to reclassify or dismiss certain marijuana-related offenses.

San Joaquin County has currently processed over 20,000 Proposition 47 and 64 cases; however, assistance is needed in determining if the services are reaching the clients and achieving the stated purpose.

Developing research partnerships with outside agencies, and collecting and analyzing data, would enable the State and County to allocate resources in an effective manner to enhance economic opportunities for formerly incarcerated and increase public safety. Funding streams for research and data analysis should be sought through third party partnerships and seek opportunities to utilize any costs savings from Proposition 47 and 64.

This will create minimal fiscal impact, as third party research would be privately funded.

District Attorney: Tori Verber-Salazar, District Attorney | tori.verber@sjcda.org | (209) 468-2447



16. PEST PREVENTION AND SURVEILLANCE

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Promote Economic Development

ISSUE:

Insufficient funding for pest prevention and surveillance detection.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate, and support legislation and budget proposals, which would restore and provide full State and Federal funding of County pest prevention programs, and identify alternative sources of funding for County pest prevention programs.

BACKGROUND:

San Joaquin County (SJC) is the seventh largest agricultural county in the State of California and ranks higher than fifteen states nationally. Agriculture is a major factor in the County's economy and way of life; therefore, funding for early plant pest detection and surveillance is of priority importance to SJC.

Due to severe budget cuts at both the State and Federal levels, funding has remained stagnant since the recession beginning in 2008 for local pest exclusion and pest detection programs. The Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Prevention program and the High Risk Pest Exclusion program experienced an 89.2% decrease in 2008 as compared to previous years and the funding level still remains unchanged. As of 2018-2019, funding has yet to be re-instated, significantly limiting the Agricultural Commissioner's ability to detect incoming pests. In addition, the County has lost its pest exclusion dog team funding requiring San Joaquin County to now rely on surrounding counties to provide their services after inspection needs at post office distribution locations are met. With the anticipated continued growth of FedEx, UPS and now Amazon shipping points, this exposes the County's agricultural industry to significant risks of being placed under State and Federal quarantines, restricting the industry's ability to market their products to other countries and states.

The SJC agricultural industry continues to battle invasive plant pest infestations. In 2009, the County experienced its first plant pest quarantine in 28 years with the detection of Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM). Since then, the SJC Agricultural Commissioner's Office has detected a European Grapevine Moth infestation in 2010, an Oriental Fruit Fly infestation in 2011, an Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) infestation in October 2014, which resulted in over half of the County being placed under quarantine. The County continues to find other pests including single finds of both the Peach and Oriental Fruit Flies in May 2016. Beginning in 2017-2018, the County has begun receiving airfreight shipments from the Eastern United States, which has introduced over 400 Japanese beetles and an Emerald Ash Borer over the last two years causing one grower having to be placed under quarantine for soil movement. Other exotic pest finds include Branch Broom Rape and Cucumber Green Mottled Mosaic Virus, which have caused quarantines in several production areas within the County seriously limiting what can be planted in the affected areas. Each of these detections has resulted in State and Federal plant pest quarantines that have seriously impacted SJC's agricultural industry and economy.

Agricultural Commissioner: Tim Pelican, Ag. Commissioner | tpelican@sjgov.org | (209) 953-6007



17. NUTRIA SURVEY AND ERADICATION FUNDING

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility, Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities, Stay Informed and Proactive in Dealing with Water Issues

ISSUE:

Inadequate funding limits the ability to successfully survey and eradicate the exotic vertebrate pest "Nutria" in the San Joaquin River Basin and Delta Region.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate, and support legislation and budget proposals which would provide additional and extended State and Federal funding sources for the California Fish and Wildlife Nutria Survey and Eradication Program, and identify the long-term funding sources that will be required to assure a successful program.

BACKGROUND:

In March 2017, a female nutria pregnant with seven young was captured in a private wetland southeast of Gustine, Merced County. Nutria (*Myocastor coypus*) are large, semi-aquatic rodents, which are native to South America and highly invasive in the United States; nutria are regulated as an A-rated pest by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and as a live restricted animal by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) (14 CCR § 671). Following this detection, an Interagency Nutria Response Team was convened and has since captured 196 additional nutria and documented additional confirmed and unconfirmed sightings. There has so far been two findings of nutria in San Joaquin County, one carcass on Old River on April 13, 2018 and a live Nutria was captured in Lathrop on April 9, 2018.

Nutria are capable of rapidly expanding populations, both in size and geographic distribution. Female nutria are reproductive by six months of age, breed year-round, and can produce three litters in 13 months. Within approximately one year of reaching reproductive maturity, one female nutria can result in more than 200 offspring, which can disperse as far as 50 miles. Populations in other states (e.g. Oregon, Louisiana, Texas) have reached numbers into the millions and in some locations persist in the hundreds of thousands; Oregon sees densities up to 56 nutria per acre, while Louisiana harvests 450,000 nutria annually.

The CDFW and its partner agencies are implementing an eradication project to prevent further impacts to the State's resources. The existence and spread of nutria in California will undoubtedly result in substantial ecological and economic impacts, including loss of wetland and riparian habitat, soil and bank erosion, levee failures, agricultural losses, degraded wildlife and fish habitats, damaged revegetation (restoration) sites, and exacerbated spread of invasive plants. This rapid response project will minimize the negative impacts of nutria to California's resources while maximizing the cost-efficiency of eradication efforts. Left unchecked the damage caused by nutria to the San Joaquin River

Agricultural Commissioner: Tim Pelican, Ag. Commissioner | tpelican@sjgov.org | (209) 953-6007



17. NUTRIA SURVEY AND ERADICATION FUNDING

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES (CONTINUED)

Delta levies would have a detrimental Statewide effect to both the economy and wildlife. The crop production value of the San Joaquin County Delta alone amounts to over \$500 million per year. The damage to fish and wildlife habitat would be devastating.

Thus far, CDFW has received a two-year grant of \$1.2 million and CDFA has received an additional grant of \$800,000 for a two-year delimitation project. However, in order to get the required number of "boots on the ground" to complete a full survey of the San Joaquin River Basin and Delta it is highly doubtful that these grants will be enough to cover the actual cost of the initial survey and eradication efforts. It should also be noted that after an eradication program takes place, a follow-up survey will be required which is anticipated to take multiple years to complete.



LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility, Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities, and Promote Economic Development

ISSUE:

The County needs to have a voice in the development of State legislation and regulations pertaining to production of industrial hemp.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Advocate and support legislative and regulatory development at the State and Federal level that allows for the responsible development of a new agricultural industry, including effective County oversight.

BACKGROUND:

On February 7, 2014, the 2014 Agricultural Act, known as the "U.S. Farm Bill," was signed into law. The 2014 U.S. Farm Bill included section 7606, entitled Legitimacy of Industrial Hemp Research, which allowed for growing or cultivation of industrial hemp by an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965) or a state department of agriculture if the growing or cultivation was conducted as research under a pilot program and the state law allowed for such growing or cultivation.

On November 8, 2016, California Proposition 64, known as the "Adult Use of Marijuana Act," was passed by voters allowing for the legalization and regulation of recreational cannabis. Proposition 64 distinguished industrial hemp from cannabis, making clear that industrial hemp was defined by section 11018.5 of the California Health and Safety Code. Pursuant to such authority, industrial hemp is defined as:

"... fiber or oilseed crop, or both, that is limited to types of the plant Cannabis sativa L. having no more than three-tenths of 1 percent tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) contained in the dried flowering tops, whether growing or not; the seeds of the plant; the resin extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant, its seeds or resin produced therefrom."

On January 1, 2017, Division 24 of the California Food and Agriculture Code (hereinafter "FAC") became operative. Pursuant to Division 24 of the FAC, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (hereinafter "CDFA") is tasked with regulating the cultivation of industrial hemp in accordance with the provisions of Division 24 (sections 81000-81010). Such regulation includes the development and implementation of requisite hemp seed laws, a regulatory scheme, and enforcement mechanisms. In July 2017, the Industrial Hemp Advisory Board began meeting to begin development of regulations for the oversight of industrial hemp production as tasked by Division 24 of the FAC. The Board is still in the rule writing process as of October 2018 and will most likely have to pass emergency regulations to make the 2019 deadline set by statute.

Agricultural Commissioner: Tim Pelican, Ag. Commissioner | tpelican@sjgov.org | (209) 953-6007



LEGISLATIVE ISSUES (CONTINUED)

On September 26, 2017, due to: (1) the exemptions afforded to an "Established Agricultural Research Institution" from various regulations mandated by Division 24 of the FAC; (2) the vague definition of an "Established Agricultural Research Institutions" and "agricultural or academic research;" and, (3) an "Established Agricultural Research Institution's" ability to cultivate and possess industrial hemp with a greater than 0.3% THC level, the Board of Supervisors adopted Interim Urgency Ordinance No. 4497 establishing a temporary moratorium on the cultivation of industrial hemp by "Established Agricultural Research Institutions." Interim Urgency Ordinance No. 4497, addresses the threat to health, safety and welfare that are caused by the unregulated cultivation of industrial hemp by "Established Agricultural Research Institutions."

On September 30, 2018, Senate Bill No. 1409 was signed into law by the Governor. This bill was intended to serve as "cleanup legislation" amending Sections 81002, 81003, 81004, 81005 and 81006 while adding Sections 81007 and 81011 to the FAC. While this bill gives counties the ability to collect fees to recover costs associated with local regulation and enforcement, it does not further define an "Established Agricultural Research Institution" nor what activities constitute "agricultural or academic research." This bill also does not address how a grower will register with the County, who will be responsible for the abatement of a crop found to possess a THC level over 0.3%, or who will oversee the testing of industrial hemp.

Due to the probability that additional "cleanup legislation" will be required and that the rule making process will continue to be exercised by the CDFA's Industrial Hemp Advisory Board, legislative activity should continue through the next legislative session. It is imperative that San Joaquin County stay engaged in these processes in order to assure the highest level of local involvement and reasonable regulation as possible as this new industry progresses to ensure that such cultivation does not pose threats to the health, safety, and general welfare of San Joaquin County residents.

19. WILLIAMSON ACT



LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility

ISSUE:

The Williamson Act is economically and environmentally important to San Joaquin County. The elimination of funding and further weakening of the Act create a significant fiscal hardship for counties with substantial acreage enrolled in the Act.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

- 1. Support full restoration of subventions to fund the loss of property tax as a result of State-eliminated funding for the Williamson Act program.
- 2. Support legislation and administrative action that would enhance the program and improve the ability of both the State and the County to enforce Williamson Act contracts through uniform control measures.
- 3. Oppose any further weakening of the Act.

BACKGROUND:

There are nearly 6,829 properties with more than 511,620 acres under contract in San Joaquin County. For the 2018-2019 tax year, the Williamson Act reduced revenue from property taxes by over \$17.1 million. The County's share of that would have been \$3.1 million. If the County had received a fully-funded subvention from the State it would have been eligible for \$1.9 million.

Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk: Steve Bestolarides, Assessor | sjbestolarides@sjgov.org | (209)468-2649



20. CHILD SUPPORT FUNDING EQUITY

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility, Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities, and Improve Public Safety and Enhance the Overall Criminal Justice System

ISSUE:

The State Child Support Services Department's (CSSD) current funding allocation methodology for local child support agencies results in unequitable funding to the County, and negatively impacts families and children in San Joaquin County.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

- 1. Advocate and support legislative, administrative, and/or budgetary efforts to revise the CSSD funding allocation methodology to adequately address issues identified by San Joaquin County.
- 2. Maintain a coalition of County child support directors and the State Child Support Department that supports a revision of CSSD's funding allocation methodology.

BACKGROUND:

The current model for allocating funds between counties was developed in the 1990s when the child support program was managed by the county district attorneys. It considered a number of factors, including county collections and compliance with case processing requirements. In 2000 the program was removed from local district attorney offices and management was transferred to a new and independent State child support department. The new department inherited and continues to use the same allocation methodology despite annual increases in operating costs.

