



# 2021 Stanislaus County ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



**STANISLAUS COUNTY  
2021 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

**STANISLAUS COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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# **STANISLAUS COUNTY 2021 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

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## Stanislaus County 2021 Legislative Platform

### Stanislaus County Legislative Principles

The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors supports the principles and policy items set forth below as general, guiding principles for legislative issues impacting Stanislaus County. County staff, and the County's legislative advocates, will apply these general, guiding principles to evaluate proposed and adopted legislation, as well as executive and regulatory actions, and guide County action on related issues. Positions of “support” and “oppose” in the Legislative Platform authorize action to be taken on issues, but do not mandate the Board to act on each issue that might arise.

- **Economic Development/Job Creation** - Support policies that appropriately promote local economic expansion and job growth. Encourage and seek legislation that facilitates orderly economic growth and increases the opportunity for appropriate economic development in the County. Support state incentives for hiring and bringing employment opportunities to Stanislaus County. Support appropriate state incentives or funding for the development of shovel ready land at the local level, including programs for funding local infrastructure, planning and development. Support technology expansion opportunities and the development of a robust, high speed fiber infrastructure that would attract private investment and serve as a foundation for new business creation and to also support/retain existing businesses. Support regional tourism efforts and the development of regional amenities for economic growth. Oppose any state actions that would negatively impact economic development in the County.
- **Prevention** - Support efforts that focus on improving both population health and individual lives to ensure our families are healthy, supported by strong and safe neighborhoods, have access to a first-rate education, are participating in and supported by a healthy economy, and rise above the challenges of societal issues.
- **Program/Regulatory Flexibility** - Support full funding and maximum program flexibility for the County to implement state and federally mandated programs, including the 2011 Public Safety and Health and Human Services Realignments. Support efforts to streamline or eliminate unnecessary administrative



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requirements, and to reduce or eliminate inappropriate legal or regulatory burdens on local government.

- **Revenue & Fees** - Support additional revenue from changes in funding formulas for more equitable allocation to the County. Support additional funding for programs where service needs and costs have outpaced stagnant or slow growing revenue. Support opportunities for revenue from appropriate grant applications. Oppose state revenue reductions to Stanislaus County or revenue shifts away from the County including property tax, sales tax, etc., without a corresponding decrease in program responsibilities. Oppose inappropriate increases in fees charged to the County, its programs, or services.
- **Mandates & Financial Burdens** - Support efforts to lessen financial burdens on counties through legislative, administrative, or regulatory action. Support legislation that would relieve local governments from implementing state mandates in the absence of adequate state funding. Support the ability of the County to streamline or eliminate unnecessary administrative requirements, reduce or eliminate regulations that control implementation of state-mandated programs, and promote the ability of the County to exercise greater program flexibility to meet its needs. Oppose state or federal mandates without a dedicated and adequate ongoing revenue source. Oppose passage of state mandates which contain only optional funding sources. Oppose, as needed, the use of new, optional local fees as the funding source for mandates. Oppose the transfer of state or federal programs to the County unless adequate and protected ongoing revenues are provided and dedicated exclusively for that purpose. Oppose language that would recognize projects to be “deemed approved” if action is not taken by local jurisdictions within prescribed timeframes, if those timeframes are not reasonable. Support reimbursement from the state in full for any previously deferred mandate payments.
- **New Regulations & Legislation** - Support legislation that freezes or decreases the imposition of new regulations that negatively impact local governments or local businesses. Support legislative and administrative efforts to appropriately suspend or reduce regulatory burdens on local public agencies. Support efforts for all new legislation to include the estimated financial impact to local government. Oppose new regulations that increase costs to local governments



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without an appropriate funding source. Oppose any additional non-urgent regulatory requirements on the County from any organization, agency or entity.

- **Healthcare Reform** - Support healthcare reform that provides for more cost-effective care of County uninsured patients. Support reform efforts that increase provider competition in order to decrease the cost of healthcare for employers. Oppose legislation or regulation that penalizes local government as a result of employees contributing money into their Health Savings Accounts.
- **Tax Revenue** - Support legislation that provides tax and funding formulas for the equitable distribution of state and federal monies. Support the additional allocation of property tax revenues to Stanislaus County. Oppose attempts to decrease, restrict, shift, or eliminate County tax revenue sources.
- **Collaboration** - Seek appropriate cooperation with the state and federal government on regulatory and administrative issues affecting the County to ensure the protection and well-being of its citizens.
- **Protection of Payments** - Support legislative and administrative action to assure that the state will meet its financial obligations to counties through the timely and full remittance of payments due.



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### Stanislaus County Legislative Priorities

The following is a list of active legislative priorities approved by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors. Additional legislation and administrative actions also may be added during the 2021 legislative session. The 2021 Legislative Platform will not expire until the passage of the 2022 Legislative Platform. Additional projects and priorities are contained in this document organized by Board Priority.

State and federal priorities are identified by differentiating marks throughout the priorities section of the Stanislaus County Legislative Platform. See key below. If a priority has both state and federal applications both icons will appear.

**Federal Priorities -** 

**State Priorities -** 

-   **Protect Transportation Systems & Infrastructure Funding:** The Legislature and Governor approved a comprehensive transportation package in 2017 to provide funding for county roads. We support efforts to protect these funds and ensure they are efficiently distributed to enhance travel and delivery of goods throughout the County. There is insufficient funding to maintain and improve the roads, bridges and highways in Stanislaus County. Support any legislative, administrative or executive action to provide funding for building, repairing, upgrading and maintaining roads, bridges, and highways in Stanislaus County.
-   **Levee & Flood Control Funding:** There is insufficient funding to maintain and improve the levee and flood control system in Stanislaus County. Support any legislative or executive action to provide funding for building, repairing, upgrading and maintaining the levee and flood control system in Stanislaus County provided such funding does not create additional legal responsibility or increased risk for the County.



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-  **Water Policy:** Support policies that appropriately prevent increased river flows through Stanislaus County. Support policies that promote appropriate local control of water resources and protect local water needs. Seek all necessary technical and policy assistance in implementing new laws related to groundwater management. Advocate for favorable criteria in the development of any water, parks or resources bond grant funds that may become available through current or future voter-approved bonds.
  
-  **Renewable Energy:** SB 100 requires 60% of all California's energy be generated from "renewable" sources by 2030. However, SB 100 excludes hydropower, which is an important and well-developed renewable energy source in our county. Because utilities that depend on hydroelectric energy are not able to include this energy source in their renewable portfolio, many municipally-owned utilities purchase unneeded energy supplies and pass these costs on to ratepayers. State legislation has also removed the long-standing renewable energy designation of the Covanta Waste-to-Energy facility. Stanislaus County supports legislation that will recognize hydroelectric systems as renewable and encourages state regulations that will restore Covanta's renewable designation and preserve the County's investment in the facility.
  
-  **Expedited Assistance to the Homeless & Mentally Ill:** The current process to provide care and services to homeless persons on the street is cumbersome and leads to repetitive behaviors that waste resources and do not deliver services that are durable and impactful. Seek and support legislation that will assist counties in aligning and leveraging local resources to deliver services to the homeless and mentally ill in ways that will permanently improve lives and reduce the number of homeless and mentally ill people in our communities who cannot provide care for themselves. Identify strategies and resources to assist gravely disabled individuals with complex behavioral health and medical issues.
  
-  **Affordable Housing & Homelessness:** Like much of California, Stanislaus County is experiencing a shortage in the availability of affordable housing at a time when it is desperately needed. Many families are at risk of eviction or foreclosure and a large segment of the senior population is struggling as a result of a severe shortage of affordable housing for seniors on a fixed income (24% of the 100,000 seniors 60+ in this County live in poverty). The demand for more affordable housing is expected to increase. We must seek and support solutions





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that have the potential to make a drastic impact in stabilizing neighborhoods, helping individuals and seniors who are struggling and are experiencing homelessness or in danger of becoming homeless, and increasing the local supply of affordable housing units.


- **Health Care & Affordable Care Act (ACA):** Stanislaus County opposes any shifts in health care costs that would increase the expense of health care service, coverage or treatment to the county or residents of the county. In 2018, federal legislation created another two-year delay in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act's 40% excise tax on high-value health care plans known as the "Cadillac Tax." Both political parties supported the provision to delay this tax again from 2020 to 2022, and Congress continues to consider measures to modify the ACA. While there are many uncertainties about the ACA, we must be mindful of federal guidance and legislation that may alter these regulations and identify ways to continue to manage health insurance costs. Should changes be made to the Affordable Care Act or other federal or State actions that potentially or actually result in a negative financial impact to the County, legislation and/or administrative policies would need to align adequate funding to the County's obligations under the law (including case law).
- **Increased Child Support Funding:** Although progress has been made to increase funding to the state's underfunded child support agencies including Stanislaus County, Stanislaus County remains underfunded. A distribution of funds which is based upon real costs of doing business and allows for consistent service to customers statewide is the only solution to this funding issue.
- **In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Funding:** Legislation is needed to fully fund the administrative cost to operate the In-Home Supportive Services and meet all state and federal mandates. It is imperative that Stanislaus County work closely with the California State Association of Counties, County Welfare Directors Association, the Department of Finance, and the California Department of Social Services to address this funding imbalance.
- **Court Security:** The Sheriff's Department provides security to the Superior Court of Stanislaus County as required by State Assembly Bill 118 which requires each county treasurer, city and county treasurer, or other appropriate officer to create a County Local Revenue Fund 2011. Chapter 6.3 Section 30025(f)(3) requires




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the monies in the Trial Court Security Account (TCSA) be used exclusively to fund trial court security provided by county Sheriffs. The TCSA funding received annually is insufficient to cover the cost of maintaining the safety of all court facilities for court employees, County staff and members of the public. It is anticipated if current operational levels continue, the TCSA fund balance will run a deficit in Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

 **The Landing @ Crows:** Stanislaus County has committed \$22 million in funding reserves for Phase 1A of The Landing @ Crows. \$15 million is still needed for infrastructure related to consolidation into an existing and adjacent water system. An Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant request has been prepared seeking a 50% match for this key component. On-site infrastructure, site development, basic road improvements, sewer and related utility infrastructure for the first 100 plus acres of the development will provide for the first seven years of vertical site development.

