

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA # *B-6

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE April 21, 2015

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Approval of the Stanislaus County Legislative Platform for 2015

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approve the Stanislaus County Legislative Platform for 2015.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no immediate fiscal impact in approving the platform. A primary focus of the legislative priorities is financial. Changes in the law and actions by elected officials and government agencies during the year may have a significant fiscal impact on local government. The County contracts under separate agreement with Shaw/Yoder/Antwih, Inc. and Peterson Consulting for State legislative advocacy at an annual cost of \$49,992 and with Pillsbury Law for federal legislative advocacy at an annual cost of \$90,000. These advocacy agreements are included in the Chief Executive Office - Operations and Services 2014-2015 Final Budget.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2015-161

On motion of Supervisor Chiesa, Seconded by Supervisor O'Brien
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Monteith, De Martini, and Chairman Withrow

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended This Item was removed from consent for discussion and consideration.

4) Other:

MOTION: Approved the Stanislaus County Legislative Platform for 2015; and, amended the item to direct staff to provide the Legislative Platform to the Water Advisory Committee for review

ATTEST:


ELIZABETH A. KING, Assistant Clerk

File No.

Approval of the Stanislaus County Legislative Platform for 2015

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DISCUSSION:

930 bills were sent to the Governor in 2014 and he vetoed 143. For Stanislaus County, there were several important pieces of legislation:

- AB 741 (Brown) died. The bill would have made changes to property tax allocations that would have negatively impacted Stanislaus County.
- AB 2126 (Bonta) was vetoed by the Governor. The bill would have made unfavorable changes to the labor mediation process.
- SB 391 (DeSaulnier) died. The bill would have imposed a new fee at the time of recording of every real estate instrument, paper, or notice required or permitted by law to be recorded.

The Legislative Platform for 2015 consists of State and Federal components. The platform focuses on issues of concern and priority for the Board of Supervisors, the County Chief Executive Officer and County departments. The platform is used as guidance and direction for legislative involvement throughout the year. The Legislative Platform includes subject areas such as Legislative Priorities, Legislative Principles and issue areas for the County's legislative efforts.

Identified Legislative Priorities of the State Platform include the negative bailout issue, Property Tax Administration Fee, water policy and economic development/job creation.

The Legislative Principles of the State Platform address areas such as program flexibility, revenues, mandates and financial burdens, regulatory law and legislation changes, economic development, healthcare reform, tax revenue, collaboration and protection of payments. Additional State Legislative Platform items include mental and physical health issues, public safety facilities, Williamson Act, roads and bridges, property tax allocation, environmental regulation and more.

The Federal Legislative Platform addresses significant priorities such as veterans issues, water policy including recycling, enhanced radio operability for public safety, the Tuolumne River Regional Park, roads and bridges and the Valley Family Medicine Residency Program.

The Legislative Platform for 2015 is not "all-inclusive" and does not prohibit Board of Supervisors consideration of additional issues, policies or legislation that may arise throughout the year. The Legislative Platform for 2015 will stay in effect until replaced by the next year's Platform. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is authorized to sign letters of support and opposition on behalf of the Board for those items that are covered specifically, or by the scope or intent, of the current approved Legislative Platform. Also, the Chief Executive Officer, executive leadership and appointed Department Heads are authorized to sign letters of support and opposition, and to

Approval of the Stanislaus County Legislative Platform for 2015

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appropriately advocate for those items that are covered by the scope of the current approved Legislative Platform. In the event of urgency for legislation that is not covered by the current Legislative Platform but would impact the County, the Chief Executive Officer is authorized to direct correspondence in support or opposition as appropriate. These urgency items may then be brought to the Board for consideration for inclusion in the Legislative Platform.

POLICY ISSUES:

The Board of Supervisors should determine if the 2015 Legislative Platform is consistent with their legislative priorities.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There is no staffing impact associated with this item.

CONTACT PERSON: David Jones, Chief Executive Office (209) 525-6333.

STANISLAUS COUNTY
2015 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY
AGENDA



**STANISLAUS COUNTY
2015 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY AGENDA**

**STANISLAUS COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

William O'BrienDistrict 1
Vito Chiesa.....District 2
Terry WithrowDistrict 3
Dick Monteith.....District 4
Jim De MartiniDistrict 5

Stan Risen Chief Executive Officer



Stanislaus County Administrative Offices
1010 Tenth Street, Suite 6800
Modesto, CA 95354
(209) 525-6333

Prepared in Collaboration with Shaw/Yoder/Antwih, Inc., Peterson Consulting, Inc, &
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLC

Stanislaus County 2015 Legislative and Policy Agenda

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Stanislaus County 2015 Legislative Projects and Issues

Stanislaus County Legislative Priorities

The following is a list of legislative priorities approved by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors. Additional projects and priorities are contained in this document. Further legislation and administrative actions also may be added during the 2015 legislative session. The 2015 Legislative Platform will not expire until the passage of the 2016 Legislative Platform.

- **Negative Bailout** - When the State of California enacted enabling legislation (AB 8) following the passage of Proposition 13, counties were supposed to benefit by an infusion of property tax dollars. Stanislaus County is one of five counties that were negatively impacted. Support any action, including legislation, which would provide a complete solution to correct the negative bailout which was a result of Proposition 13 implementing legislation in 1982.
- **Property Tax Administration Fee** - The current structure of the property tax administration fee does not allow counties to fully recover their costs associated with administering the program. Support any budget, legislative or executive action to augment state funding for the property tax administration program.
- **Water Policy** - Support policies that appropriately protect unimpaired river flows for rivers running through Stanislaus County. 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.
- **Economic Development/Job Creation** - Support policies that appropriately promote economic expansion and job growth, including for the development of the Crows Landing Industrial Business Park.