Recognizing the negative impact of flat funding on local child support agencies, the State provided a Revenue Stabilization funding augmentation in 2009-2010. The State indicated the purpose of the fund was to maintain revenue generating caseworker staffing levels in order to stabilize child support collections. San Joaquin County's share continues to be \$409,049 annually.

However, after two decades of no funding increases and rising annual County costs, the methodology is no longer sufficient to adequately fund the child support program in San Joaquin County and is responsible for creating a significant inequity and negative outcomes for the children and families of San Joaquin County.

Due to the efforts of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors and Department of Child Support Services, the department received its first funding increase since the year 2000. The increase was allocated to current operating costs. Additional efforts, already begun, are necessary to enable the department to provide consistent Statewide services.

The impacts of this dated methodology scheme are significant and devastating. In San Joaquin County:

 Caseworker levels have dropped from 182 (2009) to 127 (2016) in order to absorb increasing operating costs;

Department of Child Support Services: Lori A. Cruz, Director | Icruz@sjgov.org | (209) 468-8005



20. CHILD SUPPORT FUNDING EQUITY

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES (CONTINUED)

- Child support is a safety net for lower income families. A decreased ability to collect support for lower income families results in a higher incidence of child poverty in the County;
- Fewer caseworkers requires more reliance on automated enforcement measures and diminishes customer service;
- Fewer caseworkers results in a time lag for customer requests like support order modifications;
- Decreased collections results in less family self-sufficiency;
- Decreased collections results in less recoupment to the County;
- The quality of customer service may result in fewer caseworkers which may result in additional constituent complaints; and
- Fewer caseworkers may contribute to low employee morale.

JOAQUIN COUNTY

21. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities

ISSUE:

San Joaquin County has seen an increase in the need to locate affordable housing units for tenant-based project programs and for the first-time homebuyer's program.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate, and support legislation or a budgetary proposal that would continue to provide local jurisdictions with funding to provide rental assistance and down payment assistance for affordable housing units and homes.

BACKGROUND:

San Joaquin County has experienced an increased demand for rental housing and homeownership in our area. This demand has made it difficult for low-income tenants and low-income first-time homebuyers to locate affordable housing. Because of the demand for housing, the rents and the median price for a house has steadily increased since the Recession of 2006-2007.

Some of the demand for housing has come from the San Francisco Bay Area. Because housing costs have increased astronomically in the Bay Area, many of their residents are moving to San Joaquin County in search of "affordable" housing. This demand is having the effect of increasing the average rents and home prices in the County, making housing more and more unaffordable for our local residents.

The lack of affordable rental housing and homes for purchase may also be a contributing factor to the increase in the homeless population. This in turn can lead to an increase in crime and blight throughout the area.

Federal funding to support the County's affordable housing programs comes from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, specifically under the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) and HOME (HOME Investment Partnerships Programs). Without Federal funding, the County's programs currently being used to address affordable housing in the area would be eliminated.

Community Development: Kerry Sullivan, Community Development Director | ksullivan@sigov.org | (209) 468-3140

22. HOMELESSNESS



LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities, and Improve Public Safety and Enhance Overall Criminal Justice System.

ISSUE:

California is in the midst of a housing crisis. In San Joaquin County, the rising cost and low availability of housing has resulted in increased rates of homelessness.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate, and support legislation or budgetary proposals that would provide local jurisdictions with ongoing funding to develop and operate emergency shelter and permanent supportive housing programs, prevention and rental assistance, rapid rehousing, substance abuse and behavioral health treatment, transitional programs, domestic violence shelters, and data collection systems.

BACKGROUND:

Over the past several years, San Joaquin County has experienced a steady increase in rates of homelessness across multiple demographics. The issue has become even more evident as homeless encampments spring up in urban and unincorporated areas, parks, and along County waterways. Reasons for homelessness are varied, which underscores the need for a multi-faceted approach to solutions.

Homelessness is primarily the result of a lack of affordable housing. Factors such as the sudden loss of employment or other income, physical and mental health issues, incarceration, and addiction all contribute to a cycle of poverty and homelessness that can be difficult to break. Without assistance in the form of treatment, job services, and emergency housing, these factors often become an insurmountable barrier to re-establishing self-sufficiency. The development of a broad range of housing solutions that include supportive services would allow the homeless to work toward solutions to these factors while living in stable housing instead of in emergency shelters or on the street.

Federal funding for homelessness programs comes from the Department of Housing and Urban Development specifically under their Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and Continuum of Care (CoC) programs. State funding comes from the Department of Housing and Community Development under the State ESG program, and from temporary, limited funds through the California Emergency Solutions and Housing Program (CESH) and the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP). Without Federal and State funding, the County's programs currently being used to alleviate the issues of homelessness would be eliminated.

Community Development: Kerry Sullivan, Community Development Director | ksullivan@sigov.org | (209) 468-3140



23. REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ALLOCATION

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities

ISSUE:

The methodology used to determine the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) numbers for the unincorporated San Joaquin County is flawed and does not consider the nature and policies of growth for that area of the County, thus assigning a relatively large housing number onto the County.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Advocate to the California Department of Housing and Community Development and the San Joaquin Council of Governments during the next RHNA cycle in 2023 to develop a methodology that considers the nature and limitations of growth in agricultural and rural counties as opposed to more urban counties.

BACKGROUND:

Preparation of the RHNA is mandated by California Government Code section 65584. The law requires that the California Department of Housing and Community Development, in consultation with the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG), establish a countywide housing construction target.

SJCOG is mandated to develop the methodology and adopt the allocation outcomes of the housing targets for the incorporated cities and the unincorporated areas within the County by family income categories over the ten-year period of 2014 to 2023. SJCOG's responsibility includes identifying the areas within the region that can sufficiently meet the regional housing need. Furthermore, the RHNA must allocate housing units within the region consistent with the development pattern included in the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

San Joaquin County is primarily an agricultural county. This has consistently been acknowledged by the decision-makers in the County and most recently in the County's General Plan 2035, adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2016. General Plan policies direct urban growth to cities, city fringe areas, or urban communities where infrastructure and urban level of services can accommodate this growth. County policies discourage urban sprawl and promote compact development patterns, mixed-use development, and higher development intensities that conserve agricultural land resources, protect habitat, support transit, reduce vehicle trips, improve air quality, make efficient use of existing infrastructure, conserve energy and water, and diversify San Joaquin County's housing stock. Outside of the community of Mountain House and based on County policies, it is not realistic for the unincorporated San Joaquin County to absorb a large portion of the RHNA housing numbers.

Community Development: Kerry Sullivan, Community Development Director | ksullivan@sjgov.org | (209) 468-3140



24. WATER QUALITY STANDARDS FOR RECREATIONAL USE OF FRESH WATERS

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Stay Informed and Proactive in Dealing with Water Issues

ISSUE:

There are no State enforceable minimum standards or requirements for monitoring freshwater recreational bathing areas and beaches at inland rivers, lakes, the Delta, and other freshwater bodies that promote and allow swimming and other body-contact sports.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

- 1. Support legislation which would set enforceable minimum bacteriological standards for freshwater bodies, such as public access lakes, rivers, and the Delta.
- 2. Support legislation or budgetary proposals which would provide sufficient funding to establish and administer a local water quality monitoring program.

BACKGROUND:

Since 1998, the State has had enforceable minimum standards for bacteriological monitoring of ocean beaches. Legislation signed by the Governor in 2004 requires water quality monitoring at San Francisco Bay beaches. However, there are no State enforceable minimum standards or requirements for monitoring of freshwater recreational bathing areas and beaches at inland rivers, lakes, or the Delta.

Health risks associated with recreational use of freshwater bodies warrant establishing an enforceable standard framework for monitoring. Such legislation would provide regulatory certainty and clarity for the State and local regulators of freshwater bathing areas, and would serve to control the spread of costly and dangerous outbreaks that could negatively affect the well-being of California's most vulnerable population.

The California Department of Public Health's website (http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/environhealth/water/Pages/Beaches.aspx) includes draft guidelines for freshwater beaches; however, no State enforceable minimum standards (regulations) exist for bacteriological monitoring and testing. Additionally, neither a State funding source nor a public notification criteria (i.e., requirements for posting, closing, and the reopening of public freshwater bathing areas after bacteriological problems are identified) have been established.

Environmental Health: Linda Turkatte, Director | Iturkatte@sjchd.com | (209) 468-3420



25. STATE IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERAL HEALTH CARE REFORM

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility, Promote Economic Development

ISSUE:

Ensure the retention of San Joaquin County residents' health care coverage.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

- 1. Advocate and support legislation and regulations which would provide expanded health care, including preventive and treatment services; and ensure that San Joaquin County is protected from unforeseen liability and/or unfunded service obligations resulting from health care reform.
- 2. Oppose new unfunded mandates for expansion of health and mental health services.
- 3. Support inclusion of county safety net facilities and programs, including appropriate reimbursement, in health care coverage programs.
- 4. Ensure adequate funding from Health Realignment or other sources to provide care for the uninsured in the safety net system.
- 5. Oppose measures which divert the pool of funds derived from County or public sources to non-public health care facilities, including the expansion of the definition for a designated public hospital.
- 6. Protect access to care at the San Joaquin County Clinics Federally Qualified Health Center Look-A-Likes by ensuring cost-based service reimbursements.

BACKGROUND:

The expansion of health care coverage under Medi-Cal has significantly reduced the County's mandate for indigent care, provided opportunities to redirect County General Funds into other supportive programs and has expanded health care employment in the community. Health care coverage for residents helps to ensure a healthier community and workforce. Health care reform efforts/measures need to address specific issues to ensure San Joaquin County (SJC) is protected from unforeseen liability and/or unfunded service obligations for new and undefined populations, and increased requirements to fund these new obligations.

Health Care Services Agency: Greg Diederich, HCSA Director | gdiederich@sjgh.org | (209) 468-7031 San Joaquin General Hospital: David Culberson, SJGH CEO | dculberson@sjgh.org | (209) 468-6042

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26. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities, Improve Public Safety and Enhance Overall Criminal Justice System

ISSUE:

Efforts exist to reduce or eliminate County authority regarding the governance of emergency medical services.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

- 1. Aggressively support legislation, regulatory, and other efforts to maintain and increase:
 - a. The authority and governing role of counties and their local emergency medical services agencies to plan, implement, and evaluate all aspects and components of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system; and
 - b. Funding for emergency medical services oversight.
- 2. Support legislative efforts to maintain:
 - a. The administration and medical control of EMS, pre-hospital emergency medical care, and ambulance services at the county level; and
 - b. An independent State EMS Authority aligned with the California Department of Public Health.
- 3. Aggressively oppose legislative, regulatory, or other efforts which would:
 - a. Threaten or weaken the authority and governing role of counties over EMS;
 - b. Result in fragmentation of the EMS systems and the delivery of pre-hospital emergency medical care;
 - c. Allow cities and special districts to provide EMS independent of the county's administration and medical control;
 - d. Limit or diminish the authority of the local EMS agency medical director to maintain medical control of the EMS system; and
 - e. Shift responsibility for regional trauma planning away from counties and local EMS agencies.

BACKGROUND:

Under current law, counties have an obligation to ensure public health and medical care for its citizens including ambulance service. EMS and ambulance services planned for and provided on a Countywide basis ensure system integrity and the delivery of optimal patient care. While neither cities nor fire districts have any health care obligations under State or Federal law, some have sought to overturn the EMS Act (Division 2.5 of the Health and Safety Code) and obtain authority to establish city managed and/or fire service control of EMS and ambulance services. The County seeks to avoid the fragmentation of the EMS system or any effort to allow cities and special districts to self-govern its EMS participation, which work against the delivery of optimal patient care and efficient system designs for the County over all.