 **Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Jurisdiction Funding:** Over the last decade Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding has been under continuous threat of elimination. Funding provided through the CDBG program has been instrumental in addressing the issues of health and safety due to the lack of infrastructure or deteriorated infrastructure in the community. The program is critical for infrastructure development supporting existing low-income neighborhoods throughout the Stanislaus Urban County (comprised of unincorporated County and the cities of Ceres, Riverbank, Hughson, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, and Waterford).

Stanislaus County needs continued funding of CDBG Entitlement Jurisdictions, including support for program reform, streamlined administration and maximized funding for infrastructure development.

 **Subsidized Employment Programs:** Unemployment levels in Stanislaus County continue to be some of the highest in the nation. Support job creation through appropriate funding of work and educational opportunities for unemployed/underemployed workers, those who can't qualify for unemployment benefits, and other disadvantaged individuals in Stanislaus County. Support skills and career training enhancements for people currently employed.



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-  **Physician Shortage:** Physician training like the Valley Family Medicine Residency Program is vital to address the disproportionately low share of physicians per capita in the Valley. Support additional funding for the Valley Family Medicine Residency Program and/or physician recruitment and retention efforts such as a loan repayment program to improve local access to healthcare through an increase in primary care physicians.
-  **Public Health System:** Public Health strives to bring about the conditions necessary for all people to be healthy. Maintaining a strong public health infrastructure is the foundation for planning, delivering, evaluating, and improving the population health of a community. We rely on public health infrastructure to protect us and to keep us healthy. Improving the quality of health and the environments in which we live, work, play and learn is an integral part of the operation of a comprehensive public health system. By working in partnership with others we can advance population health and eliminate inequities in health. In recognition of the broad determinants of health, support efforts to continuously seek opportunities to insert health consequences into the policies of all sectors to promote health and equity for all. Support legislation and proposals that create dedicated funding streams to support preventive services and activities that improve health outcomes and address health inequities.
-  **Homeland Security Funding:** Homeland Security grant funding plays an important role in ensuring local jurisdictions are prepared for emergency situations, including terrorism. The County supports ongoing and increased funding for local government through the Homeland Security Grant Program, Emergency Management Planning Grants and other funding sources. Support continued efforts to secure critically needed grants including the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant funding for public safety. This funding is used for equipment, training, personnel and early intervention, prevention and educational programs for at-risk youth with a focus on social justice.
-  **United States Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA):** Stanislaus County supports USMCA along with local agricultural industry stakeholders, including the top three industries, almonds, dairy and poultry. Combined, these three industries, valued at \$2.1 billion in 2017, represent 57% of the total County agriculture value. Because Mexico typically accounts for 25% of U.S. dairy



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exports each year, this trade agreement is critically important to support North American producers in order to remain competitive in the global marketplace.

- **Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir:** Located on Del Puerto Creek in the foothills of the Coast Range mountains west of Patterson, California, the proposed Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir (DPCR) reservoir would provide additional off-stream storage on the order of 82,000 acre-feet on the Westside of California's Central Valley in an area that has experienced extreme volatility in its water supplies due to hydrologic and regulatory restrictions related to the delivery of water supplies South of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The reservoir would tie-in to existing conveyance facilities, specifically the federal Central Valley Project's Delta-Mendota Canal. The project is envisioned to have the potential to provide benefits including: water storage, improvement of water management in the Delta, development of incremental Level 4 refuge water supply, improved water supply reliability, improved peak irrigation season water supplies, recreational opportunities near DPCR and along Del Puerto Creek, environmental enhancements along the Del Puerto Creek riparian corridor, future potential renewable power generation, improved ground water resources management, San Joaquin River restoration flow storage, increased flood control protection to downstream facilities and more. Federal support is requested in the amount of \$10 million for continued permitting and engineering following the Feasibility/CEQA-NEPA effort, which will be fully done in 2021. Currently a feasibility report has been sent to the Commissioner of Reclamation for recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior for a finding of federal feasibility, which would allow the project to apply for up to a 25% federal cost share for the public benefits of this local storage project.
- **Small Public Water Systems:** The Stanislaus County unincorporated area includes approximately 200 regulated small public water systems within its boundaries. Water quality standards have become increasingly stringent and more difficult to meet, placing financial hardships on these water systems in meeting the provisions of the California State Drinking Water Act, the California Health and Safety Code and the California Code of Regulations. Existing regulations do not allow for the provision of bottled water as a permanent solution to meeting water quality standards, unless it is on a temporary basis while the water systems work toward compliance. Stanislaus County encourages the California State Water Resources Control Board to consider supporting the





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allowance of bottled water as a permanent solution in cases of demonstrated financial hardship.

-   **State Route 132 Phases 2 & 3:** The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), working in cooperation with Stanislaus County, and the City of Modesto and Stanislaus Council of Governments proposes to construct an access-controlled facility within the western central portion of Stanislaus County. This project (State Route 132 Dakota Avenue to Gates Road) would be an extension of the State Route 132 West project. Phase 1 of this project is currently being constructed on a new alignment in the City of Modesto.

State Route 132 (SR 132) between Interstate 580 and State Route 99 is part of the National Highway System and functionally is a Principal Arterial. SR 132 was originally a County Road constructed in the early 1900's and added to the State Highway system in 1933. SR 132 is the main east-west connector between I-5 and SR-99 in Stanislaus County. This facility is planned as a 4-lane expressway, access controlled, and grade separated. Phases 2 and 3 will construct 9 miles of new, safe and capacity increasing highway in central Stanislaus County.

At completion of Phases 2 and 3, the remaining portion of a proposed State Route 132 four-lane Freeway/Expressway would be constructed, and the State Route 99 connectivity improvements would be built. In addition to the State Route 132 roadway, a partial single point urban interchange would be constructed at North Carpenter Road. This project is needed to accommodate increasing growth and traffic demands which have generated current and forecasted traffic operations deficiencies for the existing facility. Several rural driveways along the existing route create conflict movements for mainline traffic.

-   **Multi-County Mental Health Bed Regional Partnership:** The Central Valley needs an innovative regional approach to housing that will address the significant shortage of mental health treatment beds for formerly homeless individuals suffering with mental illness in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Merced Counties. A Joint Powers Authority representing the public behavioral health system, California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), will administer the project to ensure economic efficiency by eliminating administrative costs.



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Program objectives would include conducting a housing needs assessment to identify current capacity and system gaps, focusing on needs around the transitional enhanced board and care. This process would include an assessment and review of each counties' current budget structure, including Institution for Mental Diseases (IMD), administrative costs and an analysis of opportunities to reduce administrative costs through regional administrative infrastructure.

The County is asking for support to initiate this work, identify possible building locations for the board and care facility, conduct site surveys and procure initial architectural plans that will facilitate the in depth understanding of the cost to build out this proposed new facility.



**County Pockets Infrastructure:** Stanislaus County includes several unincorporated areas, surrounded by an incorporated City. These geopolitical anomalies, typically have substandard infrastructure improvements, including sidewalks, storm drainage, water, sewer, streetlights and trees. These areas fall within two jurisdictions—the county and the city—neither of which have the required funding to improve the infrastructure. County islands persist because cities do not seek annexation due to the significant upfront cost to install infrastructure, up to \$1 million per block, and the County does not have available funding to make the improvements.

Many residents in these areas represent an underserved population. They rely on wells and septic tanks, which are antiquated and failing and are not as reliable as municipal utilities, during rain events residents are forced to walk in the street or find another route, the aesthetic quality of the neighborhood is not the same as other places in the City, streets are darker and therefore less safe. In addition, these areas have less chance for redevelopment and are unattractive in drawing amenities in the area, due to the lack of infrastructure and cost to provide that infrastructure. The County seeks state and federal support to begin addressing County pocket needs related to sewer and water services and infrastructure.



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### Supporting Strong and Safe Neighborhoods

#### 1. Grand Jury Financial Responsibility

Issue: Grand Juries are empaneled in each California county through provisions in the California Constitution. Existing law establishes the Superior Court system as having supervisory authority over the County Grand Jury, while the financial responsibility and the responsibility to defend actions brought against Grand Juries, is delegated to the local county.

Action: Support legislative or other action that would provide for full state funding of the Grand Jury, including the legal defense of the Grand Jury.

#### 2. Court Security

Issue: The Sheriff's Department provides security to the Superior Court of Stanislaus County as required by State Assembly Bill 118 (AB 118). In addition, AB 118 requires each county treasurer, city and county treasurer, or other appropriate officer to create a County Local Revenue Fund 2011. Chapter 6.3 Section 30025(f)(3) requires the monies in the Trial Court Security Account (TCSA) be used exclusively to fund trial court security provided by county Sheriffs.