Stanislaus County 2015 Legislative Projects and Issues

Stanislaus County Legislative Principles

The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors supports the principles and policy agenda items set forth below as general, guiding principles for legislative issues impacting Stanislaus County. County staff, including 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 to guide County action on these 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.

- **Prevention** – Support State efforts that address topics such as homelessness, strengthening families, youth early intervention, reducing recidivism and gang reduction by targeting root causes of these 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 requirements, and to reduce or eliminate inappropriate legal or regulatory burden 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 any state revenue reductions to Stanislaus or revenue shifts away from the County including, but not limited to, inappropriate shifting of property tax. Oppose inappropriate increases in fees charged to the County or associated County programs or services.
- **Mandates and Financial Burdens** - Support efforts to lessen financial burdens on counties through legislative, administrative or regulatory action. Support legislation which would relieve local governments from implementing state mandates in the absence of 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, 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 on-going revenues are provided



Stanislaus County 2015 Legislative Projects and Issues

and dedicated exclusively for that purpose. Require the State to reimburse Stanislaus County 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. 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 without an appropriate funding source. Oppose any additional non-urgent regulatory requirements on the County from any organization, agency or entity.
- **Economic Development** - Encourage and seek legislation that facilitates orderly economic expansion and 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 development. Oppose any State actions that would negatively impact economic development in Stanislaus County.
- **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 so as 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.



Stanislaus County 2015 Legislative Projects and Issues

DEPARTMENT ISSUES

Stanislaus County department leadership has identified the following legislative interests, concerns, and proposed actions, based on previous legislative efforts or anticipated proposals:

Assessor

Contact: Don Gaekle, Assessor
(209) 525-6461

1. Support of the Williamson Act

Issue: The Williamson Act is economically and environmentally important to Stanislaus County. There are more than 6,800 properties with more than 547,000 acres under contract in Stanislaus County. For the 2014-2015 tax year, the Williamson Act reduced overall revenue from property taxes by nearly \$12.85 million. The County's share of that would have been \$1.41 million. In the 2009-2010 Budget, the Governor eliminated the subventions, creating significant fiscal hardship for counties like Stanislaus with substantial acreage enrolled in the Act. Had the County received a fully-funded subvention from the State it would have been eligible for \$1.37 million.

Action: Support restoration of subventions to fully fund the loss of property tax as a result of the Williamson Act program. Support legislation and administrative action that would enhance the program and improve the ability of both the State and the County to enforce the Williamson Act contracts through uniform control measures. Oppose any further weakening of the Act.

Auditor-Controller

Contact: Lauren Klein, Auditor-Controller
(209) 525-6398

1. Negative Bailout

Issue: When the State of California enacted enabling legislation following the passage of Proposition 13, counties were supposed to benefit by an infusion of property tax dollars to assist with state mandated health and welfare programs. Stanislaus County and five other counties actually incurred a loss of property tax receipts negatively impacting the county. This so-called "Negative Bailout" is an unfair and unanticipated impact of this legislation. The most current number indicates that Stanislaus County is subsidizing the state approximately \$2 million each year through the "Negative Bailout." More than \$71 million in Negative Bailout funds have been shifted since implementation.

Action: Sponsor/support legislation or any administrative or budget action to end the Negative Bailout and hold Stanislaus County harmless in the implementation of property tax legislation associated with Proposition 13, cap the Negative Bailout or decrease the bailout paid to the State on an annual basis. Support action that would fully compensate Stanislaus County for the negative bailout that has occurred since 1982.

2. Property Tax Allocation – AB 8

Issue: Counties receive an average of 17% of property tax revenues generated within their boundaries. Stanislaus County receives approximately 10% of each tax dollar generated countywide. This is the second smallest number for all counties statewide. These funds are discretionary and are used principally to fund public safety and other vital county services. Addressing this issue would help facilitate an adequate and stable level of services for Stanislaus County.

Action: Support legislation that would appropriately address this inequity.

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

**Contact: Madelyn Schlaepfer, Behavioral Health Director
(209) 525-6225**

1. Protect Funding for Mental Health (MH) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment

Issue: With the 2011 realignment structure, Substance Use Disorder (SUD) is at risk. SUD funding includes an entitlement program (Drug Medi-Cal) that has no provisions to limit or manage services. County allocations are based on the previous year’s utilization. Thus, if demand grows and the County’s realignment allocation for match is exhausted, demands for new funding could increase with no accompanying funds. Mental Health funding for Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) and Managed Care, both entitlements, are now part of the same subaccount. Thus, the source of funding for future years remains uncertain.

Action: Advocate for continued state involvement in compensating for increased cost of entitlements, and for the full funding of the federal maintenance of effort so that federal funds are not cut further. Support legislation or efforts to have counties participate in developing the reimbursement methodology for entitlement funds, e.g., EPSDT and Drug Medi-Cal that implement the federal timeframes when submitting claims for reimbursement.

Advocate for county control of the selection and certification of contractors to provide Drug Medi-Cal services. This may involve a request to the federal government for a 1915(b) waiver of Freedom of Choice. This would provide for local authority to contract only with providers that adhere to quality service standards. This also allows for an assessment of need for additional services in this county. Without this waiver, the county may be obligated to offer contracts to all Drug Medi-Cal certified providers who want a Drug Medi-Cal contract regardless of performance issues or need for a particular type of service. The State has the authority to contract with providers that the county rejects, using Local County funding to pay for the services provided by those contractors. Advocate for fair compensation for administrative costs to assist the state in certifying new providers.