Health Care Services Agency: Greg Diederich, Director | gdiederich@sjgh.org | (209) 468-7031 Emergency Medical Services: Dan Burch, EMS Administrator | dburch@sjgov.org | (209) 468-6818



27. SHORTAGES OF PHYSICIANS, NURSES AND ANCILLARY CLINICIANS

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Promote Economic Development, Ensure Fiscal Responsibility, Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities

ISSUE:

San Joaquin County Health Care Services Agency and San Joaquin General Hospital continue to experience a significant shortage of physicians, nurses, and ancillary clinical staff.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

- 1. Advocate and support legislation or budgetary efforts which would expand health-related training programs, especially for psychiatrists and other physicians, nurses, and ancillary clinicians.
- 2. Support funding for health-training loans and scholarship programs which target Central Valley needs and shortages, as well as funding for workforce outreach and development in schools and the community.
- 3. Support legislation which would provide incentives to encourage and attract health care professionals to practice in the Central Valley.
- 4. Oppose legislation which would impose new staffing ratios or increase demand for health care professionals without adequately addressing the supply of available licensed and/or ancillary clinical staff.

BACKGROUND:

The health care industry continues to face a critical shortage of physicians, psychiatrists, registered nurses, public health nurses, nurse practitioners, and ancillary clinical staff (e.g. radiology, nuclear medicine, microbiology, ultrasound technology, respiratory therapy, physical and occupational therapy, and pharmacy). Shortages also exist for other clinical providers such as Licensed Clinical Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists. Expansion of training programs, funding for loan and scholarship programs, career outreach and development programs, and incentives for practice in underserved areas is critical to address these career deficiencies in the health care industry. The County advocates for funding and programs which will increase the available pool of health professionals. Legislative efforts continue to attempt to add ratios for other health care ancillary staff, without recognition of the critical shortages for these professionals. Requiring staffing levels, when staff is not readily available, creates undue liability for the County.

Health Care Services Agency: Greg Diederich, HCSA Director | gdiederich@sjgh.org | (209) 468-7031 San Joaquin General Hospital: David Culberson, SJGH CEO | dculberson@sjgh.org | (209) 468-6042

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28. CALIFORNIA CHILDREN'S SERVICES

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility, Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities

ISSUE:

The State Department of Health Care Services' funding formula places a cap on administrative allocations for the California Children's Services Program (CCS). The funding structure for CCS diagnostic, treatment, and therapy services is based on 1990-1991 expenditure levels. As a caseload-driven program, these funding issues may force counties to curtail services to disabled children, reduce payments to providers, or incur additional County general fund costs to maintain services.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek alternative funding or change in administrative structure for CCS to mitigate the growth in this unfunded mandate to counties, or require the State to fully fund its statutory obligation for CCS.

BACKGROUND:

The CCS program provides diagnosis and treatment services, medical case management, and physical and occupational therapy services to children under age 21 with CCS-eligible medical conditions, such as cystic fibrosis, hemophilia, cerebral palsy, heart disease, cancer, and traumatic injuries. CCS also provides medically-necessary physical and occupational therapy to special education students. The CCS program has been in existence since the 1920s, and pre-dates Medi-Cal and Healthy Families.

Counties have historically been responsible for eligibility determination and case management services. Counties have had a long-standing share of cost for the non-Medi-Cal portion of the CCS program. The 1991 Realignment requires counties to provide contributions to fund diagnosis, treatment, and therapy up to the level of their actual expenditures unless the State CCS program certifies that a lower level of funding is sufficient. The State is required to match dollar-for-dollar a county appropriates for CCS expenditures above its Maintenance of Effort level "to the extent that funds are available". The County seeks appropriate funding and administrative structures for this program.

The State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has not provided any guidance on reduction of service levels commensurate to the State budget allocation for CCS. Although statute governing CCS is laden with "to the extent funds are available" language, the State generally administers the program as an entitlement with no guidance regarding adjustments to program eligibility or services if there are insufficient State or county funds. State CCS personnel have advised counties that the State CCS must continue to conduct eligibility determination and authorize treatment even if there are insufficient funds in the county CCS account.

Health Care Services Agency: Greg Diederich, HCSA Director | gdiederich@sjgh.org | (209) 468-7031

Public Health Services: Tamara Evans, PHS Director | tevans1@sjcphs.org | (209) 468-3410



LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility, Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities, Improve Public Safety and Enhance Overall Criminal Justice System

ISSUE:

Ensure the adequate funding of public health services for San Joaquin County residents.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

- Support efforts to address the prevention of chronic disease and promotion of wellness, including a
 dedicated funding stream to fund preventive health services or activities that improve community
 health outcomes.
- 2. Support increased and flexible state and federal funding and resources directed at building the capacity of local public health departments to combat and control communicable diseases, including funds to support the operations of Public Health regional laboratories.
- 3. Oppose efforts to reduce state and federal funding streams which would create cost shifts to local health departments.
- 4. Advocate for efforts to increase cannabis surveillance, education, youth prevention, responsible adult use, and drugged driving prevention. Seek to ensure local health departments are adequately resourced as regulations and state law are implemented.

BACKGROUND:

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

Chronic diseases in California, such as heart disease, cancer, lung disease, stroke, diabetes and asthma, continue to plague our communities in ever larger numbers, particularly in low-income communities and communities of color. In addition, 40.7% of children in California ages 12-17 are overweight.

Children who are overweight increase their risk for type 2 diabetes mellitus, asthma, and orthopedic problems. They are also more likely to have risk factors for cardiovascular disease. Weight problems are complex with many causes including a person's diet and physical activity level.

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LEGISLATIVE ISSUES (CONTINUED)

The control of infectious disease, through immunizations, surveillance, disease investigation, laboratory testing, and response activities has long been a fundamental and statutorily required responsibility assigned to local government public health agencies. However, resources to support these essential activities have been insufficient for years. Preventing and controlling communicable diseases such as sexually transmitted diseases, seasonal influenza, vaccine preventable diseases such as measles and pertussis, hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis remain ongoing challenges for local health departments. In addition, new and re-emerging infectious diseases, including pandemic influenza, multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, West Nile Virus, Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA), Meningococcal Disease, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Ebola, Valley Fever, Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Zika, Dengue, and Chikungunya have increased the need to build capacity.

In 1996, California voters approved Proposition 215 which allows patients or their caregivers to possess or cultivate cannabis for medical purposes if recommended by a physician. In 2016, voters passed Proposition 64, which legalized the adult use of cannabis in California. Ensuring the equitable enforcement and implementation of cannabis regulations to mitigate community-level harms could help rectify these inequities and prevent widening them.



30. PROVISION OF COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES – DIVERSION OF PROPOSITION 63 FUNDS

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility, Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities, Improve Public Safety and Enhance Overall Criminal Justice System

ISSUE:

Proposals to divert Proposition 63 Mental Health Services Act funds away from community mental health systems in order to fill the State's budget gap is of significant concern to San Joaquin County. In addition, San Joaquin County continues to be concerned about the erosion of State funding and support for core mental health services.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

- 1. Seek a written determination from the Department of Health Care Services that Mental Health Services Act funds (Proposition 63) can be used flexibly, including for core local mental health services.
- 2. Oppose legislation, administrative efforts, and/or budgetary proposals which would serve to divert Proposition 63 funds from counties to address the State's budget shortfall.
- 3. Oppose additional reductions in State funding for mental health services that will result in the State shifting its costs to the County.
- 4. Support legislative and budgetary efforts which would enhance comprehensive community-based treatment of mental health illness.

BACKGROUND:

In 2004, California voters passed the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to expand mental health services. County mental health services have consistently demonstrated effective results serving individuals with unmet mental health needs off the streets into housing, employment, and out of the criminal justice system. The County seeks to protect and preserve MHSA funds to avoid the elimination of vital mental health services for children and adults with serious mental illness currently served by the County's mental health programs.

County mental health programs have been chronically underfunded with fluctuations in funding due to changes in revenues from State sales tax, vehicle license fees, and Medi-Cal funding. While there have been some modest increases in revenues, MHSA funding is used to fill critical gaps.

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31. SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility, Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities, Improve Public Safety and Enhance Overall Criminal Justice System

ISSUE:

Ensure that effective programs and funding are in place to provide for the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

- 1. Support the continuation of the Federal 1115 Medicaid Waiver in order to continue the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System and other system improvements pertaining to quality and outcomes throughout the substance use disorder service system.
- 2. Support funding for alcohol and drug prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery services that provide county flexibility and discretion for local planning purposes.
- 3. Support funding a substance use disorder continuum of care for adolescents, including youth in the juvenile justice system as well as youth transitioning out of foster care.
- 4. Support expanding community-based prevention coalitions that promote environmental approaches to preventing alcohol and drug related problems in the community as well as individual and primary prevention programs.
- 5. Support improving Drug Medi-Cal collaboration and communication between the state and counties.
- 6. Support eliminating same-day billing restrictions for Drug Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are receiving more than one treatment or recovery support service on a single day in an Federally Qualified Health Center or Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike.

BACKGROUND:

Alcohol and drug addiction is a major problem contributing to economic and social burdens within San Joaquin County. The California system of substance use disorder treatment services has been underfunded historically despite the abuse of drugs and alcohol being a major factor and cost driver of many systems including criminal justice, behavioral health, public health and social welfare.

Prevention, early intervention and treatment have proven to be effective strategies to address substance abuse disorders. Enhanced medical and public health approaches are the most effective method of reducing harmful use of alcohol and other drugs. Because substance abuse disorders often co-occur with mental health and physical illnesses, treatment is most effective when integrated with physical and mental healthcare. California's implementation of the Federal 1115 Waiver for Drug Medi-Cal provides additional Federal and State funding for substance abuse disorder treatment and supports an organized delivery system which ensures access to a full continuum of care from assessment and early intervention to recovery supports and which supports activities to ensure the quality of services. Many substance use disorder treatment facilities operate in substandard facilities. As substance use disorder treatment services are reimbursed to counties on a rate-based system, the ability to upgrade infrastructure is very limited. Opportunities for counties to obtain funding for facility purchase and/or renovation would allow counties to operate safe facilities for substance use disorder treatment.

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32. FUNDING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY SERVICES

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility, Improve Public Safety and Enhance Overall Criminal Justice System

ISSUE:

To ensure adequate safety and protection of the public, there needs to be a continuation of fair and equitable funding for public health emergency services.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Aggressively pursue and support:

- 1. Sustained State funding for planning and responding to the medical/health consequences of terrorism, disasters, and other public health emergencies;
- Development of equitable funding formulas which would consider the proximity of jurisdictions to high-profile targets, but are not based solely on the presence of such targets or County population; and
- 3. Policies that ensure there will be no fiscal penalties to counties if staff is pulled from categorically-funded programs in order to respond to terrorism, disasters, and/or other public health emergencies.

BACKGROUND:

Sustained funding is needed to augment local programs to prepare for, respond to, and recover from all forms of terrorism, including bio-terrorism and natural disasters. Recent hurricanes and California Wildfires have underscored the impact of natural disasters on local, State, and federal medical/health response capabilities. Pandemic influenza threatens to overwhelm an already fragile medical and public health system. County government is at a severe disadvantage in its ability to obtain new funding sources to address these additional public health and safety issues.

Legislation is needed which would increase prevention and response capabilities and strengthen the partnerships between State, Federal, local agencies and community groups to effectively identify, prevent, and respond to the medical/health consequences of terrorism, disasters and/or other public health emergencies. Funding formulas should consider the proximity to high-profile, high-impact targets. Nearby jurisdictions to such targets would likely be severely impacted through the provision of mutual aid to the impacted jurisdiction or by the influx of large numbers of people seeking shelter and/or treatment.