Under the Trial Court Funding Act of 1997 Rule of the Court 810, certain overhead costs are unallowable expenses and cannot be charged to the TCSA. The TCSA fund requires a Net County Cost to cover the Cost Allocation Plan for Central Services charges (also referred to as Overhead Expenses) that are not allowable under the Trial Court Funding Act or AB 118. For Fiscal Year 2020-2021, these Overhead Expenses are budgeted at \$112,664. In addition, the State of California Third Appellate District issued a Statement of Decision concluding that TCSA funds cannot be used to pay for Allocated Service Charges (also referred to as Direct Cost Allocated Service Charges). For Fiscal Year 2020-2021, the Direct Cost Allocated Service Charges are budgeted at \$166,682. Both the Overhead Expenses and Direct Cost Allocated Service Charges are covered by Net County Cost.



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While the TCSA fund currently has a positive fund balance, it is anticipated the fund balance will decrease due to an increase in operational costs. In Fiscal Year 2021-2022, the department projects to use approximately \$756,598 in fund balance which equates to approximately 43% of available fund balance. A deficit in the TCSA fund may create operational challenges for the Court.

Action: Support any budget, legislative or administrative action to provide Stanislaus County funding to cover Overhead Expenses, Direct Cost Allocated Service Charges and increased costs for court security services to meet the Court's operational needs.

### 3. Public Safety Cooperation

Issue: Senate Bill 54, the California Values Act, effectively made the state and all law enforcement agencies operating in California exempt from policies which involved sharing of information between law enforcement and federal immigration authorities. This legislation standardized non-cooperation policies and prohibited state and local officers from sharing information with federal immigration authorities. Prohibiting law enforcement from cooperating with federal immigration officials may result in direct impacts to community safety.

Action: Support legislation that prohibits any policy that interferes with law enforcement's ability to cooperate with all other law enforcement agencies at the local, state and federal level.

### 4. Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System Replacement

Issue: Stanislaus Regional 9-1-1 (SR911) is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) dispatching for multiple Law Enforcement and Fire Agencies throughout Stanislaus County. Our partners include; Modesto Police Department, Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff's Department Contract cities: Waterford, Riverbank, Patterson, Hughson, Stanislaus County Probation Department, Modesto Fire Department and all other fire agencies within Stanislaus County, except for the City of Turlock Fire Department. Totaling 7 law enforcement and 14 fire agencies.

The CAD system allows public safety operations and communication to be augmented, assisted or partially controlled by an automated system. This system





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includes computer-controlled emergency vehicle dispatching, vehicle status, incident report and management information.

Additionally, the CAD system collects information and provides the information to one or more Records Management Systems. These systems are often the first point of entry of information coming into the law enforcement and/or fire system. CAD system functions include resource management, call taking, location verification, interface to mobile data computers (MDC), mapping and much more. Challenges with SR911's current CAD system include limited capabilities and interoperability with partnering agencies and the system is nearing end of life in 2022.

Action: System replacement cost estimates range from \$1,500,000-\$1,800,000. Stanislaus County seeks funding to support this imminent safety need.

## Supporting Community Health



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### 1. Safety Net Clinical Services

Issue: The Stanislaus County Health Services Agency primary care clinics are critical to the healthcare infrastructure of Stanislaus County. Agency staff provides thousands of outpatient clinic visits each year while also training physicians. The County has received the Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike (FQHC) designation from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services which helps to preserve health access in the community, protect access to federal funding that will support the provision of healthcare to the underserved community.

Action: Support the continuance of FQHC Look-Alike designation for the Health Services Agency primary care clinics and advocate for sustainable funding levels.

### 2. Inpatient Documentation Standards for Meeting Medical Necessity for Danger to Self, Danger to Others & Grave Disability

Issue: The current inpatient documentation process requires a high standard of documentation for Medical Doctors, Clinicians and Nurses. When the documentation standards are not met, the bed days are denied even though the services were rendered. Current documentation standards lead to high denial rates, and non-reimbursement for psychiatric hospital bed day stays, as well as potential discharge of patients sooner than necessary to determine conservatorship process or medication observation.

Action: Support the need for flexibility in documentation standards for medical necessity requirements to allow additional days for the attending physician to further assess our patients.

### 3. Regional Partnership to Increase Transitional Board & Care for Individuals on Conservatorship

Issue: Stanislaus County competes with other Central Valley behavioral health departments to place individuals on conservatorship into enhanced behavioral health Transitional Board and Care (TBC) facilities, commonly known as



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Licensed Adult Residential Facilities. TBC is a step-down level care from inpatient psychiatric hospitalization. In the Central Valley, specifically San Joaquin and Merced Counties, there are a limited number of privately operated facilities, which leads to prolonged stays in hospital due to the lack of an available bed, increased hospitalization costs and impacts to quality of care. Stanislaus County is interested in working with neighboring counties to increase the number of available beds and a collaborative approach to the utilization of these resources as a regional partnership, eliminating competition for limited beds. Funding would provide startup resources to develop a regional administrative infrastructure to coordinate care, pay daily bed rates, and increase the number of available beds. Increased TBC beds would reduce prolonged hospitalization.

Action: Stanislaus County seeks funding to work with regional county behavioral health departments and private sector TBC partners to increase the number of beds, and develop the administrative support and billing infrastructure to coordinate care across the Central Valley counties of Merced, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus.

#### 4. **Appropriate Funding for Children’s Continuum of Care (CCR) Reform**

Issue: Insufficient funding for CCR implementation continues to pose significant challenges for the provision of services for children served by county behavioral health and County budgets. Decreases in funding, without decreases in service mandates, is highly problematic. The current required CCR mandated services without commensurate funding is problematic.

Action: Support full funding for all CCR behavioral health program components including any increased cost of new legislation and entitlements. Oppose unfunded mandates.

#### 5. **Affordable Care Act (ACA) & Medi-Cal State Plan Renewal (Medi-Cal 20-20)**

Issue: Preservation and protection of all provisions of the Affordable Care Act is critical for California’s most vulnerable persons. Efforts to repeal components of the ACA such as the “pre-existing condition” clause present serious risk and should be rigorously opposed. Previously, California State Association of



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Counties opposed the bill introduced by Cassidy, Graham, Heller and Johnson which would have dramatically changed the ACA. This measure would have reversed significant progress California made in reducing the number of uninsured residents by reducing the amount of Medi-Cal funding available. Further, this measure would have capped the federal financial participation (FFP) in Medi-Caid and would have ended the enhanced federal support for states which chose to expand coverage. Going forward, efforts such as this need to be carefully monitored and vigorously opposed.

Also, as the California State Plan for Medi-Cal is renewed, state plan options supporting full reimbursement for recovery-based services need to be fully supported. Such options could be reflected in a variety of options under current consideration.

Action: As we work locally to keep dialogue open on the issue of health care reform and potential impacts on residents of Stanislaus County, CSAC will continue to advocate on behalf of counties.

### 6. UC Merced Medical Education

Issue: There is an extreme shortage of physicians in the Central Valley of California. A School of Medicine at UC Merced would provide increased access to health services for needy patients in the valley by graduating physicians who would stay in the valley.

Action: Support efforts that would develop and sustain a school of medicine at the University of California, Merced.

### 7. Valley Family Medicine Residency Program

Issue: The Central Valley is in desperate need of physicians. The Valley Family Medicine Residency Program began training resident physicians in Stanislaus County starting July 1, 2010 and remains an important Stanislaus County collaboration.



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Action: Support the Valley Family Medicine Residency Program. Support budget, grants, legislative or administrative action that would assist in supporting and enhancing the program.

### 8. **Women, Infants & Children's (WIC) Program**

Issue: The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, (WIC) has improved at-risk children's health, growth and development, and prevented nutrition-related and other health problems for over 40 years. WIC children enter school ready to learn, showing better cognitive performance. WIC also improves the health of at-risk mothers during pregnancy and helps to rebuild nutrient stores after birth.

Action: Oppose funding cuts which could deprive vulnerable young children the opportunity of a healthy start in life, take away purchasing power in local economies, and increase long-term healthcare costs.

### 9. **Americans with Disabilities Act**

Issue: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is extremely important legislation which requires businesses to comply with accessibility standards. However, there are some individuals who have manipulated the ADA to harass businesses and file frivolous lawsuits. Meaningful reforms have been enacted to reduce frivolous lawsuits for businesses, but local governments were inadvertently left out of the solution.

Action: Support legislation or other actions that protect the importance of the ADA while also protecting businesses from abuse and frivolous lawsuits. Support legislation or other actions to permit local governments a window of 60 days to correct any ADA violations before a lawsuit could be brought forth, just as business are now granted.

### 10. **Veterans Services**

Issue: Stanislaus County and the surrounding area are home to many veterans. State funding and programming has lagged behind the growing need of this population. The large number of veterans sharing similar needs established the



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idea for a veterans' one-stop facility for services in Stanislaus County. The Veterans Center has been an incredible asset to this community.

Action: Support increased funding for veteran's services. Support increased local services for veterans with appropriate funding. Support budget, grants, legislative and administrative action or other efforts that would assist in ongoing costs related to the Stanislaus County Veterans Services facility.

### 11. Increased Child Support Funding

Issue: After almost two decades of no significant funding increases amidst rising annual costs of doing business, additional funding was provided in the Governor's Budget for 2019-2020. However, due to the economic impacts of COVID 19, the Governor's FY 2019-2020 May Revise reduced program funding. Consequently, Stanislaus County reverted to 2018 flat funding levels equating to a loss of almost \$1 million. Now, more than ever, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impacts, an increase of funding to the child support program is needed to adequately support families in need. Not being recognized as the safety net that it actually serves as for some low-income families, the program remains underfunded today in Stanislaus County.