2. Mental Health (MH) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Parity

Issue: Current federal law speaks to parity of Mental Health (MH) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services with general physical health services in health plan coverage. If health plans choose to cover MH and SUD services, they need to do so with the same



Stanislaus County 2015 Legislative Projects and Issues

limitations as they would put on general health services. New federal parity regulations were issued on November 8, 2014, which address some of the County's previous concerns. However, the regulations do not appear to apply to Medi-Cal and Medicare services.

Action: Support legislation which expands the coverage requirement for certain health care service plan contracts and health insurance policies to include the diagnosis and treatment of a mental illness or substance abuse of a person of any age. Advocate for both MH and SUD services to be included as part of the federal parity regulations for Medi-Cal and Medicare.

3. Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) Expansion

Issue: With the Drug Medi-Cal expansion on January 1, 2015, many state and county agencies are identifying service needs and potential savings to their organizations that could be realized if substance use disorder treatment were to expand and become readily available for their Medi-Cal eligible populations. With full Federal funding for these expanded services for the first three years, this would seem to be what the State and counties would want to have happen. Previously, since Drug Medi-Cal is an entitlement and since the match for the federal funds was 50% and since there was less imperative to expand substance use disorder treatment, cost containment strategies were developed at the state agency level. These strategies involved specific procedural restrictions and requirements that made expansion virtually impossible without substantial additional funding. As the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) develops rules and regulations for Drug Medi-Cal expansion, it appears that some of these deliberately restrictive rules and requirements are being retained over the objection of the counties and the County Behavioral Health Directors Association. It appears that DHCS cost containment concerns regarding the small match (up to 10% by 2020) are driving this process, even though the potential savings to the counties and to other state agencies greatly exceeds the relatively minor future costs to this single state department. There may not be full awareness of this dynamic at the top levels of DHCS and at higher state administration levels.

Action: Advocate for and raise awareness for reasonable DHCS Drug Medi-Cal rules and regulations with top DHCS administration and with higher state administrative and legislative levels.

Chief Executive Office

Contact: Stan Risen, Chief Executive Officer
(209) 525-6333

1. Property Tax Administration Fees

Issue: In the past, the State has provided a subvention to counties to assist in paying for the administration of the property tax system. This was an important source of revenue necessary to sustain the property tax program; however, in the final 2005-2006 budget negotiations, the Property Tax Administration Grant program was eliminated. The program has not been funded in any subsequent budget. The current structure of the property tax administration fee does not allow counties to fully recover their costs associated with administering the program. Current property tax administration fee legislation specifically precludes counties from recovering their costs from school districts. This has a significant impact on county discretionary funds which must be diverted to cover these costs. In Fiscal Year 2011 - 2012 these unreimbursed costs totaled nearly \$3.5 million in Stanislaus County. Also, in late 2012 the California State Supreme Court ruled in favor of cities that opposed the use of Triple Flip and VLF Swap property taxes in the calculation of the annual property tax administration fee. Current negative impact to Stanislaus County based on the recent California State Supreme Court decision is an additional loss of \$800,000 annually

Action: Support any appropriate budget, legislative or administrative action to restore funding to the Property Tax Administration Grant program while maintaining local Board of Supervisors discretion for the final allocation of funds.

2. County Jail Expansion, Coroner Facilities & Community Corrections Program (CCP) Funding

Issue: The Stanislaus County Jail and Coroner's Facility need significant expansion and upgrading. Multiple projects are underway to expand facilities and create new space for beds, programs and the Coroner's office. New facilities will be opened in 2016 with additional operating costs. CCP funding is greatly needed as part of a comprehensive strategy for rehabilitation of inmates, and as part of the expansion plan. Current CCP funding does not adequately support all the services that are needed.

Action: Support any budget, legislative or administrative action to appropriately provide funding for the County jail expansion projects and new coroner facilities, including ongoing operations. Support any budget, legislative or administrative actions that

promote timely completion of public safety projects. Support any increases in CCP funding that will benefit public safety and rehabilitation efforts in Stanislaus County.

3. Medi-Cal Payments for Jail Medical Services

Issue: Currently, Stanislaus County uses General Fund dollars to fund the cost of medical, dental, vision and mental health care for inmates. The one possible exception is for patients who are enrolled in Medi-Cal and need inpatient, offsite hospital care. Upon qualification of the inmate, the State can choose to reimburse the hospital and providers for this care in this situation.

Action: Support legislation or administrative action that would provide reimbursement to the County for medical, dental, vision and mental health care for inmates.

4. Levees and Flood Control Issues

Issue: Stanislaus County is home to many levees in need of significant repair and improvement. There are approximately 75-80 miles of levees in the County. Other flood control measures are needed to protect the residents and property of the County. Two solid waste treatment sites in Stanislaus County would pose an immediate health and safety risk to the public if flooding from the San Joaquin River should occur.

Action: Support any budget, legislative or administrative action to provide funding for repairing and upgrading levees and/or to 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.

5. Orestimba Creek Flood Control Project

Issue: Orestimba Creek, on the west side of Stanislaus County, floods and creates millions of dollars of annualized damages to the community with significant negative impact on the local economy, especially the City of Newman.

Action: Support any budget, legislative or administrative action that would appropriately fund the Orestimba Flood Control Project through the Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED) and also construction phases. Support City of Newman efforts to become the Non-Federal Sponsor for Project Engineering and Design (PED) and Construction phases of the US Army Corps of Engineers Orestimba Creek Flood Control Project.



Stanislaus County 2015 Legislative Projects and Issues

6. **Worker's Compensation for Adult Work Program**

Issue: Currently, inmates working and participating in the Alternative Work Program in the County are covered by Workers' Compensation in the event of injury during such participation.