Currently, staff within local health jurisdictions are often funded by categorical grants. These staff must be trained and, when appropriate, engaged in emergency preparedness and response activities. State policies must be flexible to ensure a competent, trained workforce regardless of salary funding stream or program assignment.

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33. Public Guardian/Conservator

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility

ISSUE:

Secure a sustained source of funding to support the Public Guardian/Conservator, as well as State reimbursement for mandates imposed on local Public Guardian/Conservators by the Omnibus Conservatorship and Guardianship Reform Act of 2006.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

- 1. Support legislative efforts and/or initiatives which would create and designate funding for current and future mandates placed on the Public Guardian/Conservator, while opposing any unfunded mandates.
- 2. Support changes to the California Code of Regulations Title 22, Section 50549.3 which would allow Public Guardian/Conservators to collect fees via the Medi-Cal share-of-cost program.
- 3. Support legislation which would increase the Public Guardian/Conservator's existing fee structure outlined in the Probate Code.
- 4. Support legislation that would allow Public Guardian/Conservators to recoup mandated program costs via the SB90 claims process.
- 5. Oppose legislation that imposes any unfunded mandates on Public Guardian/Conservators.

BACKGROUND:

Public Guardians/Conservators are responsible for the estates of people who cannot care for themselves as a result of a serious physical illness, mental illness, or other disability. When a court determines that an individual is not capable of providing for his or her personal financial needs, the court assigns the Public Guardian/Conservator to manage those needs.

The Omnibus Conservatorship and Guardianship Reform Act was signed into law in September 2006. The legislative intent is to improve court oversight of Conservators (private and public) primarily through increasing the number of court reviews and the frequency and scope of court investigations.

The Act requires Public Guardians to undertake additional activities as part of their duties without reimbursement from the State for the cost of these additional responsibilities and tasks. Currently, Public Guardians receive no funding from the State. In the preamble to the Act, the Legislature found and declared: "Public Guardians do not have adequate resources to represent the best interests of qualifying Californians and, therefore, many in need of the assistance of a Conservator go without." However, numerous legislative attempts have been made to significantly expand the role of the Public Guardian/Conservators. The County seeks to ensure no additional unfunded mandates are imposed, and additional responsibilities are commensurate with adequate additional funding.

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34. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND TRAUMA CARE FUNDING

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility

ISSUE:

Secure a sustained source of funding to support emergency medical services and trauma care.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

- 1. Support legislation or an initiative which would create or designate new funding for uncompensated emergency, trauma services, and on-call coverage.
- 2. Support legislative efforts and/or an initiative to increase funding for hospital emergency rooms and trauma centers, County emergency medical services systems and agencies.
- 3. Oppose the redirection of any existing indigent care funding from public hospitals to compensate community physicians for uncompensated emergency care.
- 4. Oppose legislation which would increase the administrative burden of managing the distribution of Emergency Medical Services Maddy funds, or would change the distribution methodology to redirect funds from public hospitals.

BACKGROUND:

Despite the recent expansion of health care coverage, hospitals throughout the State provide a significant volume of emergency care to patients who do not have third-party insurance coverage. The financial impact is often greater on designated trauma centers. Over 50% of hospital emergency rooms operate at a net operating loss due to the significant volume of uncompensated care. During the past several years, there have been multiple legislative efforts to restructure existing indigent care funding programs (such as Proposition 99 and the Emergency Medical Services Maddy funds) to redirect existing funds to reimburse private community physicians for providing uncompensated emergency care, thereby reducing available funding to public hospitals such as San Joaquin General Hospital. The County seeks to oppose those efforts and advocates for a new, dedicated funding for uncompensated care in emergency rooms.

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35. MATERNAL, CHILD, AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility, Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities, Improve Public Safety and Enhance Overall Criminal Justice System

ISSUE:

Protection of the health of vulnerable populations, including children, teens, and pregnant women, is a continuing need that local health departments address through monitoring, assessment, and assurance activities. These activities include the provision of support services to persons at high-risk of poor health outcomes or premature death.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Support legislation and/or budgetary proposals which would:

- 1. Provide increased State funding to local public health departments for maternal, child, and adolescent health programs;
- 2. Reduce inequities in maternal, infant, and child health and maximize the health and quality of life for all women, infants, children, adolescents, and their families; and
- 3. Integrate trauma informed practices into both newly proposed or existing programs and services provided to women, infants, children, and adolescents.

BACKGROUND:

In the State, San Joaquin County ranks in the bottom quartile for infant mortality, late entry to and adequacy of prenatal care, health disparities and various other measures of community health. Community-based and individual services are intended to reduce morbidity and mortality that are preventable, such as hospitalization, disabilities and deaths from intentional and unintentional injuries. The State distributes funds to local health departments to support these activities. These funds are derived from various Federal and State sources. The current funding does not adequately support education or home visitation services to families at risk. Maternal, child and adolescent health are some of the core functions of public health. These programs include Black Infant Health, breastfeeding support, Women, Infants and Children (WIC), childhood lead poisoning prevention, teen pregnancy prevention, family planning services, children's health initiatives, and newborn screening. There is inadequate funding to meet many needs in these areas. The County seeks additional allocation of State funds based on the burden of disease, and disparity of access in SJC. This would draw more Federal match and fund expanded services for a healthier community.

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36. COUNTY JAIL AND MEDICAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility, Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities, Improve Public Safety and Enhance Overall Criminal Justice System

ISSUE:

County General Fund resources required to provide necessary jail medical services are under increasing pressure to fund new and enhanced mandated services.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Support legislation which would:

- Require the inclusion of medical and behavioral health services and health care facility costs in projections for overall facility/operational costs as part of public funding for new and/or expanded county detention facilities;
- 2. Ensure or provide appropriate State funding of health care facilities, medical, and behavioral health care services for inmates in county correctional and juvenile facilities including any further programmatic or "realignment" shift of these responsibilities to the local level;
- 3. Authorize County health care services to charge private health insurance plans for health care services provided to the enrollee while in custody;
- 4. Simplify the Medi-Cal claiming process for those inmates treated outside of a correctional facility and clarify the status of those inmates who are placed in Community Corrections Facilities/ Residential Re-Entry Centers as not "in custody" for the purposes of Title 15 and allow them to be deemed eligible for Medi-Cal;
- 5. Require Medi-Cal contracted facilities to accept Medi-Cal rates for services provided to County inmates;
- 6. Provide funding for Hepatitis C treatment for inmates;
- 7. Provide funding for counties to expand diversion programs including funding for housing resources for diverted individuals; and
- 8. Increase funding for jail facilities improvements to adequately address population management and the needs of AB 109 inmates, especially those with chronic illness and severe mental illness.

BACKGROUND:

County costs for providing jail medical services continue to rise due to court-mandated standards for care and the increasing prevalence of medical and mental health problems among inmates. Counties have a substantial financial commitment for jail medical services, emergency hospitalization of individuals in the custody of police or Sheriff, medical screening of all inmates after booking, and outpatient and inpatient medical care of individuals in the custody of the Sheriff after booking. Jail medical responsibilities changed with the adoption of AB 109 (2011) which realigned funding for the incarceration of State prisoners. State prisoners, who would have been returned to State prison for parole violations and inmates who would have served their sentence in State prison, are now serving

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36. COUNTY JAIL AND MEDICAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES (CONTINUED)

terms in the county jail. These populations have considerable medical, dental, mental health, and pharmaceutical requirements. They will be in county jail for longer periods of time, therefore, will require a vastly different scope of medical services that previously were not required of county jail medical facilities. County jail medical facilities may now be required to provide a wider range of services for chronic illness as well as preventive and health management services.

Recent changes in State law now mirror Federal law and provide for Medi-Cal benefits to be suspended, not discontinued, while the recipient is incarcerated, and immediately reactivate the Medi-Cal benefits upon the recipient's release from incarceration. This allows him/her to quickly obtain needed mental health and substance abuse treatment, and to help break the expensive cycle of re-incarceration or hospitalization. Innovative corrections practices are creating a range of options for community corrections facilities, yet the status of those residing in these facilities is unclear in terms of obligations under Title 15, Medi-Cal eligibility, and reimbursement to providers. Medi-Cal benefits generally cannot be provided to incarcerated individuals.

The lack of access to medical care is an acute issue for many individuals with mental health and/or substance abuse issues when they are released from State and/or county detention facilities. These individuals are often in need of medical care for severe mental health and/or substance abuse conditions. Delays in securing mental health treatment often has a devastating effect on the individual's ability to successfully adjust to society, and may contribute to the individual being quickly re-incarcerated or hospitalized. Medi-Cal eligibility is a necessary tool in the development of Community Corrections Facilities.

Recent changes to State law have authorized the claiming of Medi-Cal costs for inmates who receive medical services lasting more than 24 hours outside of County jail. Although these inmates are Medi-Cal beneficiaries when treated in these outside facilities, counties may still be charged higher than Medi-Cal rates due to their inmate status. Being able to claim Medi-Cal when actual costs are much higher, coupled with a complicated claiming process, is inefficient and undercuts fiscal relief this change in State law had intended.

The investment in hepatitis C treatment in County jail facilities is fiscally sound and will greatly improve the lives and health of some of the most vulnerable population. Curing hepatitis C reduces long-term medical costs by preventing advanced liver disease and liver-related deaths, as well as reducing the risk of transmission.

37. VETERANS SERVICES



LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility, Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities

ISSUE:

The County Veterans Services Office (CVSO) needs resources to advocate and assure services and facilities for Veterans in San Joaquin County.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Support legislation and/or budgetary proposals which would:

- 1. Support and expand suicide prevention, intervention and post-intervention activities throughout the County and Veterans' communities by engaging with behavioral health services, judicial personnel, Veteran's service providers, law enforcement agencies, and other caregivers; and train families, friends, caregivers, and veterans in providing mental health, suicide first aid, and intervention skills to decrease the suicide rate amongst Veterans and service members;
- 2. Increase the State's annual local assistance for the CVSO by permanently appropriating \$16 million statewide and encourage continued support from the California Department of Veterans Affairs to the CVSOs. The goal is to fully fund CVSOs by appropriating the full local assistance funding as reflected in Military and Veterans Code Section 972.1 (d);
- 3. Address, prevent, and decrease Veteran homelessness, and provide comprehensive services to assist homeless or at-risk Veterans move from transitional housing to independent living or suitable low-income housing. Increase, inspire, and support new and renovated construction of low-income and affordable housing projects to adequately house and address Veterans' homelessness. Focus efforts and support on rapid rehousing for displaced military and Veteran families. Increase Veterans' reintegration programs for job training, counseling, and placement services through solicitation of grants and other governmental and/or non-governmental funding and support;
- 4. Support enhancement of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) services for women's health care and mental health services to include Military Sexual Assault, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, and substance abuse as well as peer outreach services, peer support and readjustment counseling. Increase awareness and provide support to family and others who care for disabled, ill, or injured women Veterans; and
- 5. Enhance the efforts of the CVSO in comprehensive administration of Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) by supporting increased training, service capacity, and continued legal advocacy for justice-involved Veterans. Support and seek additional grants, legislation, and advocacy of diversion programs to connect with family courts and continue expansion of VTC and incarcerated Veteran programs.

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37. VETERANS SERVICES



LEGISLATIVE ISSUES (CONTINUED)

BACKGROUND:

The core mission of the CVSO is to provide professional services to military Veterans as well as their dependents and survivors who are entitled to benefits from the VA, the State of California, and other agencies as applicable. Courtesy, respect and sensitivity are afforded to every Veteran and eligible dependent whom the CVSO serves.

Suicide is a national health concern that affects all Americans, particularly Veterans. Everyone has a role to play in preventing suicide. That's why the CVSO has partnered with BHS and community partners — including faith organization, employers, schools, and health care organizations — to provide suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention trainings for Veterans, family members, and service providers.