The continued impacts of operating on a budget that has remained fairly flat since 2002 include, but are not limited to:

- A decreased ability to collect support for lower income families, resulting in a higher incidence of child poverty in the County;
- A fewer number of caseworkers to provide quality customer service, which may result in additional constituent complaints.

Action: Support efforts to increase child support funding. Advocate for and support legislative, administrative, and/or budgetary efforts to fully fund the local child support services program costs.

### 12. Improving the Collection of Child Support Orders

Issue: More than 80% of the child support collected by the Department in Fiscal Year 2019-2020 went directly to families. Child Support aids in reducing poverty, strengthening families, and at times, results in a reduction of reliance on other social service programs. Despite record collection amounts, there is more



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opportunity to obtain realistic orders, engage parents, and therefore collect more for families by reducing barriers faced by both parents and the program.

Action: Support legislation and proposals to improve collection of child support orders including, but not limited to:

- Legislation to enable child support agencies to collect child support from non-traditional sources of income, such as gig workers;
- Legislation that would provide local child support agencies greater flexibility to compromise interest on state owed arrears;
- Legislation to include the child support program as a debt collection entity to obtain winnings for owed support from any gaming and/or gambling revenue.

### **13. Provide Accessible Justice for Families Serviced by the Child Support Program & Increase Efficiency**

Issue: The federal 2016 Flexibility, Efficiency, and Modernization (FEM) Final Rule recommended various changes to the child support program such as: guideline calculation study, case closure rules, low income adjustment or subsistence level, and contempt, which are designed to create greater flexibility and efficiency for state and local child support programs. Legislation would be needed to implement the federal guidelines.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a greater need to improve service delivery and identify barriers to families needing child support services. The child support program can be made more efficient through simplifying the forms, and required documentation, and allowing for digital signatures on court actions.

Action: Support legislation related to implementing required and optional guidelines of FEM and increased efficiencies including:

- Proposals that seek to base a child support order contained in a default judgment on the parent's actual income, rather than presume, in the absence of proof income, that the parent works 40 hours per week earning minimum wage, which results in establishing more realistic child support orders



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- Proposals that seek to adjust the California Statewide Guideline formula for determination of child support to adequately allow low-income parents to meet their child support obligation while also meeting their own basic needs.
- Expand the availability of video hearings for customers and the use of electronic signatures on Judicial Council forms and documents for increased efficiency.

### 14. **Funding to Support Full Implementation/Mandates of Continuum of Care (CCR) Reform**

Issue: Assembly Bill (AB) 403 requires significant changes to the placement and care provided to children in foster care, including increasing capacity and support to resource families in California and improving outcomes for children and youth in our child welfare system.

Current funding for foster parent and adoptive parent recruitment and support was realigned to counties in 2011 and is inadequate for the needs of foster and adoptive parents. Counties are required to increase their local supply of quality foster parents through local initiatives including the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) and the Resource Family Approval Program (RFAP) to meet the legislative mandate reduce the use of congregate care.

Current funding for Child Family Teams (CFT) is also inadequate. CFT's were originally designed to ensure that families and youth have a voice in the development of case plans, placement changes and services for the child. CFT's have increase in frequency and length with additionally requirements legally mandated but no funding was identified. This includes placement stabilization for 14-day noticing, education decisions, and reviewing the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment (CANS). Also, CFT's have not been funded for voluntary cases, yet the CANS tool is mandatory for those same cases. The use of the CANS has also only been funding for training and implementation but has not been funded for ongoing use and the increased need for them to fully implement CCR.

Action: Increase funding for CCR activities to enable Stanislaus County to implement mandatory legislation to increase the supply and availability of high





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quality foster parents, conduct Child and Family Team meetings for all Child Welfare cases, and administer the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment for all youth in Foster Care.

Funding specifically to recruit resource family (foster family) homes with capacity to serve high needs children and teens in Intensive Services Foster Care and Therapeutic Foster Care home settings, and complete mandatory Child and Family Team meetings. Funding for the use of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment (CANS) now required for each child. There are currently approximately 700 children in out-of-home placements.

### **15. Funding & Resources for Mandates Required by the Government to Support Full Implementation of the Families First Prevention Services Act**

Issue: The Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) redirects federal funding to reform the child welfare system in the areas of prevention, intervention, and family placements. It provides states with the option of utilizing Title IV-E funding for prevention services to serve “candidates” of foster care.

Until this law was passed in 2018, California could not utilize Title IV-E funding to purchase services for children and families impacted by abuse and neglect. As a result, prevention services across the counties are limited due to funding constraints and lack of available resources. Absent such services, children who come to the attention of the child welfare system for abuse and neglect are brought into the foster care system, exacerbating their existing trauma. Research shows that separating a child from her parent(s) has detrimental, long-term emotional and psychological consequences that may be worse than leaving the child at home. In addition, recent attention to issues of race and equity for families and children of color have elevated.

Action: The Stanislaus County Community Services Agency supports this priority endorsed by the California Welfare Directors Association (CWDA). CWDA proposes the following: Invest \$50 million SGF, on an on-going basis (and beyond FFTA funding of \$49 million over 3 years) to build the infrastructure necessary to implement FFPSA Prevention Services. This includes the following components:



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1. *County Training*: \$10 million SGF to the State Department of Social Services to augment the child welfare training program to meet current practice standards and expectations.
2. *County Programming*: \$30 million SGF for counties to invest in front-end staffing and activities including funding of pre-placement Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings, which are showing promise in diverting families out of the foster care system.
3. *Infrastructure Development*: \$10 million SGF for direct services to families following FFPSA guidelines and consistent with the State-approved FFPSA plan.

### 16. Assistance for Homeless Families

Issue: Homelessness continues to be a problem in our state and throughout the country. While often hidden, homelessness among families with children is at an all-time high. The California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) is one program that works to alleviate the problem of child homelessness by providing temporary housing assistance to families with children.

CalWORKs currently provides temporary housing assistance for 16 consecutive days during one calendar year to homeless families with children. Current law inadvertently undermines the success of this benefit and support to families if their temporary housing situation is interrupted for one or more of the 16 consecutive days, regardless of the reason. As an unintended consequence, families with children that are homeless may be refused or lose their temporary housing due to family emergencies, offers of temporary housing from family or friends, or even the pursuit of employment or housing opportunities elsewhere.

Additionally, current law and regulations require CalWORKs recipients who are homeless requesting permanent housing assistance through the program to secure housing with a commercial establishment or a person in the business of renting, or with experience renting properties. As a result, suitable shared-home living accommodations for families with children are unable to be used to prevent homelessness among CalWORKs households.



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Action: Enable counties to better assist homeless CalWORKs families through the existing Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) by:

- Allowing families to receive 16 *cumulative* days of temporary housing assistance per year (32 days in cases of documented domestic violence). Current law requires assistance to be provided on *consecutive* days, significantly limiting the usefulness of the benefit.
- Allowing a family to receive Permanent Housing Assistance for shared housing when a valid lease agreement has been entered into.

### 17. Funding for Public Health Services, Infrastructure & Workforce

Issue: Stanislaus County's population health rankings are much worse than many other California counties. Not all residents have the same opportunity for healthy living, resulting in health disparities. In the absence of adequate funding through Realignment, there are few funds to provide for Public Health infrastructure, workforce, chronic disease control and prevention, communicable disease prevention, control, data collection and analysis, emergency preparedness and community health efforts including prevention activities. Inadequate funding impedes innovative strategies to reduce health disparities, assist vulnerable populations such as the homeless, and improve the overall population's health.

Action: Pursue and 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, d) support public health infrastructure development to enable national accreditation and e) support emergency, bioterrorism, and pandemic preparedness, response, and infrastructure development to address public health threats and emergencies. Monitor any legislation or administrative policy change that alters realignment funds and/or other program funding. Also, monitor efforts to repeal and/or replace federal health reform to ensure public health needs are adequately, appropriately and equitably addressed with adequate and timely funding to carry out mandates and responsibilities.



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### 18. Expanded Access to Healthcare with Adequate Funding, Efficiency & Quality Improvement

Issue: While much has occurred in recent years regarding expanding coverage for healthcare services, there is new uncertainty with regard to that expansion and concern in regard to adequate funding for providers of healthcare. County priorities include: preserve access to care; invest in prevention and outpatient care; and support efficient and effective utilization management. In aggregate, these would reduce the exposure to the more costly inpatient and emergency room care.

Action: Support state and federal healthcare policy change which would expand access to medical care in a manner which does not financially impact Stanislaus County in a negative way. Support appropriate funding for unfunded or under-funded mandates and oppose reallocation of existing Stanislaus County funding that increases County general fund obligation. Support infrastructure, funding, and reimbursement policy for telemedicine and other forms of appropriate healthcare. Support appropriate reimbursement for email or telephonic consultation, and group visits.

The safety net care system needs adequate funding, public negative impacts could health needs to be adequately and appropriately addressed with appropriate funding, and workforce capacity must be addressed. Reimbursement related policy change should include same day outpatient visits in the Medi-Cal system, Patient Centered Medical Home support, telemedicine infrastructure and operational support, increased integration of behavioral health and primary care, and group visit reimbursement. Other administrative changes should include appropriate utilization management which supports quality evidence-based outcomes and avoids ineffective administratively burdensome controls.