Action: Support legislation that would exclude inmate labor from Workers' Compensation protection for any injury occurring as a participant in the Alternative Work Program. Restore actual earnings as the basis for minimum temporary disability.

7. **Workers' Compensation Scope of Benefits for County Jail Inmates**

Issue: Existing law establishes a Workers' Compensation system, administered by the Administrative Director of the Division of Workers' Compensation that generally requires employers to secure the payment of workers' compensation, including medical treatment, for injuries incurred by their employees sustained in the course of employment. As the law currently is written, counties are required to provide a greater scope of workers' compensation benefits to inmates than are provided to inmates in state penal and correctional institutions.

Action: Support legislative action that would create certain limitations for county prisoners entitled to Workers' Compensation benefits for an injury arising during the course of assigned employment.

8. **Worker's 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. **SB 375 Implementation**

Issue: The principles of SB 375 (Steinberg, 2008) are meant to encourage development that will reduce vehicle miles traveled and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. While these are important goals, they were not accompanied by funding for the local agencies that must implement the law.

Action: Support legislation that will ensure adequate funding to Stanislaus County to implement the tenets of SB 375 that is not a burden to businesses or local government.

10. Jobs and Housing Imbalance

Issue: Stanislaus County has a jobs/housing ratio that is less than the currently accepted standard of 1.5 jobs per housing unit. The current ratio is less than 0.9 jobs per housing unit in Stanislaus County.

Action: Support legislation and administrative rule-making that provides State-funded fiscal incentives and local flexibility to support job creation projects to mitigate the imbalance of jobs and housing.

11. 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 will 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.

12. 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.

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

13. Video Arraignments

Issue: The Stanislaus County Public Safety Center is located four miles from the Stanislaus County Courthouse. The cost of transporting prisoners for arraignment is costly and can be physically dangerous for officers, with the risk of a possible inmate escape or injury being present. Existing law allows rights for certain prisoners as they may choose to be arraigned remotely via video so they do not need to be transported to the Courthouse.

Action: Support legislative or other action that would promote increased use of video arraignment in the county public safety system.

14. Residential Housing Projects

Issue: The Housing Accountability Act, Government Code § 65589.5, limits the ability of local governments to reject proposed affordable housing development projects only if findings are made that (1) “the project would have a specific, adverse impact upon the public health or safety unless the project is disapproved” and (2) “[t]here is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the adverse impact.” Until recently, local governments only made these findings when considering affordable housing projects. However, the Fifth Appellate District in *Honchariw v. Stanislaus County* (F060788) applied §65589.5(j) to a project unrelated to affordable housing. This new judicial requirement imposes a high burden for local government to deny residential housing projects that are unrelated to affordable housing, such as ranchettes and “McMansion” type projects.

Action: Support amendment of Government Code §65589.5 to clarify that it is only applicable to affordable housing projects.

15. 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.

16. Targeted Enforcement of Disadvantaged Communities

Issue: The State legislature has made attempts to pass laws and regulations that would cause negative impact to low income communities and communities of color. Stanislaus County is desperately in need of jobs and economic development. Actions that would target enforcement of businesses in underserved communities by doubling fines in these areas are unjust, do not promote good public policy and negatively impact economic development in these areas.

Action: Oppose legislation or other programs that single out disadvantaged communities with more stringent regulations and excessive fines that can negatively impact economic development and the well-being of the local community. Ensure that

funding that is targeted to help disadvantaged communities, is directed to disadvantaged communities, especially in the Central Valley.

17. 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.

18. Water Policy

Issue: Water is a precious commodity for Stanislaus County with rivers and reservoirs a vital part of the water supply system.

Action: Oppose any law or regulation that inappropriately increases unimpaired flows or that does not appropriately address non-flow alternatives. Support policies that appropriately protect unimpaired river flows for rivers running through Stanislaus County. Support the relicensing of the Don Pedro Project.

19. Cap-and-Trade Regulations

Issue: While required to comply with AB 32's greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements, cities and counties have not been provided ample funding opportunities to compete for funds to reduce emissions. Counties operate a significant number of 24-hour facilities and have an immense opportunity to make strides locally to comply with the law if real and robust funding categories are made available to counties. It also appears likely that a post-2020 emission reduction goal will be discussed in the 2015-16 Legislative session. The Stanislaus Waste to Energy plant is a green facility and should be exempted from any solid waste facility regulations pertaining to Cap-and-Trade.

Action: Support significant and robust funding opportunities for counties to implement local GHG emission-reduction programs. Ensure that local public agencies are not disadvantaged as legislation and regulation is developed to disseminate cap-and-trade funds. Advocate that the WTE facility be exempted from any solid waste facility

regulation in Cap-and-Trade. Coordinate with other stakeholders to monitor any proposal that would negatively impact the facility.

20. Crows Landing Industrial Business Park

Issue: The Crows Landing Business Park presents enormous potential for economic development, offering approximately 370 acres of airport and another 900 acres of possible logistics/industrial/business park. The County has identified that approximately \$28 million in initial investment for infrastructure is needed in order to facilitate economic development; however, there is no readily available assistance that the County can apply for to initiate this development.

Action: Seek out all available resources that the County can access to secure these needed funds. Support budget, grants, legislative or administrative action that would assist in successful completion of the project.

21. 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 the majority of 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.

22. Veterans Services

Issue: Stanislaus County and the surrounding area are home to a large number of veterans. State funding and programming has lagged behind the growing need of this population. The large number of veterans sharing similar needs has established the need for a veterans one-stop facility for services in the community.