Support legislation to raise the state's Local Assistance to counties for CVSO offices with the eventual goal to fully fund Local Assistance Funding to CVSOs, which would bring the state in line with paying half of the funding actually needed to operate CVSOs throughout the state. Currently, the counties pick up the majority of the funding. It was originally intended that the state and counties equally share in this cost.

The CVSO is a critical link to services for homeless Veterans and the planning and participation in the annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down is a major event for the Office. The CVSO works closely with County Behavioral Health Services and community-based organizations to provide needed services.

Women Veterans are an underserved population within our society. In fact, many women do not think they qualify for Veterans' benefits. There are no support programs within this County for them; no transitional housing for women Veterans, no peer support programs for women Veterans, especially for women Veterans with children. Community programs that serve Veterans are geared toward men. Statistically, women Veterans are a fast growing population within the Veterans and civilian groups and their needs and challenges are far more specific and perplexing.

The CVSO co-founded and implemented the San Joaquin County Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) in February 2015. This collaborative effort between Superior Court, CVSO and other County departments offers alternatives to incarceration for Veterans by linking participants with vital rehabilitation and treatment resources. San Joaquin County's VTC provides structured services and support based upon research and evidence-based interventions that links substance abuse and military related mental illness. Eligible Veterans enrolled in VTC must be diagnosed with substance abuse, traumatic brain injury, PTSD, military sexual trauma and/or a mental health disorder in accordance with Penal Code 1170.9.



38. IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility

ISSUE:

The long-term sustainability of the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program is dependent on adequate and reliable State funding for counties to effectively administer the IHSS program on behalf of the State.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Support legislation and/or budgetary proposals that would support adequate State funding to cover the cost of operating these programs at the local level. Advocate for a funding methodology and assumptions that enable counties to properly administer the IHSS program on behalf of the State.

BACKGROUND:

California's IHSS program serves people who need support in order to remain in their own home at a lower cost than the services provided in nursing homes or residential care. IHSS is overseen by the California Department of Social Services and financed largely by the Medi-Cal program; it is funded with a combination of Federal, State, and local resources. The program provides funds for recipients to hire workers to assist them with a variety of activities, including personal care and paramedical services, household chores, and errands such as grocery shopping or going to medical appointments.

Although most funding comes from the Federal and State governments, the program is administered by the County. The County is responsible for assessing the needs of individual recipients and verifying the eligibility of recipients. Providers receive orientation and training through the Public Authority, which is also funded with Federal, State, and County dollars.

California is one of a few states that allow IHSS recipients to hire family members as providers, although they can choose to employ anyone from the community. This allows the program to provide direct income support to households with a disabled resident. Around 70% of IHSS recipients Statewide and approximately 80% of San Joaquin County recipients employ a family member. In order to become a service provider, an individual must complete an application, go through an orientation, undergo a criminal background check, and complete an enrollment agreement.

The 2017-2018 Budget Act contained numerous changes to the funding structure for the IHSS program. This included significant changes to funding for both services and county administration of the program. Specifically, under the terms of the new County IHSS Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement adopted as part of the Budget Act, the amount of State General Fund provided for county and public authority administration is capped at the amount appropriated each year. If a county spends more than the combined administration portion of its IHSS MOE and State General Fund allocation, then the additional expenditures will be county-only funds and will not count toward the county's IHSS MOE.

The final agreement was reflected in a budget trailer bill SB 90 (Chapter 25, Statutes of 2017) and clean-up

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38. IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES (CONTINUED)

provisions were included in the Health and Human Services clean-up trailer bill AB 130 (Chapter 251, Statutes of 2017).

The overall agreement and implementing legislation includes the following:

- 1. Establishment of a new County IHSS MOE as of July 1, 2017.
- 2. State General Fund contribution cap to partially offset IHSS costs including \$400 million in 2017-2018. The General Fund contribution cap is reduced to \$330 million in 2018-2019, \$200 million in 2019-2020, and \$150 million annually thereafter.
- 3. An annual inflation factor to the MOE of five percent for the first year, rising to seven percent annually thereafter, with a mechanism to reduce or suspend the inflator in years with no or very limited realignment growth.
- 4. Redirection of 1991 realignment Vehicle License Fee growth and sales tax growth from Health and Mental Health to Social Services to further offset increased IHSS costs.
- 5. A requirement that the State consult with counties during the development of the 2019-2020 State budget to examine the overall funding structure.

In 2018-2019, the County anticipates directing 22 percent of its 1991 Social Services Sales Tax and Vehicle License Fee Realignment, or \$9.1 million towards its MOE contribution. The total Net County Cost for IHSS is anticipated to be \$8.9 million. The aggregate cost to the County will increase over time. In addition, the County will eventually experience a decrease in supporting 1991 Realignment revenues to offset County cost.

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39. CALIFORNIA ELECTION REFORM

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities

ISSUE:

Voting by mail is a popular choice for voters who want to vote whenever and wherever they find most convenient. Expansion of voting by mail has increased the need to provide more vote-by-mail options and services. The State has imposed new requirements and is promoting a new voting model under the Voters Choice Act (VCA), all of which put a strain on existing systems and resources.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Support legislation, budgetary, and/or funding proposals that would facilitate the expansion voting by mail and/or voting center options with greater local control over implementation; facilitate the efficient configuration and supply requirements of precincts and polling locations by taking into consideration the number of vote-by-mail voters; facilitate the full and timely reimbursement for State and Federal mandates, including Secretary of State directives, regulations, and elections called by the State.

BACKGROUND:

In 2002, California eliminated the requirements to request a vote-by-mail ballot due to disability or physical absence. From 2000 to 2018, vote-by-mail voting has grown in California from less than 3% to about half of all registered voters. This dramatic increase was mirrored in San Joaquin County. The County has encouraged voting by mail as a convenient option and now over 66% of registered voters in San Joaquin County are permanent vote-by-mail voters. Of the voters who cast ballots in the 2018 Statewide Direct Primary, 76% cast a vote-by-mail ballot.

Assembly Bill 216 requires counties to provide prepaid postage for all voters returning ballots by mail beginning in 2019. Assembly Bill 1013 requires counties to provide a Remote Accessible Vote by Mail voting system for voters with disabilities, military, and overseas voters beginning in 2020.

The State is encouraging counties to adopt a new voting model under the VCA. This would eliminate traditional neighborhood polling places, requiring counties to mail a ballot to every registered voter and provide numerous vote centers throughout the county. San Joaquin County will have the option to move to the VCA voting model beginning in 2020.

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40. RESOURCE SHARING PROGRAMS FOR CALIFORNIA LIBRARY SERVICES ACT

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility, and Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities

ISSUE:

For years, the California Library Services Act/Transaction Based Reimbursement program has not been funded at the rate approved by the State Department of Finance; since 2011 this State-mandated program has been funded at a 38% reimbursement rate - 62% lower than the State-approved reimbursement rate.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Support legislative efforts and/or budgetary proposals which would, at minimum, maintain current funding levels for the California Library Services Act/Transaction Based Reimbursement program, oppose further efforts to reduce funding, and seek an increase in funding for library resource sharing programs.

BACKGROUND:

For nearly 32 years, Californians have had the opportunity to use any library in the State to check out books and materials through the California Library Services Act (CLSA)/Transaction Based Reimbursement (TBR) program. TBR allows library customers who reside in one city or county to use the services of another city's or county's library system. Similarly, a public library in one jurisdiction can borrow from another jurisdiction. There is no fee to the customer for these loan services.

The TBR program is a State-mandated program approved by the State to reimburse local libraries for providing these loan services. Program costs for both over-the-counter (direct loan) and inter-library loans are reimbursable. For years, the TBR program has not been funded at the reimbursement rate approved by the State Department of Finance. In 2007-2008, libraries were reimbursed 43.8% of their costs. In 2008-2009, since TBR budgets have reduced by an additional \$1.4 million (from \$11.6 million to \$10.2 million), to an estimated 38% reimbursement rate to participating libraries. The 2010-2011 State Budget maintained the TBR program at the 2008-2009 funding level. A State investment of an additional \$29 million would provide libraries 100% of the cost of providing this valuable Statewide service.

There is serious concern that further reductions in State funding for the CLSA/TBR program would diminish support for the 49-99 Cooperative Library System at the regional level. The 49-99 Cooperative Library System includes the Stockton-San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Calaveras, Amador, and Tuolumne County Libraries, and the City of Lodi Library. Finally, funding reductions to the CLSA program results in decreases in other local library programs Statewide, including advanced library reference services, a demise of the delivery system between libraries, as well as other cooperative library system services throughout the State.

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41. BOND FUNDING FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility, and Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities

ISSUE:

There is a considerable need to build new and renovate existing public libraries in San Joaquin County.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek and support bond funding for the construction of new libraries and the renovation of existing public libraries in San Joaquin County.

BACKGROUND:

According to the "California Public Library Facility Needs Assessment," produced by the California State Library (2007), there is an \$8 billion need for library construction (662 projects) over the next 10 years. Of that amount, \$5.8 billion is needed within the next five years for library construction and renovation projects. The last library construction bond, California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2000 (SB 3 - 1999) provided \$350 million for library construction projects Statewide. Those funds were quickly expended, and three-fourths of the project applications were denied due to the limited amount of bond funding available under the Act.

In 2007, the need for additional construction and remodeling for Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library facilities was estimated at \$124.4 million. Preliminary construction and remodeling projections through 2025 established through an updated Facilities Master Plan are estimated at more than \$500 million, based on population growth within the County.

Clearly, the State has not been able to keep pace with the rising needs at the local level for library construction. Currently, counties do not have the financial resources to operate State programs and also meet local needs. In order to meet each community's unique needs, counties must be given the authority to offer the voters the option of approving revenues at a level sufficient to provide the degree of local services the community desires. Furthermore, the current demands upon libraries is ever increasing, particularly in regard to the areas of adult literacy services, helping to bridge the digital divide, and serving the County's growing unemployed population. Thus, it is important to meet this need with adequate library facilities for San Joaquin County residents.

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42. BROADBAND ACCESS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility, and Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities

ISSUE:

Libraries are experiencing an increasing reliance upon and need for expanded broadband telecommunications services, which require greater broadband deployment and build-out in our communities.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Support legislative and administrative efforts and/or budgetary proposals which would advance accessibility, affordability and universal service programs and oppose legislation that would inhibit the growth of any public broadband efforts on the State or national level.

BACKGROUND:

Broadband generally described as high-speed telecommunications, more specifically, high-speed internet.

Despite the recognized benefits of and increasing demand for innovative library programs to San Joaquin County residents, limited connectivity prevents California librarians from offering programs and services that would be of value to their users. Videoconferencing, streaming media, content creation, specialized software, longer sessions on terminals, and unlimited wireless access are badly needed by many of California's libraries, but insufficient bandwidth remains a barrier for libraries' efforts to fulfill their vital roles in community research and education. In order to empower libraries — particularly in challenged areas — to play these roles, better connectivity is critical.

These issues are raised primarily in regulatory venues, specifically the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and during legislative proceedings with numerous Congressional offices. Public debate regarding broadband deployment is most likely to be before the FCC rather than Congress.

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43. STATE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility, and Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities

ISSUE:

The Public Library Fund Act authorizes the Legislature to appropriate an amount up to 10% of a target "foundation" level of services. However, the Public Library Fund for State appropriations has never reached the target level; therefore, libraries' ability to provide a collection of materials that reflects the ongoing and current needs of the community has been negatively impacted.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Support legislative efforts and/or budgetary proposals which would sustain or increase the current level of funding, and oppose further budget reductions to the Public Library Fund.