### 19. Pre/Post-Hospital Care & Support Unit

Issue: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Stanislaus County opened and operated an Emergency Protective Non-Congregate Shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness who were asymptomatic and considered high risk



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(over the age of 65 or underlying health conditions) from April 2020 through February 2021. During that time, hundreds of individuals were sheltered at the Emergency Protective Non-Congregate Shelter. During the check-in process, each guest was assessed by a Public Health nurse. The statistical information captured confirmed what many local homeless shelters have known for some time; there is a gap in the medical care and support available to individuals experiencing homelessness. Twenty-five percent of the guests at the Emergency Protective NCS had severe lung issues including chronic pulmonary disease; 23% had heart/circulatory conditions; 12% had diabetes; and 10% were immune compromised.

After receiving treatment at hospitals, many individuals experiencing homelessness do not meet the medical threshold of staying in the hospital and need more care than is provided at existing homeless shelters. Additionally, many individuals experiencing homeless do not pursue preventive medical procedures as they do have a location in which they can prepare for the procedure.

Action: Stanislaus County seeks funding to pilot a Pre/Post-Hospital Care & Support Unit project to fill this unmet need. This unit would provide health care assistance for existing shelter residents that need assistance with daily living activities such as bathing, toileting, and feeding but do not rise to the level of placement at an assisted living facility. The program would also provide client oversight by a medical professional (LVN or RN) for more acute medical needs such as wound care, enhanced assistance due to ambulatory impairment and medication management. Stanislaus County would partner with an existing homeless shelter operator to pilot this program for two years.

### 20. Health Professional Shortages

Issue: There is a critical regional shortage of physicians, nurses, mental health providers, dentists, and allied health personnel in the San Joaquin Valley.

Action: Support budget, legislative or administrative action to provide funding for health professional training and/or recruitment to increase access to healthcare for residents of the San Joaquin Valley. Support the team-based Patient Center



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Medical Homes in the primary care setting, to extend the effective capacity of each primary care physician.

### 21. Healthcare Information Technology

Issue: There is a need for improved information technology, particularly to support data exchange with other healthcare entities and providers. Such technology will add efficiency and create opportunities for improved quality, lower healthcare costs and better health outcomes.

Action: Support legislation and/or administrative action which provide funding or other incentives to finance, or make financially feasible, information technology infrastructure improvements, including community-wide Health Information Exchange capability.

### 22. Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Care System Improvement

Issue: There is a need for improved infrastructure and funding for the pre-hospital emergency medical services administration, training, integrated communications and dispatch, and operations/services at the county level. Additionally, an on-going Community Paramedicine project pilot using specially trained paramedics and an EMS based protocol for behavioral health patients has proven beneficial. Legislation to enable permanency has yet to be enacted.

Action: Support legislation and/or administrative action which provide funding for infrastructure improvement, training, emergency preparedness and operations, which support the unique and growing needs at the local level. Support innovative initiatives such as the Community Paramedicine project and other case management projects, which more effectively use available resources, provide access to the appropriate level of care, and improve health outcomes at a lower cost.

### 23. Medically Indigent Adults – W&I Section 17000

Issue: There continues to be financial exposure to the Stanislaus County General Fund for the Medically Indigent Adult program obligations. With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act's Medi-Cal Expansion and the



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passage of AB 85, there are substantially fewer indigents under the county's obligation. However, all of the state funding was redirected to an unrelated state program such that the county receives no state funding for the residual obligation. Current law is vague, leaving interpretation to the counties and to the courts. Over the years, litigation has been isolated to a small subset of counties, resulting in significant variation of programs by county. Stanislaus County's cost exposure is greater than many other counties as a result.

Action: Should changes to the Affordable Care Act or other federal or State actions, potentially or actually result in a negative financial impact to the County, advocate for legislation and/or administrative policy which provides for adequate funding for the county's obligations under the law (including applicable case law). Additionally, advocate for legislation and/or administrative policy which brings equity to the obligation across the counties and enables program efficiencies.

### 24. Conservatees Placed in Out of County Treatment Programs

Issue: California counties routinely place Lanterman Petris Short (LPS) conserved individuals in host counties for treatment and care. The host county is generally unaware of these placements. There are instances where clients from a sending county remain in the host county following the termination of the conservatorship. In these instances, the host counties often struggle with limited treatment and housing resources which can become further strained making it difficult to meet the needs of clients already residing in the county.

Timely notification upon placement and termination of LPS conservatorship would ensure continuity of care and enable the host county to ensure the appropriate return of the conservatee to the county of origin upon termination of the LPS conservatorship.

Action: Pursue legislative strategies requiring counties placing LPS conservatees in host counties to provide timely notification of the placement, termination of the LPS conservatorship and ensure the return of the LPS conservatee to the home county upon termination of the conservatorship.



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### Developing a Healthy Economy

#### 1. The Landing @ Crows - Industrial Business Park

Issue: The Landing @ Crows presents enormous potential for economic development, offering approximately 370 acres of airport and another 880 acres of possible logistics/industrial/business park. The County has identified that approximately \$32 million in initial investment for infrastructure is needed to facilitate economic development. A formal grant request has been prepared for federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) to assist with potable water system development.

Action: Continue to seek out all available resources that the County can access to secure needed infrastructure funds. Support budget, grants, legislative or administrative action that would assist in making Phase IA shovel ready.

#### 2. Stable Funding for Workforce Development

Issue: With an uncertain budget projection coming from Washington D.C., the workforce development system is under a constant state of crisis in terms of being able to plan effectively for the future and provide the highest level of services to jobseekers and businesses.

Action: Support policies and budget actions that lead to stable, long-term funding for workforce development, specifically the programs overseen by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014. Oppose policies and budget actions that reduce funding for workforce development.

#### 3. Local Decision Making & Accountability for Workforce Development

Issue: Workforce Development Boards are appointed by Chief Local Elected Officials and funded in large part by federal funds under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. System partners and outside entities have previously attempted to make changes to state and federal law to divert funding, resources, and authority away from the locally-appointed workforce development boards and to entities that local elected officials do not have direct authority





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over, thereby potentially subjugating the local needs in workforce to entities that do not have such a direct stake in the well-being of the local area.

Action: Support policies that preserve local decision making in terms of spending, direction of work, and other functions of local workforce boards as called out in federal law. Oppose actions that would divert funding and/or authority over workforce development to entities outside of workforce development boards.

#### 4. Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act Reauthorization

Issue: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is the federal legislation that governs the public workforce system. WIOA requires reauthorization in 2021.

Action: Support policies that preserve local decisions and local control in the process of the reauthorization of federal law. Oppose actions that would regulate or divert authority over programs that are unique and specialized to local area communities.

#### 5. Impact to the Economy Resulting From COVID-19

Issue: With the uncertainty of the economy for businesses and job seekers, Workforce Development must create programs and trainings to meet the needs of the community. As the Administration and Legislature are investing in California's broadband infrastructure, those efforts should include and scale how local workforce developments boards are supporting California's digital needs. Legislation that aims to expand the State's digital access should include digital skills building, device access for job seekers and small businesses, and digital support for workforce program participants as funding and incentivized activities in broadband expansion.

Action: California can expand access to digital skill building particularly in the context of occupational training through additional funding and the easing of State-imposed restrictions on training providers that operate virtually.



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This expansion and new investments in broadband access can help businesses survive in the pandemic economy, and support job training efforts by increasing opportunities for online training. The applications for such training are critical and numerous, such as understanding occupational health and safety protocols and conducting remote work efficiently. Now is the time for California's efforts to expand broadband access to include investments in workers' digital skills, ensuring all Californians can access quality jobs.

### **Promoting First Rate Learning**

*No legislative issues.*



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### Delivering Efficient Public Services and Community Infrastructure

#### 1. Support of the Williamson Act

Issues: Counties face various challenges in administering the Williamson Act. Locally, changes in State minimum parcel size requirements over the Act's 40 plus years have resulted in parcels of a non-conforming size being subject to contract restrictions while deriving no benefit. Also, State requirements for the local approval of lot line adjustments, specifically the process for rescinding and reentering contracts in order to facilitate lot line adjustments, adds unnecessary time and cost to the lot line adjustment process by requiring Board of Supervisor approval.

Action: Support amendments to the Williamson Act that will assist counties with their administrative responsibilities. Amendments supporting local needs could include: an alternative cancellation process for parcels rendered non-complaint due to changes in State requirements; and an alternative approval process for contract recession/reentry allowing for local delegation of the approval authority.

#### 2. Unitary Tax Rate

Issue: The Unitary Tax Rate for railroad companies is higher than other entities and railroad companies are involved in litigation regarding inconsistencies between State law which conflicts with the federal regulations in this area.

Action: Provide clarity of the unitary tax guidelines and revise the current formula which aligns with the federal rules.

#### 3. Property Tax Allocation – Assembly Bill 8

Issue: Counties receive an average of 19% of property tax revenues generated within their boundaries. Stanislaus County receives approximately 13% of each tax dollar generated countywide. This percentage is below the average countywide percentage and represents one of the lower percentages received in



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California. Approximately 78% of counties located in California receive a higher property tax revenue percentage than Stanislaus County.

Action: Implement legislation to ensure an adequate and stable level of services from County to County that would appropriately address this inequity. The AB 8 calculations are partially based on actual amounts from 1978. Since 1978 was over 40 years ago, the calculations that form the basis of the AB 8 factors needs to be reviewed and adjusted to the current needs of California counties. These funds are discretionary and are used principally to fund public safety activities. Addressing this issue would also help ensure an adequate and stable level of services from County to County.