Action: Seek out a permanent and increased source of funding for veterans. Establish and nurture a local network of services for veterans. Support budget, grants, legislative, administrative action or other efforts that would assist in successful completion of the veterans one-stop facility.



Stanislaus County 2015 Legislative Projects and Issues

Child Support Services

Contact: Tamara Thomas, Director
(209) 558-3062

1. Changes to Child Support Orders, Modifications and Arrears Payments

Issue: Incarceration and involuntary institutionalization can often impact the ability of a person to make child support payments at their ordered amount. Reduction of support amount during these periods of time, if appropriate, can be sound policy unless certain factors are in place such as the obligor has the ability to continue with payments or was incarcerated or involuntarily institutionalized for any offense constituting domestic violence or failure to comply with a court order to pay child support. California's high amount of uncollectable arrears on cases where the incarceration of parents resulted in continued accrual of monthly child support has hurt the child support program's ability to earn federal incentive dollars. Incentive dollars are critical to reinvesting revenue back into the child support program.

Action: Support an extension of the expiration for Section 4007.5 of the Family Code, set to expire on July 1, 2015, which allows for the suspension of support payments based on certain criteria while incarcerated or involuntarily institutionalized. Support code changes to allow modifications of orders to reflect dollar amounts that promote individual and family responsibility, while not penalizing Counties and the State for unrealistic performance standards. Support clean up language in the Family Code to allow Local Child Support Agencies (LCSAs) to administratively address suspension of support during times of incarceration.



Stanislaus County 2015 Legislative Projects and Issues

Clerk of the Board

Contact: Christine Ferraro-Tallman, Clerk of the Board
(209) 525-6333

1. Brown Act Changes

Issue: Changes in the law regarding Closed Meeting regulations (Brown Act) or public records can impact the Clerk of the Board operations.

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

2. 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.

Community Services Agency

Contact: Kathy Harwell, Director
209-558-2520

1. Increase Medi-Cal Allocation/Funding

Issue: The allocation for the administration of the Medi-Cal program is based on antiquated budgeting methodologies and has been held at the same level for several years.

Action: Increase Medi-Cal funding and provide a new budgeting methodology for determining allocations to the counties.

2. Establish Protective Orders for Victims of Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse

Issue: There are no protective orders available to adequately prevent victims of elder and dependent adult abuse. Until a criminal case is filed, or a temporary conservatorship is in place, County agencies must rely on protective orders that are not adapted to the unique issues of adult abuse. Those protective orders include an Emergency Protective Order (EPO) or a restraining order (e.g. TRO, PRO); however, those orders are mainly designed to prevent physical harm as in domestic violence or physical abuse. In the case of restraining orders, it presumes the victim's ability to initiate the request. However, many elder abuse cases are not the result of domestic violence or physical abuse and the victim is often unable or unwilling to advocate on their own behalf. Lack of access to financial information and financial protective intervention measures are among the biggest existing holes in the tools for APS agencies. Situations have occurred where bank accounts and even homes are stolen out from under incapacitated or hospitalized elders and dependent adults. In those situations, social workers and law enforcement officers are not able to put protective orders in place to keep the victim from further abuse. Current protective orders are inadequate to protect victims of elder or dependent adult abuse or those that are at serious risk of abuse.

Action: Add "county adult protective services agencies" to Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 15657.03 (a) (2)

(2) A petition may be brought on behalf of an abused elder or dependent adult by a conservator or a trustee of the elder or dependent adult, a **county adult protective services agency**, an attorney-in-fact of an elder or dependent adult who acts within the authority of the power of attorney, a person appointed as a guardian ad litem for the elder or dependent adult, or other person legally authorized to seek such relief.



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Add financial abuse to WIC 15657.03 (b) (3) (A)

(3) “Protective order” means an order that includes any of the following restraining orders, whether issued ex parte, after notice and hearing, or in a judgment: (A) An order enjoining a party from **financially abusing, physically abusing**, intimidating, molesting, attacking, striking, stalking, threatening, sexually assaulting, battering, harassing, telephoning, including, but not limited to, making annoying telephone calls as described in Section 653m of the Penal Code, destroying personal property, contacting, either directly or indirectly, by mail or otherwise, or coming within a specified distance of, or disturbing the peace of, the petitioner, and, in the discretion of the court, on a showing of good cause, of other named family or household members or a conservator, if any, of the petitioner.

Amend 15657.03 (c)

*(c) An order may be issued under this section, with or without notice, to restrain any person for the purpose of preventing a recurrence of **physical, financial, emotional, or other** abuse, if a declaration shows, to the satisfaction of the court, reasonable proof of a past act or acts of abuse of the petitioning elder or dependent adult.*

Amend to WIC 15657.03 (d)

(d) Upon filing a petition for protective orders under this section, the petitioner may obtain a temporary restraining order in accordance with Section 527 of the Code of Civil Procedure, except to the extent this section provides a rule that is inconsistent. The temporary restraining order may include any of the protective orders described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b). However, the court may issue an ex parte order excluding a party from the petitioner’s residence or dwelling only on a showing of all of the following:

(1) Facts sufficient for the court to ascertain that the party who will stay in the dwelling has a right under color of law to possession of the premises.

(2) That the party to be excluded has **physically or financially** assaulted or threatens to **physically or financially** assault the petitioner, other named family or household member of the petitioner, or a conservator of the petitioner.

(3) That physical, **financial** or emotional harm would otherwise result to the petitioner, other named family or household member of the petitioner, or a conservator of the petitioner.

3. **Establish Monthly Data Reports Regarding Psychotropic Drug Medication for Foster Youth.**

Issue: There is increasing awareness as to the possible overutilization of psychotropic medications for youth and children in foster care. Legislation is needed that would provide child welfare services social workers with the data, information and tools



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necessary to provide appropriate oversight of these treatments for the children in their care.