BACKGROUND:

The Public Library Fund Act, established in 1983, provides direct State aid to California public libraries for basic public library services, including new materials. The funds are appropriated annually in the State Budget. This Act authorizes the Legislature to appropriate an amount up to 10% of a target "foundation" level of library services based on a per capita cost each year. This foundation level is adjusted annually. The State appropriation has never reached the target level. Rather, State funding for public library services has experienced significant decreases over the past several years. The continued lack of funding has resulted in an overall reduction in the Library's ability to provide needed library services to the residents of San Joaquin County.

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44. CALIFORNIA LIBRARY LITERACY SERVICES

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility, and Promote Good Governance and Increase Organizational Capabilities

ISSUE:

The California Library Literacy Services, including Adult Literacy Services Program, has experienced significant reductions in State funding. The impact of these funding reductions are compounded by the ever increasing demand for adult literacy services in San Joaquin County, a region of historical above average unemployment rates in California.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Support legislative efforts and/or budgetary proposals which would sustain the current level of California Library Literacy Services program funding, and oppose further budget reductions to the program.

BACKGROUND:

For a number of years, California's public libraries have provided literacy services to low-literate adults and their families, services helping Californians of all ages reach their literacy goals. In addition to services for adults, California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) also extends support for literacy through other programs, including Families for Literacy, English Language and Literacy Intensive, and Mobile Library Literacy Services. The State Library provides oversight and technical assistance in support of CLLS. Library Literacy Services reaches tens of thousands of adult learners and children through the 105 public library jurisdictions. These adults were able to achieve life changing goals such as getting a driver's license, writing a resume, or reading a book to their child for the first time.

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OPACION COUNTY

45. JOB ORDER CONTRACTING

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility

ISSUE:

Job Order Contracting (JOC) currently allows for repair, renovation/remodeling, and maintenance type work, however counties need flexibility for JOC to be utilized on small (\$1-250,000) to medium (\$250,000 - \$1,000,000) new construction projects.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate and support legislation and/or budgetary proposals which would facilitate changes to the statutory language in the California Public Contract Code Section 20128.5 authorizing counties to utilize JOC for all projects to include new construction and other minor non-repetitive work.

BACKGROUND:

Job Order Contracting (JOC or sometimes referred to as "unit price" contract) is an annual contract, which is competitively bid on that enables agencies to accomplish multiple small to medium projects of a repair, renovation, or maintenance nature. JOC is based on a unit cost, unspecified-quantity and non-determinate locations. By establishing fixed unit costs, it reduces the time and expense of designing, bidding, and constructing projects. A job order contract may be awarded up to \$3 million plus an annual Consumer Price Index (from the enactment of California Public Contract Code 20128.5), currently totaling \$4.4 million. Job order contracts are authorized for use in repair, remodeling or other repetitive work and cannot be utilized for new construction. If approved, this would provide another option to the County for new construction projects in addition to the current purchase order, force account, and design/bid/build options.



46. SHORTAGE OF ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Promote Economic Development, Ensure Fiscal Responsibility, Promote Good Governance and Increase Organization Capabilities

ISSUE:

San Joaquin County Public Works continues to experience a significant shortage of engineering professionals.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

- 1. Advocate and support legislation or budgetary efforts which would expand engineering and technology-related training programs, especially for civil engineering and construction technology;
- 2. Support funding for engineering training loans and scholarship programs which target Central Valley needs and shortages, as well as funding for workforce outreach and development in schools and the community; and,
- 3. Support legislation that would provide incentives to encourage and attract engineering professionals to practice in the Central Valley.

BACKGROUND:

Due to increasing demands for engineers to support public works projects in the region, San Joaquin County continues to face a critical shortage of engineering professionals. Expansion of engineering and technology-related training programs, especially for civil engineering and construction technology is necessary to address the shortage of qualified engineers. The County advocates for funding engineering training loans and scholarship programs that target Central Valley needs and shortages, as well as funding for the workforce outreach and development in schools and the community. Furthermore, the County supports legislation that would provide incentives to encourage and attract engineering professionals to practice in the Central Valley.

OP QUIN COUNTY

47. IMPROVED FLOOD PROTECTION

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Stay Informed and Proactive in Dealing with Water Issues

ISSUE:

Much of San Joaquin County relies on a system of levees, reservoirs, channels, ditches and other structures for the protection of lives, property, and critical infrastructure. State and Federal flood protection standards have become more stringent in recent years which impose additional obligations on local governments to improve the level of flood protection and to increase maintenance of levees and channel along with meeting ever-increasing environmental protection requirements. Current State laws require local governments to generate revenues specific to the flood protection services provided which are currently insufficient to meet increasing needs and mandates.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

- 1. Seek, advocate, and support legislation, regulations and administrative efforts and/or projects that:
 - a. Fund engineering design and construction of features approved in the Lower San Joaquin River Feasibility Study (LSJRFS) and other flood protection infrastructure;
 - Ensure that State and Federal obligations in the operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and replacement (OMRR&R) of Project levees and channels within the State Plan of Food Control are met, including a coordinated effort to consolidate both State and Federal inspections;
 - c. Repair and restore levees and channels after a flood event under PL84-99 or similar program;
 - d. Provide funding for local levee maintenance activities and relief from certain environmental restrictions for maintenance activities;
 - e. Achieve multiple benefits including flood protection, groundwater recharge, and/or reservoir storage;
 - f. Expedite the completion of a Federal feasibility study and all State and Federal permits to provide 200-year flood protection for the Mossdale Tract area;
 - g. Ensure communities in San Joaquin County continue to maintain or establish 100-year flood protection to eliminate and/or reduce the cost of flood insurance under the National Flood insurance Program (NFIP); and
 - h. Result in practical reforms to NFIP programs, including maintaining and/or enhancing affordability of flood insurance premiums and ensuring reasonableness and practicality of administering the Federal Emergency Management Agency's model Flood Hazards Ordinance..
- 2. Seek, advocate, and support legislative and administrative efforts which would provide funding to analyze, plan, design, construct, and maintain facilities to improve Delta levees and waterways in San Joaquin County for the protection of communities, water supplies, agriculture and other local businesses.

OPQUIN COUNTY OF CALIFORNIA

47. IMPROVED FLOOD PROTECTION

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES (CONTINUED)

BACKGROUND:

Levee systems in San Joaquin County (SJC) protect over 400,000 residents and essential infrastructure that is critical to the region's economy and the State's well-being. Major flooding in SJC could result in overwhelming negative economic impacts Statewide. Potential impacts to homes, businesses, transportation, farms and agriculture, municipal sewer and water systems, energy infrastructure, and the environment can be minimized with the proper planning, construction, and maintenance of flood protection improvements.

Local governments must participate in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to remain eligible for Federal funding. Under the NFIP, flood insurance is required for federally-backed mortgages on properties within Special Flood Hazard Areas (generally those with less than 100-year flood protection). Flood insurance is optional outside of Special Flood Hazard Areas. Congress is required to reauthorize and fund the NFIP and with changes to the program proposed from time to time. Additionally, reforms are needed in some areas of the NFIP, such as adding reasonable flexibility in the requirements for structures related to agricultural uses and to ensure that proposed changes keep flood insurance rates affordable for local constituents.

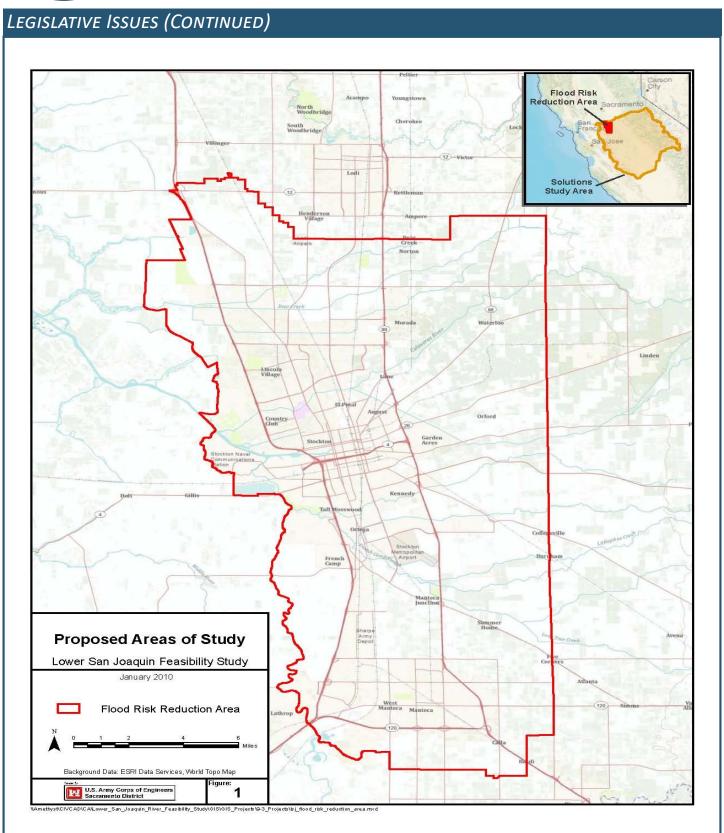
"Non-Project" Levees

Non-project levees are essential features in the overall system of levees protecting parts of San Joaquin County. Non-project levees are levees that are not built as part of a federally-authorized project. While the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) and the State are not involved in the operation and maintenance of non-project levees, many of these levees protect urban areas subject to the State's 200-year protection requirement. Consequently, communities within the County could be faced with a significant unfunded State mandate, and as a result, development, re-development and critical infrastructure improvements could be halted if funding for both project and non-project levees is not available. Given the importance of non-project levees to this area, future State planning efforts and funding programs to implement the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan should incorporate the improvement needs of both project and non-project levees.

(PROJECT MAP ON PAGE 78; LITERATURE AVAILABLE)



47. IMPROVED FLOOD PROTECTION





48. PROPOSITION 218 REVISIONS: SMALL WATER AND SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT CHARGES AND FEES

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Stay Informed and Proactive in Dealing with Water Issues

ISSUE:

Proposition 218 requirements can prevent adequate funding of essential services in some water and sewer districts where the small number of property owners makes it easy to prevent fee increases by majority protest.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek and support legislative and/or regulatory action which would:

- 1. Define small water and sewer districts;
- 2. Allow some means of raising fees adequate to cover actual costs of providing essential health and safety services after a fee increase is defeated by a majority protest, or alternatively;
- 3. Establishing a streamlined process for privatizing services, reducing services levels, or dissolving a special district when property owners refuse to approve a rate structure adequate to fund provision of water and sewer service; and
- 4. Fund water and sanitary sewer services through Community Facilities Districts formed under the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 (Government Code Section 53311 et seq.).

BACKGROUND:

Proposition 218, the "Right to Vote on Taxes Act" approved in November 1996, requires that new and increased local taxes, fees and charges be approved by voters/property owners.

Proposition 218 recognizes the essential nature of water and sanitary sewer service by establishing a special protest process for proposed fee or charge increases. The protest procedure works well for large utilities because it is relatively difficult to mount a majority protest to prevent the governing body from approving a proposed fee or charge increase. This does not hold true for small districts, where it only takes small number of district participants to register a majority protest. This has led to some districts being unable to increase fees as expenses increase, which results in insufficient revenue to provide essential services. Many of these districts have aging infrastructure, and require either capital replacement or intensive maintenance and repair. If the constituents of a small water or sewer district repeatedly mount a majority protest to prevent the governing body from raising sufficient revenue to provide water or sanitary sewer service, the governing body must either be able to relieve itself of the responsibility to provide these services or have an alternative process to raise fees despite the majority protest.



49. SOLAR AND RENEWABLE ENERGY RATES

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility and Promote Economic Development

ISSUE:

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is currently evaluating proposals by PG&E in its 2017 General Rate Case that seeks to significantly devalue electricity produced by solar projects including projects that San Joaquin County has already developed and planned.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

- 1. Supports the development and use of alternative energy by counties and local government to lower its electricity costs across County operations;
- 2. Opposes efforts by utility companies or others to limit the ability of individuals, businesses, schools, and government agencies to reduce their carbon footprint and energy costs through solar and other renewable energy projects;
- 3. Opposes changes in rates, laws, or regulations that would negatively impact the financial return of projects that have already been constructed; and
- 4. Supports the grandfathering of existing and approved projects for the duration of their anticipated lifespan, or the duration of existing contracts.