#### 4. **Property Tax Administration Fee**

Issue: The State has previously provided a subvention to counties, most particularly the Assessor, to assist in paying for the collection of property taxes. This is an important source of revenue to the County necessary to sustain the property tax program, however, in the final fiscal year 2005-2006 California budget negotiations the Property Tax Administration Grant program was eliminated.

The current property tax administration fee legislation specifically precludes counties from recovering their costs from school districts. This has a significant impact on discretionary funds which must be diverted to cover these costs. In Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020 these unreimbursed costs totaled over \$7 million.

Action: Support any budget, legislative or executive action to restore funding to the property tax administration program. Legislation needs to be implemented that would address this inequity. These costs reduce resources that are discretionary and could be used to fund public safety activities. Addressing this issue would also help ensure an adequate and stable level of services from County to County.

#### 5. **Infrastructure to Support Housing**

Issue: The state housing crises has led to numerous changes in state laws intending to increase the supply of housing; however, the legislation, and new



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sources of funding aimed at increasing the supply of housing, have been silent to the need to upgrade sewer, water, and other infrastructure necessary to support development in areas already designated and zoned for residential development – infill development. The ability to provide for infill development is critical to addressing the state’s housing crises and, in many cases, residential infill development alone cannot bear the cost of the necessary infrastructure.

Action: Support legislation and administrative rule-making that provides State-funded fiscal incentives, including the use of State funding, for new and upgraded infrastructure necessary to support housing production.

### 6. Water Policy

Issue: We value efforts to protect our water and recognize that it is a precious commodity for Stanislaus County. We will actively pursue legislation that sustains our vital rivers and reservoirs and water supply system at large for the provision of reliable and sufficient water resources.

Action: Oppose any law or regulation that inappropriately increases unimpaired flows in rivers and waterways or that does not appropriately address non-flow alternatives. Support policies that prevent unimpaired flows for rivers running through Stanislaus County. Support policies that recognize the importance of local groundwater re-charge and alternative advantages of our access to water. Hydroelectric power generation should be considered an important benefit of our water resources and advocacy efforts with balanced consideration to developmental resources and wildlife protection. Support the Don Pedro Project with respect to the role of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the successful license renewal reducing economic impact of water use to county residential users and our farming community

### 7. Storm Water & Flood Control

Issue: Stanislaus County is home to many levees in need of significant repair and improvement. In addition, this past winter brought many weak spots in our road system. At the peak of the recent flood emergencies, 23 roads were closed and an equal number were severely flooded. Cost estimates exceed \$40 million.



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Major critical river crossings should be mitigated before the next flood event. Below is a list of road closures due to flooding.

These projects to date are unfunded and represent roads that cannot be repaired or otherwise addressed with Measure L funds: Hickman Road Bridge from Hwy 132 to Delaware Road, Shiloh Road from Grayson Road to Paradise Road, Grayson Road from Cox Road to Shiloh Road, River Road from Hills Ferry Road to Villa Manucha Road, Ellenwood Road from Oakdale Waterford Hwy to Claribel Road, Oak Flat Road from Ward Ave to Diablo Grande Parkway, Welty Road from Spencer Road to Gaffery Road, Spencer Road from Welty Road to SR 33, Hale Road from Stuhr Road to Anderson Road, Eastin Road from Stuhr Road to Anderson Road, Jorgenson Road from Stuhr Road to Anderson Road, Bell Road from Stuhr Road to Anderson Road, Pelican Road from Orchard Road to Dairy Road, River Road from 7th St. bridge to Zeff Road, Cooperstown Road from Willms Road to J59(La Grange Road), Anderson from SR 33 and Bell Road, Haile from Stuhr Road to Anderson, Montpelier from Whitmore Avenue to Keyes Road, Litt Road just north of Claribel Road, Crows Landing Road.

Action: Support any budget, legislative or administrative action to provide funding for repairs and upgrades to roads and levees and support flood control efforts in Stanislaus County, provided such actions do not create a new or increased level of financial or legal risk to Stanislaus County and that ownership of the levee does not transfer to the County.

### 8. **Workers' Compensation Program Reforms**

Issue: Since the enactment of substantial reform to California's Workers' Compensation System several years ago, there has been a slow legislative erosion of those reforms. As a large employer, Stanislaus County is concerned about legislative efforts to add new benefits or presumptions to Workers' Compensation coverage, due to the cost and liability concerns.

Action: Oppose legislation that will weaken reform, add new presumptions or otherwise increase liability to the County.

### 9. **Americans with Disabilities Act**



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Issue: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is extremely important legislation which requires businesses to comply with accessibility standards; however, there are some individuals who have manipulated the ADA to harass businesses and file frivolous lawsuits. Meaningful reforms have been enacted to reduce frivolous lawsuits for businesses, but local governments were inadvertently left out of the solution.

Action: Support legislation or other actions that protect the importance of the ADA while also protecting businesses from abuse and frivolous lawsuits. Support legislation or other actions to permit local governments a window of 60 days to correct any ADA violations before a lawsuit could be brought forth, just as business are now granted.

### 10. Local Preference for Contractors

Issue: The County cannot hire local contractors for small, one-time projects due to bidding law requirements. The functional result of this prohibition is that large, out-of-town contracting companies win most bids for work, despite the County's strong desire to hire more local businesses for work that cannot be done by in-house staff.

Action: Seek additional flexibility in the law to ensure that the County may provide preference points or favorable consideration to businesses located in Stanislaus County that bid for jobs advertised by the County.

### 11. IRS Publication 1075

Issue: The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Publication 1075 provides guidance to ensure that the policies, practices, controls and safeguards employed by recipient agencies adequately protect the confidentiality of Federal Tax Information (FTI) and related financial data. This publication was updated and released in September 2016, with updated requirements going into effect immediately upon release. New requirements impact how agencies perform background checks on employees. Implementation of the requirements might require State legislation.



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Action: Support State legislation to facilitate the appropriate implementation of IRS Publication 1075.

### 12. **Brown Act & Public Records Requests**

Issue: Changes in the law regarding Open Meeting regulations (Brown Act) or Public Records Act can impact operations of the Clerk of the Board, County Planning Commission and other County commissions, boards, and committees that are subject to the Brown Act.

Action: Closely monitor legislation introduced in these areas, advocate as appropriate and oppose additional unfunded mandates.

### 13. **Assessment Appeals Process**

Issue: Changes in the law regarding the Assessment Appeals process can impact the Clerk of the Board operations.

Action: Closely monitor legislation introduced in these areas, advocate as appropriate and oppose additional unfunded mandates.

### 14. **Park System**

Issue: Stanislaus County has an existing master plan for development of park facilities in the County to identify needs for the next 20-year planning horizon. The County also is in a Joint Powers Authority with the City of Modesto and the City of Ceres for the Tuolumne River Regional Park.

Action: Support any bonds, ballot measures, budget, legislative or administrative actions to provide funding for the operations, maintenance, improvement and development of County parks, including the Tuolumne River Regional Park.

### 15. **Off-Highway Vehicle Parks**

Issue: Stanislaus County operates two Off-Highway Vehicle Parks (LaGrange and Frank Raines) utilizing State Grant funds. Operations would be severely reduced without grant funding.





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Action: Support any bonds, ballot measures, budget, legislative or administrative action to provide continued or expanded grant funding for Off-Highway Vehicle Parks. Oppose efforts to reduce funding for operations and maintenance and/or any transfer of local assistance funds to State Parks from the Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Fund. Oppose efforts that limit the expansion and development of off-highway trails.

### 16. County Parks

Issue: Competitive grant funding that has historically been available to local governments has never included a category for construction of amenities that would ultimately assist the park in becoming a revenue-generator and thus self-sustaining.

Action: Seek an inclusion in any future parks bond proposal for additional points or favorable treatment of applications that include amenities that would become revenue-generating.

### 17. Recreation Opportunities

Issue: In Stanislaus County approximately 91,000 people live below the poverty line. Of those, 16,809 are children seventeen years and younger. No cost or affordable recreation activities are imperative to the success of these children. Studies on active, structured recreation focused on youth have shown strong relationships to positive outcomes. Youths who participate in extracurricular activities are more likely than non-participants to have higher self-esteem, greater academic achievement, and lower incidences of delinquency. Furthermore, at-risk youths have been found to especially benefit from guided recreation programming. Low-income, at-risk youth experience improved test scores in both reading and math after they begin participation in after-school programs. Data has also shown that students who reported spending no time in afterschool extracurricular activities were 57% more likely to drop out of high school, 49% more likely to use drugs and 27% more likely to have been arrested than students who spend as much as four hours in structured activities.

Action: Support any bonds, ballot measures, budget, legislative or administrative action to provide funding for the operations, development, and staff costs of



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creation of permanent state or federal funding sources for youth programs. Support increased state and federal funding for affordable after-school programs and programs that promote and enhance physical fitness and well-being of children and youth. Support legislation that would provide state and federal funding for the acquisition, development and/or operation of park and recreation facilities that serve underprivileged children, families, and older adults and which promote and enhance physical health and well-being of children, youth, adults and seniors.