Action: Seek legislation that would require, at a minimum, all of the following:

- 1) The development by the California Department of Social Services and California Department of Health Care Services of monthly data reports, matching prescription and claims data with child welfare services records, that shall be shared with counties, the courts, children's attorneys and court-appointed advocates for children.
- 2) The development of a system that triggers an alert to the practitioners receiving the data reports when potentially dangerous interactions could occur with other prescribed medications or when psychotropic medications have been prescribed, or prescribed in dosages that are unusual for a child or a child of that age.
- 3) Updates to the JV-220 court form to provide opportunities for key stakeholders, including the child for whom medication is being prescribed, to provide information and feedback and to provide details on the overall mental health treatment plan for the child.
- 4) Training for physicians, child welfare social workers, foster children, caregivers, attorneys and court appointed advocates for children regarding psychotropic medications.

4. Eliminate the Maximum Family Grant Rule in the CalWORKs Program

Issue: The Maximum Family Grant (MFG) rule is putting children and families at risk. The purpose of the MFG rule was to reduce the number of children born to recipients of CalWORKs. The number of children born to CalWORKs recipients has not decreased. Based on data from the CA 237 CW from the year 2000 through 2006, the State average remains at 2 children per open case. The rule is harming MFG children and their families by pushing the families further into poverty. The Maximum Family Grant rule makes poor children poorer by reducing the income of families with infants to below 30 percent of the federal poverty level. Eliminating the MFG rule is necessary to protect infants born to families receiving CalWORKs from experiencing lifelong cognitive impairments due to the toxic stress of deep poverty and to ready those children for participation in California's public school system.

Action: Eliminate the Maximum Family Grant rule in the CalWORKs program.



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5. **Increase Statewide Adult Protective Services (APS) Training Budget:**

Issue: Training for APS workers and their partner agencies inadequate. State funds allocated by the CDSS for statewide APS training have remained static for 10 years. Many APS cases are complex and require coordination with other agencies to protect the victims and their assets. In addition, case numbers are increasing, with financial abuse cases alone rising 41% between 2009 and 2013 in California (SOC 242 APS Monthly Statistical Report - www.dss.ca.gov). It is imperative that APS workers receive comprehensive training so that they may provide elder and dependent adult victims of abuse with the same types of essential services that our child abuse victims receive.

Action: Augment APS Training funding to provide the following:

- 1) Increase staffing and support for training academies infrastructure and increase training deliveries by the training academies, including: increase regional coordinator from one part-time per region to one full-time per Region 8, increase core competency training deliveries (from 5 to 12 days per region), establish a Supervisors Training Academy, and establish advanced training curriculum and delivery four days per year for current staff.
- 2) Provide funding to support APS staff time to attend trainings. This includes training for new APS social workers (12 days), new APS supervisors (7 days) and on-going/advanced training (4 days per year).
- 3) Provide support for the training and education certification requirements for county public administrators, public guardians and public conservators, coordinating curriculum and training with APS training where possible.
- 4) Conduct an APS caseload study through subcontract with the Regional Training Academy (RTA) to identify casework practices, staffing levels and training needs to support practice.
- 5) Coordinate quarterly, in-person Mandated Reporter trainings to be provided in each region, on an annual basis.
 - a. Develop and implement a Mandated Reporter online (“on demand”) training to include: (1) eLearning course with foundational content tailored to different professions and (2) A Mandated Reporter mobile app with key tools and resources for “real time” reference.

6. **Increase Resources for Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention**

Issue: 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



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parents. There are currently several State initiatives that rely on having an adequate supply of quality foster parents to reduce use of group home care and increase permanency for children and families, including Katie A and the Continuum of Care Reform effort. Many counties are attempting 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).

Action: Augment County foster parent recruitment, retention and support to enable counties to implement strategies to increase the supply and availability of high quality foster parents. This will enable the State to meet its legislative and court-mandated requirements to reduce the use of group home care. In addition, high quality foster parents who are prepared and supported are better able to meet the needs of foster children, which will improve child and family outcomes and help the state to meet federal outcome and accountability requirements and potentially avoid federal fiscal sanctions.



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Environmental Resources/Parks and Recreation

Contact: Jami Aggers, Director
(209) 525-6770

1. Park System

Issue: Stanislaus County has a master plan for development of park facilities in the County. 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, budget, legislative or administrative action to provide funding for the improvement and development of County parks, including the Tuolumne River Regional Park.

2. Off Highway Vehicle Parks

Issue: Stanislaus County operates two Off Highway Vehicle Parks utilizing State Grant funds. Operations would be severely reduced without grant funding.

Action: Support any budget, legislative or administrative action to provide continued grant funding for Off Highway Vehicle Parks. Oppose efforts to reduce funding and/or any transfer of local assistance funds to State Parks from the Off Highway Vehicle Trust Fund.

3. 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 (GHG) 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 GHG reductions to include landfills into the Cap-and-Trade program.



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4. **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.

5. **Increasing the State Solid Waste Diversion Mandate to 75%**

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 reduced, recycled or composted. The law directs the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to develop a plan detailing the strategies to achieve this goal and submit the report to the Legislature.

There are concerns that the measuring metric on defining the 75% policy goal is based on "recycling" rather than "diversion." Doing so goes above and beyond the language of AB 341 as approved by the Legislature. From the inception of AB 341 until the day it was signed into law, the subject heading of the bill has always been "Solid Waste Diversion" and at no time throughout the legislative process was the term "diversion" ever replaced with the term "recycling." The bill neither intended nor expressly stated a paradigm shift in how the 75% goal was to be measured. The plan clearly deviates from the accounting procedures set in the existing California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939).