BACKGROUND:

The United States and the State of California have adopted polices and laws to reduce greenhouse gases and encourage use of solar, landfill gas, and other renewable energy projects. These policies, combined with development of lower-cost alternative energy products such as solar panels, have caused many individuals, businesses, schools, and government agencies, including San Joaquin County, to invest in solar and other alternative energy infrastructure, often entering into long-term financial contracts. PG&E and other electric service providers, have requested rates from the CPUC that would significantly devalue the electricity produced by these solar projects. These electric service providers are also likely to seek other legislative and regulatory actions to protect shareholder profits at the expense of individuals, businesses, and government agencies that could benefit from alternative energy projects.

The rates currently proposed by PG&E, for consideration by the CPUC, would reduce the value of electricity produced by solar projects by 50% or more, which would significantly reduce the incentive for renewable energy, and would jeopardize County funds already invested in such projects and may lead to increased energy charges for County agencies, schools, businesses, and individuals. The financial impact on currently installed projects by the Department of Public Works is approximately \$2million over a 20-year period, and may impact additional planned County projects in excess of \$10 million.

50. ILLEGAL DUMPING



LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility

ISSUE:

Illegal dumping is a significant problem in San Joaquin County. Illegal dumping has resulted in increased costs to the County for cleaning up illegally disposed waste.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Advocate and support legislation which would address illegal disposal of waste including the establishment of a Statewide Illegal Dumping Prevention Program in coordination with existing cleanup programs administered by the California Integrated Waste Management Board. The proposed illegal dumping prevention program should include:

- 1. Funding for illegal dumping enforcement and related judicial processes;
- 2. Public outreach, education, and training; and,
- 3. Support Statewide standardization of acceptable evidence and prosecution.

BACKGROUND:

According to the California Integrated Waste Management Board website, illegal dumping of waste is one of the most pervasive problems for cities and counties now and for at least the past 16 years. Illegal dumping on county roadways in San Joaquin County (SJC) is a significant problem. In addition to being unsightly, it increases health and safety hazards and requires significant resources in response to illegal dumping. The economic impacts of illegal dumping to local governments are significant. SJC alone expended in excess of \$1 million on illegal dumping in the past year. Unlike most county and city programs, illegal dumping usually does not fall into a specific program area. As a result, it does not receive adequate funding.

In November 2004, SJC adopted an ordinance to increase the fines and punishments for illegal dumping of waste in the County up to the maximum allowable by State law. The local ordinance included high-profile signage and initial efforts to establish a random camera enforcement program at high-frequency dumping locations. In November 2007, the SJC Board of Supervisors established an Illegal Dumping Prevention/ Enforcement Task Force to research and to recommend a plan for focusing on illegal dumping prevention, apprehension, and prosecution of illegal dumpers. At this time, there is no funding mechanism for illegal dumping enforcement.



51. EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRODUCT DISPOSAL

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility

ISSUE:

Currently, local governments are required to manage various universal and other waste products at time of disposal, resulting in significant annual costs to counties.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Advocate and support legislative and regulatory efforts to address end-of-life costs and management of problematic discarded products and materials.

BACKGROUND:

California local governments are required to collect and manage banned and often expensive discarded products and materials. To date, legislative and voluntary initiatives in California that involve producers in the design and end-of-life management of products have focused on one product or product category at a time. The result has been a patchwork of product-specific (e.g. lighting, computers, tires) or substance-specific (e.g. mercury, lead, brominated flame retardants) legislation for the disposal of problematic products, typically with no financial support for end-of-life management.

California's list of hazardous products banned from land disposal continues to grow, and other problematic products, such as tires, mixed-material, and bulky packaging are especially difficult to recycle and ever more prevalent. The costs to manage discarded products will increase substantially in the short-term unless policy changes are made.

San Joaquin County (SJC) estimates that it would cost \$4 million to handle 50% of one year's generation of common problematic products.

The California Integrated Waste Management Board has adopted a framework approach to implement Extended Producer Responsibility in California in order to guide proposals to seek statutory changes. The framework establishes a government role in setting targets, developing appropriate regulations, establishing reporting and tracking requirements, and selecting products for new product stewardship programs.

SJC strongly supports Extended Producer Responsibility framework legislation that would establish transparent and fair principles and procedures to manage universal and other waste products for which improved design and management infrastructure are in the public interest, and that would shift waste management costs from local government to the producer of the product, which would give producers an incentive to redesign products to reduce their health and environmental impacts.



52. LOCAL ROAD AND BRIDGE MAINTENANCE BACKLOG

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility and Improve Public Safety and Enhance Overall Criminal Justice System

ISSUE:

County transportation financing needs exceed existing and foreseeable revenues, requiring additional funding to respond to significant growth in transportation needs.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate, and support legislation and/or budget appropriations that would serve to address/provide funding for the backlog of local road and bridge maintenance projects.

BACKGROUND:

Currently in San Joaquin County, the backlog of deferred road maintenance includes an estimated:

- \$209 million in pavement maintenance;
- \$230 million in bridge maintenance; and
- \$229 million in essential components (signs, signals, sidewalks, storm drains, etc.)

This shortfall reflects funds needed in order to maintain the current local roads and bridges in good condition. The shortfall does not include system expansions such as those required to address existing congestion or population growth. Continued delay of this work will result in further declining road conditions and increasing the County's roadway maintenance backlog. The County seeks to be proactive in legislative and policy remedies to address the transportation funding issues impacting the deferred road maintenance backlog.

(PROJECT LITERATURE AVAILABLE)



53. SACRAMENTO—SAN JOAQUIN DELTA

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Stay Informed and Proactive in Dealing with Water Issues

ISSUE:

Since the passage of the Delta Reform Act of 2009, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta has been a top State and Federal legislative priority. The California WaterFix and EcoRestore Projects, the latest monikers for the Twin Tunnels isolated conveyance and the conversion of agricultural land into shallow water habitat formally known as the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), threaten the economic, social and environmental viability of the Delta. The Board has engaged with a variety of interests to defend the Delta in the following areas: 1) improving and maintaining the system of levees that protect life and property for both agricultural and urban areas and which also support the current system of through Delta exports; 2) advocating for continued access to Delta water supplies of sufficient quantity and quality for farmers, urban users, and the environment; 3) supporting efforts to have a healthy and viable Bay-Delta Estuary; and, 4) enhancing Delta maritime commerce, recreation, and recognition of the Delta as a place. The Board of Supervisors support the development of a comprehensive Statewide Plan which includes a robust water portfolio which is a) consistent with the best interests of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta within San Joaquin County; b) consistent with the Co-Equal Goals of the Delta Reform Act of 2009 and the policy of the State to reduce reliance on the Delta for future California water needs; and c) protective of the local economy, habitat, water rights, water quality, land-use governance, and way of life in San Joaquin County.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

- 1. Seek legislative and administrative support for advancement of the following with regard to the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan and the California WaterFix/EcoRestore Projects:
 - Actions associated with the Delta ecosystem and water supply reliability for areas outside of the Delta must not redirect unmitigated adverse environmental, economic, or social impacts to San Joaquin County;
 - b. Actions and activities associated with the Delta must honor and adhere to water rights, priorities, and area-of-origin protections. San Joaquin County opposes water user fees that would tax water users in the areas of origin and/or general taxpayers for the cost of mitigation efforts in the Delta, or to provide a water supply for those outside of the Delta;
 - c. Water conveyance facilities routed through San Joaquin County must have no adverse effect on the existing and future agricultural operations in the County. Other adverse impacts of water conveyance facilities routed through the County must be fully mitigated. The County must be fully involved in routing and operational issues of water conveyance facilities located within the County;
 - d. The Delta Stewardship Council's definition of "Covered Actions" must continue to be narrowly defined as set forth in the Delta Reform Act of 2009 as opposed to being broadly interpreted by the Council. Legislative solutions may be necessary to clarify ambiguous statutory provisions regarding "Covered Actions";
 - e. Implementation of the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan and future development and implementation of other planning documents must ensure that those documents do not conflict



53. SACRAMENTO—SAN JOAQUIN DELTA

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES (CONTINUED)

with San Joaquin County land use planning, economic development, agriculture and recreational opportunities;

- f. Financial resources must be committed by the State to maintain and enhance vital transportation and flood control infrastructure in areas of the Delta within San Joaquin County. Financial resources also need to be committed to improve emergency response within the Delta; and
- g. The set of strategies to address problems in the Delta must be comprehensive, accounting for the multitude of causes of the Delta's decline and not simply focusing on one or a limited number of causes.
- 2. Support legislative and administrative efforts, including budget proposals, which would provide:
 - a. Funding for near-term projects which do no harm to San Joaquin County and its constituents and help further the long-term sustainability of the Delta and its unique economy and environment;
 - b. Funding to continue the Delta Counties Coalition, Coalition to Support Delta Projects, California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, and other such coalitions or processes that enable the continuation of these efforts or other similar efforts/coalitions, advance a healthy dialogue among stakeholders Statewide, and identify and/or prioritize viable near-term projects which further the co-equal goals of improving Statewide water supply reliability and restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place; and
 - c. Funding from Propositions 1, 1E, and 84 to be disbursed for projects and proposals consistent with the adopted County Legislative Platforms and does not advance or support the adoption or implementation of California WaterFix/EcoRestore.
- 3. Seek legislative and administrative support in:
 - a. Protecting San Joaquin County's governmental prerogatives in the areas of local land use authority, tax and related revenues, public health and safety, economic development, and agricultural stability;
 - b. Protecting San Joaquin County's ability to govern, as an elected body, from proposed usurpation through governance by a non-elected, appointed board or council. Any and all councils, commissions, or boards established to "govern" the Delta must include voting membership for elected representatives from the County; and
 - c. Working with the State's representatives implementing California WaterFix/EcoRestore, the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan, and the development and implementation of other future planning documents to ensure that those Plans do not conflict with San Joaquin County land use planning and economic development, including agriculture, or any other County interests.
- 4. Aggressively oppose legislative, regulatory and administrative efforts including water plans and infrastructure proposals that would negatively impact San Joaquin County's urban communities, vital agricultural economy and the delta, such as isolated conveyance as proposed under California WaterFix.



53. SACRAMENTO—SAN JOAQUIN DELTA

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES (CONTINUED)

BACKGROUND:

Nearly two-thirds of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta) comprises approximately one-third of the County area. In total, Delta agricultural production is valued at approximately \$1.4 billion annually, which in turn results in over \$5.4 billion in additional State economic benefit. The Delta is also a critical thoroughfare for infrastructure such as highways; natural gas storage and transmission; and water supply conveyance. The Delta's maze of navigable waterways supports maritime commerce and the transportation of goods; boating and recreation; numerous fish and wildlife species; and is a source for local drinking water, as the City of Stockton has recently brought into operation the Delta Water Supply Project.

San Joaquin County (SJC) is unquestionably tied to the long-term economic, social, and environmental viability of the Delta. Current proposals, including the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan (DP) and the California WaterFix/EcoRestore, could have significant adverse effects on communities in the Delta and within the Delta watershed. Examples that conflict with the long-term economic, social, and environmental viability of the Delta, and SJC as a whole include:

- 1. Limiting the sovereignty of local agencies to make land use decisions;
- 2. The diminution of water rights to the detriment of senior water right holders and the area of origin;
- 3. The conversion of agriculture in the Delta to shallow water habitat in-lieu of direct mitigation for export pumping and endangered species takings; and,
- 4. Potential for continued deterioration in Delta water quality and quantity, resulting in impacts to agriculture, wildlife, recreation and commerce in the Delta.