### 18. **Cap-and-Trade**

Issue: The California Air Resources Board (ARB) has approved regulations that negatively impact the Stanislaus County Waste to Energy Facility. The ARB is now proposing to increase greenhouse gas reduction targets more than three-fold, bringing landfills into the Cap-and-Trade program, adding additional costly and ineffective methane emissions controls at landfills and banning organics from landfills. The County is very concerned that such proposals, particularly by including solid waste facilities, will result in significant rate increases for our commercial and residential customers. The inclusion of the County's solid waste program in the Cap-and-Trade regulations are costly to the County.

Action: Monitor any changes in the Cap-and-Trade program that will expand the greenhouse gas reductions to include landfills into the Cap-and-Trade program.

### 19. **Definition of Solid Waste Facility**

Issue: The County is very concerned with legislative attempts to revise the definition of a solid waste facility.

Action: Monitor proposed legislative changes to ensure any new definition would include waste disposal eligible for diversion credit, inclusive of Waste-to-Energy transformation facilities.

### 20. **Oppose Increasing the 50% State Solid Waste Diversion Mandate**

Issue: The enactment of AB 341 established a policy goal for California that by the year 2020, at least 75% of solid waste generated within the State be source



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reduced, recycled or composted. Stanislaus County invested millions of dollars to build a transformation facility prior to the enactment of AB 939. It provides employment to about 50 full time employees and serves 10 local communities by transforming approximately 800 tons of municipal solid waste daily to produce up to 22.5 megawatts of clean renewable energy. If the 10% diversion credit for use of the Waste-to-Energy Facility is phased out or not “counted” toward a 75% diversion mandate should that be enacted, Stanislaus County would be forced to make significant additional investments in infrastructure and programs. This would be a significant financial burden on the residents and businesses of Stanislaus County.

Action: The 75% recycling goal should remain a State target/goal and not become a mandate. Strongly oppose any legislation which seeks to mandate 75% recycling or diversion from disposal unless transformation is given full credit. Any newly established Statewide targets should also not become mandates.

### 21. Solid Waste Diversion Member Agency Credits

Issue: Another waste diversion issue is how shared diversion credit from a Regional Agency is allocated by CalRecycle when one of its members decides to leave. The Stanislaus County Regional Solid Waste Planning Agency was formed to share the County’s excess diversion credit from the Food Processing By-Product Diversion Program (FPBP) that allowed all member jurisdictions to meet the 50% diversion mandate by the year 2000. At the time of the Agency’s formation only the County exceeded the 50% mandate. Currently CalRecycle does not take into account the County’s excess diversion credit it shared with the member agencies when calculating a withdrawing member’s diversion credit. CalRecycle allocates the diversion credit equally based on current levels of disposal for each jurisdiction. This method does not take into account the County’s FPBP program excess diversion credit used by all Regional Agency members to meet the mandate.

Action: Support legislation requiring CalRecycle to address the inequity in their current method of allocating diversion credit to Regional Agency jurisdictions when there is a member withdrawal. The current method awards jurisdictions with diversion credit from AB 939 programs not implemented by that jurisdiction.



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### 22. Landfill Disposal of Treated Wood Waste & Other Waste Materials

Issue: Senate Bill (SB) 68, focused on extending the Alternate Management Standards of treated wood waste, was vetoed by Gov. Gavin Newsom on September 29, 2020. SB 68 would have extended the standards for the management and disposal of Treated Wood Waste (TWW), which will expire on December 31, 2020, thus allowing it to be continuously accepted at Class II and III landfills. As a result of the veto of SB 68, effective January 1, 2021, disposal of TWW will no longer be acceptable in composite-lined Class II or Class III landfills, and instead will only be allowed in a Hazardous Waste Class I Landfill. There are currently only three Class I landfills in California. This means there are no effective management standards or guidance for TWW, no practical alternatives for managing the disposal of this and similar waste, and very little time to adapt current practices at the Fink Road Landfill without immediate guidance from the California Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, if the alternate management and disposal of TWW and other waste is not allowed, the residents and businesses will face significant increases in the rates they will pay for handling, transporting and disposal of such material, and the County will likely experience an increase in illegal dumping of TWW and related waste.

Action: To maintain local control of waste disposal as well as avoid significant increases in the disposal rates paid by our residents and businesses, support any legislation that allows the alternate management and disposal of waste which was intended by SB 68, and oppose any legislation that unnecessarily classifies Treated Wood Waste and other waste materials as hazardous requiring costly handling, transportation and disposal.

### 23. Short-Lived Climate Pollutants: Organic Waste Methane Emissions Reductions

Issue: SB 1383 requires all generators (residents and commercial) to divert organics from the landfill by subscribing to organic recycling services that convert organics into beneficial use, or by donating edible food-to-food recovery services. SB 1383 requires a 50% reduction of the statewide disposal of organic waste from the 2014 level. By January 1, 2025, the regulation requires a 75% reduction of statewide disposal of organic waste from the 2014 level. SB 1383 will require new ordinances, public meetings, public outreach and education for residents and businesses as well as local enforcement of the law. SB 1383 will significantly raise refuse collection service rates for homes and businesses. SB 1383 regulations were not finalized by the State until November 2020, however,



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implementation is still required by January 1, 2022, which leaves a small implementation window especially considering business interruptions and complications due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Action: Embrace all support for additional time to implement SB 1383.

### 24. **CalRecycle Landfill Tipping Fee Surcharge**

Issue: For the past few years, CalRecycle has sought to significantly increase the State's \$1.40 per ton tipping fee surcharge in order to increase their declining revenue stream. While we recognize that the State's funding has been fixed at the \$1.40/ton level for many years and tonnage has decreased because of mandated diversion requirements, landfills cannot singlehandedly bear the burden of the increased funding CalRecycle needs. The State must find a more equitable way to have diversion programs as well as waste generators support the cost of State regulatory oversight efforts.

Action: Oppose any significant increases to the \$1.40/ton landfill tipping fee. Additionally, local governments should be compensated if they are required to collect and pass-through fees required by the State. If an increase in funding is approved, request a delineation of how programs additional revenue will be used.

### 25. **Odor Complaints Associated with Composting Facilities**

Issue: The state is the Enforcement Agency (EA) and thus responsible for, but not able to respond quickly to, odor complaints due to travel distances. Furthermore, unlike local air districts, the state does not issue Notices of Violation (NOVs) which have financial penalties attached. NOVs are a necessary fiscal incentive to obtain compliance in problem situations. The state's inability to adequately address these issues results in significant problems with inadequate solutions.

Action: Return oversight responsibility for odor complaints back to the local air districts, at least in areas where the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) is the Enforcement Agency.

### 26. **California Integrated Waste Management Board Diversion Credits**



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Issue: Stanislaus County diverts a significant amount of waste from landfilling through transformation at the Stanislaus Resource Recovery facility. Also, the food processing industry generates up to 350,000 tons of solid food process by-products on an annual basis that are land-applied as a soil amendment or fed to livestock, thereby keeping these byproducts out of landfills and creating a positive impact on the waste stream. At times, legislation and regulations are proposed that would impact this process and jeopardize the County's diversion credits. If Stanislaus County loses the food processing credit, it would lose an approximately 16% diversion credit that would drop the County to about 48% diversion rate. Currently, the Waste-to-Energy credit the County receives is restricted/capped by legislation at 10% - a number that is significantly less than the actual waste diverted. In addition, if the County also loses the Waste-to-Energy transformation credit, the Stanislaus Regional Planning Agency would be down to 38% landfill diversion. This would, in effect, put the County in violation of the Public Resources Code by having an inadequate Integrated Waste Management Plan, creating a liability for each jurisdiction in our Regional Agency of up to \$10,000 per day in fines. Ratepayers would incur additional costs for these new programs and the Regional Agency jurisdictions would incur (County) staff time costs to revise the plan(s).

Action: Support legislation that increases diversion credits for Waste-to-Energy technology to reflect actual diversion rates. Support legislation to expand the County's ability to maximize its diversion credits, including allowing more than 10% diversion credit if conversion technologies are implemented when a jurisdiction already receives the full 10% diversion credit for transformation. Oppose legislation which would eliminate or negatively impact the diversion credits earned by the County, and any regulations that add additional oversight to a program which is already sufficiently regulated.

### **27. Renewable Energy Status for the Stanislaus Waste to Energy Facility**

Issue: SB350 allowed for a one-year extension of the renewable energy credits to Jan. 1, 2017. It is estimated the loss of the renewable energy designation would yield a potential revenue loss to Covanta of \$4,065,000 to \$5,420,000 per year. (This loss estimate is based on an estimated value of 135,500 megawatts produced by the Covanta Facility annually.) In a worst-case scenario, the



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renewable energy designation could be removed, thereby significantly increasing the cost of processing waste at the WTE facility.

Action: Closely monitor and engage in any legislation on renewable energy credits. Oppose any legislation that may negatively affect the renewable energy designation of the Covanta facility. Support legislation that would restore the renewable energy designation of the Covanta facility. Also, support any legislation or administrative action that improves the price paid per megawatt. The sale of electricity from this facility should draw a premium over conventional electricity rates. Previous discussion with a local utility provider stated a mid-range estimate of the value of the “green” power premium would be an additional \$30-\$40/megawatt over conventional power.

### 28. Groundwater

Issue: Enactment of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 mandates the formation of local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies within a two-year timeframe and the development and completion of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) within a five to seven-year planning horizon. There are four separate groundwater sub basins within the political footprint of Stanislaus County of which it is conceivable that individual GSPs will be required for each. This level of planning will be very expensive.