A new law passed in September will phase out diversion credits for green waste used as Alternate Daily Cover (ADC) in landfills beginning on January 1, of 2020. Although the 10% diversion credit allowed for transformation facilities was not included in this legislation it will not be counted for purposes of meeting the 75% recycling goal. Another bill passed by the legislature requires commercial businesses to arrange for recycling services for organic waste. The new law begins on April 1st of 2016 for businesses generating 8 cubic yards of organic waste per week. The following year it requires businesses generating four yards of organic waste per week to arrange for recycling services. These types of legislation are troubling to the County. As diversion credits are crucial for the local governments in meeting their 50% diversion mandated by AB 939, the credits must be protected.

Also, Stanislaus County invested millions of dollars to build a transformation facility. Providing employment to about 50 full time employees, the Stanislaus Waste-to-Energy



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Facility serves local communities by processing and 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, Stanislaus County will be forced to make significant additional investments in infrastructure and programs to replace the diversion credits lost, which currently is not feasible. This will be a significant financial burden on the County and will have potential to increase disposal fees at the existing facilities which will need to be passed on to the garbage rates of residents and businesses of Stanislaus County.

Action: The 75% recycling goal should remain a State target and not become a mandate. Strongly oppose any legislation which seeks to mandate the statewide 75% recycling goal.

7. 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.

8. 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



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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.

9. **CalRecycle Clean-up Grants**

Issue: The clean-up of large-scale local nuisance (disposal) sites are beyond the scope of what traditional code enforcement clean-up efforts can afford. Expansion of grant funds from CalRecycle is needed to support these efforts.

Action: Support increased funding and the flexibility for CalRecycle to make available the maximum amount that is allowed for Illegal Disposal Site Clean-ups (a maximum of \$500,000) that may be associated with large-scale local nuisance sites including abandoned properties.

10. **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 (CaRecycle) is the Enforcement Agency.

11. **Extended Producer Responsibility**

Issue: Local jurisdictions are shouldering an ever-increasing cost for the disposal of "Universal Wastes" which are toxic and hazardous substances such as batteries, pharmaceuticals, and fluorescent tubes that are banned from the landfill but have no other convenient disposal method. Presently, local governments are paying an increasing cost for disposal of Universal Wastes, while the manufacturers and distributors share no burden or responsibility for the costly disposal. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation would place the responsibility for free and convenient disposal of these and other problematic products back on the manufacturers and remove



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this cost and logistical burden from local governments. CalRecycle previously adopted Strategic Directive No. 5 seeking to establish legislation supporting “cradle to grave” producer responsibility and analyzing various approaches to EPR.

Action: Support legislation that implements EPR principles and removes the cost burden for disposal of products containing Universal Wastes from local governments.

12. **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 is likely to be very expensive and, as of this writing, no financial assistance from the state has been identified. Furthermore, if 2015 is another dry or below normal precipitation water year, there likely will be additional legislation proposed to address the ongoing drought and other water supply issues in the state.

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.

13. **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 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 and, in particular, the notion of groundwater recharge as a legally defensible “beneficial use” of water in the state.



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14. California Integrated Waste Management Board Diversion Credits

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.

15. DER 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. The customers of the programs the County regulates prefer the County to manage these programs. 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.



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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.



Stanislaus County 2015 Legislative Projects and Issues

Health Services Agency

Contact: Mary Ann Lee, Managing Director
(209) 558-7163

1. Medically Indigent Adults – H&S Section 17000

Issue: There continues to be financial exposure to the Stanislaus County General Fund for the Medically Indigent Adult program obligations. These obligations vary by county due to the vagueness in the law and the subsequent litigation which targeted only some counties, including Stanislaus. With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act's Medi-Cal Expansion and the passage of AB 85, there will be fewer indigents under the Counties' obligation; however, there will be significantly fewer dollars to fund that residual obligation.

Action: Advocate for legislation and/or administrative policy which aligns adequate funding to the county's obligations under the law, including case law.

2. Certified Public Expenditures

Issue: Despite the passage of AB 959 in 2006, it still has not been implemented. It did, however, receive Federal approval in August of 2012. If and when implemented, AB 959 would expand the provisions of current law to allow Stanislaus County access to funds available for non-hospital based clinic services and provide supplemental Medi-Cal reimbursements for some of Stanislaus County's non-Federally Qualified Health Center outpatient clinic services.

Action: Advocate for the implementation of AB 959.

3. Non-categorical Funding for Mandates

Issue: Infrastructure is required for emergency preparedness. Stanislaus County needs financial resources to support active surveillance, training and coordination, for pre-event mandates from the State and Federal Governments, and for any major disaster or disease pandemic.

Action: Support State and Federal legislation for non-categorical funding to address individual county issues and mandates (e.g., pandemic flu, emerging diseases, smallpox pre-event vaccination plan). Support adequate funding for counties like Stanislaus that will serve displaced residents in the event of an emergency that displaces large numbers of Californians.



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4. **Funding for Public Health Services, Infrastructure and Workforce**

Issue: In the absence of adequate funding through Realignment, there are few funds to provide for Public Health infrastructure, chronic disease prevention, communicable disease data collection and community health efforts. Additionally, administrative changes to program policy such as claiming for Medi-Cal Administrative Activities/Targeted Case Management threaten financial viability and program effectiveness.

Action: Support legislation to assure the funding and infrastructure needs of the County's Public Health Services. Monitor any legislation or administrative policy change that alters realignment funds and/or other program funding. Also, monitor health reform to ensure public health needs are adequately, appropriately and equitably addressed with adequate funding to carry out mandates and responsibilities.