Since the passage of the 2009 Comprehensive Water Package, including the Delta Reform Act of 2009 (SBX7-1), the need for SJC's efforts to react to and influence the processes, policies and projects created or proposed by the 2009 Comprehensive Water Package have increased greatly. Consistent with the Board of Supervisors' policy direction, SJC staff has worked to represent the County's position, defend the County's interests, and constructively participate in many of the ongoing State and Federal activities surrounding the Delta. SJC has engaged with local, State and Federal agencies, public entities, State and Federal legislators, environmental groups, and private businesses on several fronts to ensure that the County's position and interests would be represented in any action or policy affecting the Delta.

SJC continues to participate in the 5-Delta Counties Coalition (DCC), comprised of Contra Costa, Sacramento, Solano, Yolo and San Joaquin Counties. The DCC was formed to advocate with one voice on behalf of the affected 5-Delta County local governments and the total of approximately four million people residing in the Delta counties. The DCC will continue working cooperatively to advocate for common issues such as governance, land use, and water supply and quality impacts to Delta communities with State and Federal legislators and agencies. Additionally, the Delta Coalition, consisting of the seven cities within SJC and other local business and environmental interests, continues to engage the greater SJC community to protect local interests in the Delta.

SJC also worked to support several coalition building and consensus-based efforts, including the Coalition to Support Delta Projects and the DCC/California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley 12-County Water Work Group effort. The 12-Counties of the Delta and the San Joaquin Valley were able to come to consensus on a list of near-term "no regrets" projects that benefit both regions.



54. NEW WATER SUPPLIES FOR SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY: MOKELUMNE RIVER REGIONAL WATER STORAGE AND CONJUNCTIVE USE (MORE WATER PROJECT)

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Stay Informed and Proactive in Dealing with Water Issues

ISSUE:

San Joaquin County continues to support the development of locally-supported water supply projects in Eastern San Joaquin County. The County has worked with local stakeholders to:

- 1. Develop and maintain the Eastern San Joaquin County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP);
- 2. Facilitate the implementation of projects in the IRWMP;
- 3. Apply for grant funding on behalf of member agencies; and
- 4. Develop a strategy for implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA).

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate, and support legislation and/or budgetary proposals which would:

- 1. Provide local, State, and Federal support for the project concepts described in the County's amended Water Right Applications 29835 and 29657;
- 2. Seek State and Federal grant funding for local and regional conjunctive use projects on the Mokelumne River, and also from other water supply sources including the Stanislaus, Calaveras, Sacramento, and American Rivers, and local creeks and sloughs;
- 3. Advocate for the utilization and protection of surface water rights and entitlements from the Mokelumne River and other water sources, to enhance recovery of groundwater levels and to increase groundwater storage in the underlying basin;
- 4. Oppose State and Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers designations and/or similar legislation that would unreasonably restrict stream segment utilization and prevent the development of future water supply, flood protection and ecosystem needs of San Joaquin County and other communities throughout the Mokelumne River Watershed; and
- 5. Seek and support legislative and/or regulatory efforts promoting policy(ies) and/or project(s) that provide flood protection, groundwater recharge, and/or reservoir storage benefits.

BACKGROUND:

The underlying groundwater basin in eastern San Joaquin County is the primary source of water for farms and residents. In 1980, the Eastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Basin was at one time characterized by the State Department of Water Resources as being in "critical groundwater overdraft" and unsustainable. Since then, investments totaling over \$700 million in projects and water use efficiency have resulted in more efficient use of groundwater and surface water. Groundwater pumping today is approximately 70% of the historical average.



54. NEW WATER SUPPLIES FOR SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY: MOKELUMNE RIVER REGIONAL WATER STORAGE AND CONJUNCTIVE USE (MORE WATER PROJECT)

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES (CONTINUED)

The Mokelumne River Regional Water Storage and Conjunctive Use Project (MORE Water Project) seeks to divert un-appropriated flows from the Mokelumne River to provide a source of surface water for groundwater recharge which can then be used in future drought years. The MORE Water Project provides additional storage capability and improves water supply reliability for project participants both locally and regionally. Past San Joaquin County Federal Platforms focused in on the proposed Duck Creek Reservoir Alternative for Federal advocacy.

In 2013, the County initiated an evaluation entitled Groundwater Resources Management Report: Documentation of Duck Creek Reservoir Feasibility and Recommended Surface Water Entitlement Program (Management Report), in order to evaluate the feasibility of Duck Creek Reservoir and to recommend a strategy going forward for both Water Right Applications 29835 and 29657, which was the basis for the MORE Water Project.

The Management Report concluded that diversions from the Mokelumne and American Rivers have significant technical, environmental, institutional and legal issues and that proceeding with Duck Creek Reservoir appears to be infeasible at this time due to a number of identified issue areas: protected and endangered species in the reservoir area; the junior priority of the County to divert only after the senior water rights of East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) are fulfilled; high dam construction costs due to leaky native soils; and the high cost of planning and engineering prior to construction.

The Management Report also suggests that additional groundwater management actions including the use of additional surface supplies are necessary when taking into account a range of future conditions including:

- 1. Prolonged Droughts Extended drought periods could reverse recent gains in groundwater levels and induce groundwater level declines that would require additional groundwater management actions and/or projects in the future;
- 2. Regulatory Induced Droughts Curtailment of existing surface water right entitlements or contracts including non-renewal or reallocation to another purpose could reduce surface water deliveries. This scenario would trigger a direct increase in groundwater pumping to meet agricultural and urban demands. The State Water Board proposes to increase the amount of flow required in the Stanislaus River to better mimic natural runoff patterns for the benefit of fish. This proposal, if implemented, jeopardizes water supply contracts for New Melones Reservoir water held by Stockton East Water District (SEWD) and Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District; and
- 3. Conversion of Grazing Land to Irrigated Agriculture It is estimated that dormant groundwater demand exists for approximately 70,000 acres of unirrigated pasture land in eastern San Joaquin County; conversion may result in the planting of vines or olives in the future. An estimated water demand of 1.5 acre-feet of water per acre could increase groundwater demands by approximately 105,000 acre-feet per year. The potential increase due to future exercise of dormant groundwater pumping would still represent groundwater demands at 75% of the historical 1976-1996 average.

Both Water Right Applications 29835 and 29657 have been amended to pursue more affordable and implementable diversion alternatives on the Mokelumne and American Rivers for recharging the



54. NEW WATER SUPPLIES FOR SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY: MOKELUMNE RIVER REGIONAL WATER STORAGE AND CONJUNCTIVE USE (MORE WATER PROJECT)

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES (CONTINUED)

underlying groundwater basin. County water interests have also identified significant opportunities for surface water diversions to direct use in-lieu of groundwater and also for direct groundwater recharge on the Stanislaus, Calaveras, Sacramento, and American Rivers, and local creeks and sloughs. Pursuing funding from a variety of sources including Federal funding is critical to implement projects that take advantage of these opportunities.

Projects envisioned to take advantage of locally-available surface water flows not only benefit San Joaquin County interests but also regional partners such as East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). On September 24, 2013, EBMUD and the County entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the development of Demonstration Recharge, Extraction, and Aquifer Management (DREAM) Project. EBMUD and the County may be uniquely positioned to seek State and Federal funding for future phases of the DREAM Project citing the inter-regional and groundwater storage aspects of the Project.

EBMUD has agreed to provide up to \$4 million for the DREAM Project with \$1.75 million going towards improvements to NSJWCD's conveyance system. The Demonstration Project development phase is underway with permitting and design commencing in 2017 with possible construction and operation in 2018. The County also supports efforts for NSJWCD to compete for Federal funding to improve on its current system of surface water deliveries. If successful, future project partnerships with agencies seeking to bank groundwater in Eastern San Joaquin County may be possible bringing additional water supplies and revenue for infrastructure to the community. Additional legislative support for additional State and Federal funding may also be pursued.

In 2012, the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority and the Eastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Basin Authority were awarded an \$878,605 Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant for the Mokelumne Watershed Investigation and Sustainability Evaluation Program (MokeWISE). The MokeWISE effort lasted for almost two years with monthly meetings and has yielded a list of broadly-supported water resources program elements that includes comprehensive and sustainable approaches to water resources management in the Mokelumne River watershed. In addition, the MokeWISE effort has identified a number of areas needing additional dialogue between competing interests who have a solid foundation of dialogue to build upon. The County will need to build on the relationships created during the MokeWISE effort including with stakeholders in the upcountry areas as well as with environmental interest groups with interests on the Mokelumne River (See www.mokewise.org).

55. INVASIVE WEEDS



LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Stay Informed and Proactive in Dealing with Water Issues

ISSUE:

Invasive weeds choke Delta waterways and impede flow causing degradation of water quality and quantity in waterways. Large mats of water hyacinth are also extremely good breeding grounds and hiding places for mosquitoes, which has challenged local mosquito and vector control agencies to control the spread of the West Nile Virus and other dangerous mosquito-borne illnesses The spread of water hyacinth, Egeria densa (Brazilian waterweed), Arundo donax (giant cane/reed) and other invasive weeds in and around local waterways has reduced channel capacities for flood water conveyance, complicated levee maintenance, , hindered marine navigation and boater access, and compromised operation of water intakes for agricultural, municipal, and industrial use. Local, State and Federal agencies, private water interests such as Delta Farmers, and marina operators, as well as the State and Federal Water Projects are spending millions of dollars annually to combat this problem.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Advocate and support increased funding for research and the development and implementation of a sustainable, long-term invasive weeds management strategy.

BACKGROUND:

San Joaquin County continues to advocate for a comprehensive long-term strategy for eradication of invasive weeds. Invasive aquatic weeds such as submerged Brazilian waterweed (Egeria densa), floating water hyacinth (Eichhoria crassipes) and emergent giant reed (Arundo donax), are a few of the most prolific and damaging invasive plant species in the Delta.

The California Department of Boating and Waterways has limited resources and permissions to control and eliminate the threat of these invasive aquatic weeds. In recent years, water hyacinth mats occupied several miles of channels and canals and in some cases from bank to bank, literally choking off access to irrigation. Currently, herbicides are applied at key times of the year under strict conditions from State and Federal regulators.

Cooperation between the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of Boating and Waterways, and other regulatory agencies have been focused mainly on permitted spraying programs throughout the Delta. Recent inclusion of USDA and National Aeronautics Space Administration researchers has been crucial to developing a science-based, comprehensive management approach to integrated pest and invasive weed management. Efforts to implement these strategies must be increased and include additional coordination across multiple disciplines, jurisdictions, and stakeholder, culminating in a sustainable, long-term Delta-wide integrated pest and invasive weed management strategy.

OPOUIN COUNTY

56. CALIFORNIA LABOR CODE 1771

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility

ISSUE:

Public agencies are unable to proceed with acquiring needed minor public work projects without the requirement to pay prevailing wage for any project costing over \$1,000.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Pursue and support legislation which would amend California Labor Code Section 1771 changing the dollar limitation from \$1,000 to \$10,000 before payment of prevailing wage is required.

BACKGROUND:

Current California Labor Code 1771 states that "except for public works projects of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or less, not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages for work of a similar character in the locality in which the public work is performed, and not less than the general prevailing wage of per diem wages for holiday and overtime work fixed as provided in this chapter, shall be paid to all workers employed on public works." The limit of \$1,000 has not been increased in spite of significantly reduced buying power from the initial wage establishment to current date. The intent of establishment of project cost greater than \$1,000 to have prevailing wage applied has been severely eroded due to inflation and increased costs of public works construction and repair, reducing the intended relative amount of services and materials that can be authorized without prevailing wage. The contractual burden and cost associated with payment of prevailing wage for small projects results in less scope of work able to be performed and/or fewer projects that can be accomplished due to unreasonably high labor rates required for these small projects.

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