Action: Closely monitor and engage in any proposed legislation pertaining to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act or new legislation that addresses water resource matters that may affect the citizens of Stanislaus County. Also engage in and promote the passage of any appropriate legislation that addresses financial assistance for the development, creation and implementation of GSP's.

### 29. Groundwater Recharge

Issue: Groundwater recharge is an extremely important element of managing a sustainable groundwater supply; however, managed groundwater recharge is not recognized in state water law as a beneficial use. The notion of including groundwater recharge as a legally recognized beneficial use was originally included in the packet of bills that resulted in the enactment of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014; however, the groundwater recharge



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element did not survive the final language. This oversight needs to be addressed, particularly in the San Joaquin Valley. Many, if not most, of the groundwater sub-basins cannot achieve sustainable groundwater management without some form of managed groundwater recharge.

Action: Closely monitor and engage in any proposed legislation pertaining to the concept of groundwater recharge. Support the acceptance of groundwater recharge as a legally defensible “beneficial use” of water in the state.

### 30. Department of Environmental Resources Program Fees

Issue: Stanislaus County operates several local programs that could otherwise be operated by the state (such as milk inspections). In these cases, the State’s fees for County residents are typically higher than the County’s fees. In recent years, however, it has become common for the state to impose surcharges on local fees charged to customers, placing a hardship on the County and its customers.

Action: Oppose efforts to implement state surcharges on local fees if fees are not substantiated or appropriate.

### 31. Recover Costs of School Inspections

Issue: A number of schools that contain food facilities in Stanislaus County require inspection, routine monitoring, and food safety education. This service has been provided without the benefit of cost recovery because of the exemption clause in Government Code Section 6103. Health & Safety Code Section 113920 provides for cost recovery. If Environmental Resources were to charge for this service, over \$100,000 in revenue could be collected; however, schools are considered exempt because of Government Code Section 6103. Adding a subset to Health and Safety Code Section 113920 would provide clarity to this issue and allow for cost recovery to take effect.

Action: Support legislation to change Health & Safety Code Section 113920 to clarify and allow for the recovery of the costs of inspecting, monitoring and providing education regarding food safety, so as to allow cost recovery to take place within the education system of the State of California.





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### 32. Glass Recycling

Issue: The closure of a large capacity glass recycler in Southern California has influenced the export of glass, as a valuable commodity, to Mexico as feedstock for new glass bottles. The loss of this material may cause a shortage of feedstock for California glass producers who are struggling for this material in large quantities. To take this issue a bit further, markets are “drying up” for recycled commodities in general, making it harder and more costly to divert materials.

Action: Support legislation that encourages in-state glass recycling to help support a strong state economy. In addition, encourage the development of local markets and reasonable pricing for recycled commodities.

### 33. Milk & Dairy Program

Issue: The Milk and Dairy Program is one of the largest agricultural commodities in Stanislaus County.

Action: Closely monitor and engage in any legislation pertaining to the Milk and Dairy Program, including cattle, goats, and sheep that may affect the dairy industry. Oppose efforts that may place a financial burden on the industry, such as additional fees, water programs, by-products from dairies, feeding products, manure/methane production, etc. unless supported by the industry itself. Additionally, oppose any efforts to restrict dairy size.

### 34. Raw Milk Sales

Issue: Raw milk sales and consumption can have serious public health and safety considerations. Raw milk has an increased probability of pathogenic bacteria in human consumption, such as E. coli, Salmonella, Campylobacter, and Listeria monocytogenes.

In 2014, 40 Bills were introduced in 23 statehouses regarding raw milk sales and consumption. The most recent in California was AB 2505 that would allow the exchange, shared or selling of raw milk, and would exempt small scale home



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dairy farms from burdensome laws and regulations applicable to the production of market milk by large-scale retail milk producers that are not necessary or appropriate for the operation of small home dairy farms producing raw milk.

Action: Closely monitor and engage in any proposed legislation pertaining to raw milk sales or new legislation that addresses Raw Milk Sales Direct to the consumer from dairy farms that may affect the citizens of Stanislaus County. Oppose any unfunded mandates impacting local governments.

### 35. **Maintain Local Permitting Control**

Issue: Efforts to balance the public need for expanded wireless communication networks and the need to streamline local permitting of wireless facilities has resulted in proposed legislation that erodes the local authority to control the design and location of wireless telecommunication facilities.

Action: Support legislation that allows for a streamlined expansion of wireless communication networks and facilities while retaining local control for the design and siting of wireless telecommunication facilities.

### 36. **Federal Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Jurisdiction Funding**

Issue: Over the last decade Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding has been under continuous threat of elimination. Funding provided through the CDBG program has been instrumental in addressing the issues of health and safety due to the lack of infrastructure or deteriorated infrastructure in the community. The program is critical for infrastructure development supporting existing low-income neighborhoods throughout the Stanislaus Urban County (comprised of unincorporated County and the cities of Ceres, Hughson, Riverbank, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, and Waterford).

Action: Support the continued funding of CDBG Entitlement Jurisdictions; including support for program reforms streamlining administration and maximizing funding for infrastructure development.

### 37. **New Federal Funding – Federal Reauthorization for Roads & Bridges**



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Issue: Federal funding has fallen in relative terms and only accounts for approximately 7% of the funds received for pavement maintenance purposes. Stanislaus County has approximately 450 miles of federal aid eligible roads and we receive \$2 million per year to help maintain these important routes. Local funds for maintenance make up the majority of maintenance funds. Advocate for federal funding again for on-system local bridge projects. 7<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge, a \$50 million project, is the worst bridge in California and funding construction is going to be problematic.

Action: Encourage federal support for the reauthorization bill. Existing federal revenues are insufficient to maintain the critical federal aid routes. Bridges are also a concern. The Highway Bridge Program at the federal level is only for Off-System bridges.

### 38. State Transportation Funding Priorities

Issue: The Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 (Senate Bill 1) has a strong emphasis on maintenance, rehabilitation, and safety on the existing local street and road system with increased accountability and transparency provisions. California State Association of Counties will work to implement SB 1 including, but not limited to, development of annual SB 1 revenue projections by counties, adoption of annual SB 1 project lists, development and submittal of project expenditure reports, achieve any necessary changes to the California Transportation Commission's reporting guidelines, and development and disseminating best practices to build capacity at the local level to meet the goals of SB 1.

Action: Support efforts to protect SB 1 revenue from linkage to Regional Housing Needs Assessments (RHNA) and to secure the allocation of funding to Stanislaus County.

### 39. Federal Transportation Funding Priorities

Issue: County projects eligible for federal funding require a complicated process (FAST Act Implementation). We must continue to work to ensure that California



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counties are well-positioned to utilize environmental review streamlining opportunities available from the FAST Act.

Action: Continue to educate Congress and the Administration about the need to further streamline the federal process to reduce costs and improve project delivery. Take opportunities to educate Congress and the Administration about the need for new federal funding for transportation in advance of the next reauthorization effort.

### 40. Transit Fare Recovery Requirements

Issue: The Transportation Development Act (TDA) of 1971, provides funding for public transportation services. Funds are allocated to each county based on population, taxable sales and transit performance. TDA is funded through local sales tax revenues that are collected by the state and returned to the local governments and transit operators through the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies. TDA funds are a major funding source for public transportation in California. Stanislaus County's population recently exceeded 500,000, resulting in a classification change to an urban county and increasing fare recovery requirements. However, some cities and rural areas have experienced only minimal growth.

Action: Support legislation that would allow the Stanislaus Council of Government to adjust operations by considering population density when establishing fare recovery ratios, resulting in a fair, reasonable and more readily achievable standard.

### 41. Orestimba Creek Recharge & Recovery Project

Issue: Orestimba Creek floods and creates millions of dollars in damages to communities in Stanislaus County. There are significant negative impacts resulting from regular creek flooding.

Action: Support any budget, legislative or administrative action that would appropriately fund the Orestimba Creek Recharge and Recovery Project which proposes to provide a place to store high flow and carryover supplies which would be regulated to provide a critical year water supply and provide water to



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meet peak demands in summer. This project would include construction of groundwater banking facilities near Orestimba Creek. The Creek may be used to convey water to the recharge ponds and the Delta Mendota Canal would be used to convey water to and from the recharge ponds and recovery wells. Project water supplies could include surface water from Del Puerto Water District, Orestimba Creek flows and high flows in the Kings River as well as San Joaquin River. Water wells to recover the stored supplies could be located throughout the area near recharge facilities as well as along the Central California Irrigation District Main Canal.



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### **Board of Supervisors Support or Opposition of Legislation, Regulations and Initiatives**

On occasion, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors will be asked to take a position on legislation, regulations or other subjects that are not part of the approved Legislative Platform.

In the event this occurs, there are several important elements to note:

- 1) A brief position paper and draft support/oppose letter or resolution is created by the Department Head and sent to the County Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for review. If the request is approved by the CEO, it is placed on the Board of Supervisors' agenda for consideration at a future meeting. If approved by the Board, the item is considered part of the complete body of approved items contained in the Legislative Platform where it remains until expiration of the current approved Platform.
- 2) Individual Board members may send support/oppose correspondence on issues that are not in the Legislative Platform. This type of correspondence may not be distributed on Chairman's letterhead.
- 3) The Board of Supervisors does not, as a regular practice, take support/oppose positions on state ballot initiatives.
- 4) Requests for Board of Supervisors' letters of support/opposition or resolutions on issues not in the Legislative Platform should arise from within County government. Requests from outside County government should be weighed as to whether they have a clear and compelling direct impact on County government.