5. **Improved Efficiency and Effectiveness in Public Health**

Issue: There are administrative and program policies which result in costly administration and services delivery for both the State and the counties. Two specific examples include individual contracts for each scope of work rather than a consolidated contract, and California Children's Services (CCS) program model. Additionally, the CCS program passes a portion of utilization risk to the counties while the State controls factors which influence utilization and who can be determined eligible. Closely monitor discussions/activities at the State as the 2013 budget proposal suggested future realignment of CCS to the State.

Action: Support legislation and administrative policy change which improves efficiency and preserves quality and effectiveness. Support changes to the CCS system which more closely aligns spending authority with funding and risk exposure, and which provides service delivery in the most cost effective manner. Closely monitor any proposed realignment changes which could include realignment of CCS to the State.

6. **Expanded Access to Healthcare with Adequate Funding, Efficiency and Quality Improvement**

Issue: There is need for policy and administrative change to expand access to health care services in California and which adequately provides funding for the providers of healthcare. Strategic policy change would invest in prevention and outpatient care, support efficient and effective utilization management, and which in aggregate would reduce the exposure to more costly inpatient and emergency room care.



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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. Negative impacts could include unfunded or under-funded mandates or 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.

In health reform solutions, the safety net care system needs adequate funding, public 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.

7. **Health Professional Shortages**

Issue: There is a regional shortage of physicians, nurses 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, including support of the proposed UC Merced Medical School and adequate funding for physician graduate medical education. Support the team-based Patient Center Medical Homes in the primary care setting, to extend the effective capacity of each of primary care physician.

8. **Information Technology**

Issue: There is a need for improved information technology in the outpatient clinic setting, in public health and in the area of data exchange with other healthcare entities. 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 for outpatient clinics and public health, including a community-wide Health Information Exchange.



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9. **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, there is a new effort to consider the use of first responders in case management follow-up of patients to improve health outcomes and reduce unnecessary utilization of the healthcare system.

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. Monitor initiatives regarding case management follow-up of post-emergency patients, advocate for initiatives which support the federal Triple Aim concept of improved health outcomes, improved health access and systems, and lower healthcare costs.



Stanislaus County 2015 Legislative Projects and Issues

Planning and Community Development

Contact: Angela Freitas, Director
(209) 525-6330

1. Williamson Act Funding

Issue: The Williamson Act subvention from the State of California has been eliminated.

Action: Support budget, legislative or administrative action that would restore full funding of the Williamson Act subvention or similar program, including the use of cap and trade funds. Support legislation in the near-term which grants counties the ability to use alternative methods to recover lost subventions, while simultaneously pursuing restored funding to the Act through the budget process.

2. Williamson Act Reform

Issues: Counties face various challenges administering the Williamson Act. In the early years of the Act, landowners were able to sign up for the Williamson Act without regard to a minimum parcel requirement. Currently, there is a minimum parcel size for lands to be enrolled; ten acres for “prime land” and 40 acres for “non-prime land.” The county has numerous parcels that do not meet the minimum parcel size and derive no benefit from the contract, which results in problems and possible breaches of the Act.

The Act includes very specific findings required for the approval of lot line adjustments and a process for rescinding and reentering contracts in order to facilitate lot line adjustments. The recession/reentry process, however, must be approved by the Board of Supervisors with no option to delegate approval to another decision making body or staff. While over the years these approvals have become very routine in nature the process of presenting each request to the Board of Supervisors adds time and cost to the lot line adjustment process.

Action: Support potential statutory changes to the Williamson Act that will assist counties with their administrative responsibilities. Support incentives to land owners to remain in the program, if incentives do not financially harm the County. Seek an amendment to the Williamson Act which would provide that any property less than ten acres which is under Williamson Act contract and has not had any monetary benefit from the contract for ten years be allowed out of the contract without penalty. Allow cancellation for non-compliant parcels and direct the cancellation fees to the County. Allow for an alternative approval process for contract recession/reentry allowing for the Board of Supervisors to delegate the authority for approval.



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3. **Provide Local Control of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation Process**

Issue: Under California Housing Element Law, Councils of Governments (COGs) are responsible to develop and approve a Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA); however the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) must ultimately approve the RHNA and certify individual housing elements. Local coordination with HCD has historically been difficult and HCD has proven inflexible and impractical in their housing needs expectations for the Central Valley. HCD's housing targets have historically been higher than actual population growth and are inconsistent with local population growth projections that are the foundation of the region's planning efforts.

Passage of SB 375 now ties the upcoming fifth RHNA cycle to the local Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)/Regional Transportation Planning (RTP) process. An inconsistency between locally accepted population growth projections and HCD housing targets increases the risk of litigation, loss of funding, and forces the unnecessary allocation of land and infrastructure resources towards residential and away from efforts to attain a jobs-housing balance.

Action: Support legislation requiring the use of local population growth projections established by the COGs for development of the RHNA housing numbers which allows local jurisdictions to self-certify their housing elements, and eliminates ties to housing element certification for receipt of any State funding.



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Probation

Contact: Jill Silva, Chief Probation Officer
(209) 525-5400

1. Division of Juvenile Justice

Issue: The Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) houses juvenile offenders who have committed serious or violent crimes and are a high-risk population. The legislature, through the enactment of SB 81 in 2007, narrowed the focus of juvenile offenders that were eligible for commitment to DJJ. Since that time, Probation has worked with the state on juvenile reforms, which resulted in fewer youth being committed to DJJ. Additionally, Probation has taken over supervision of those paroled youth after February 1, 2010. Further reductions to DJJ were included in the Fiscal Year 2011-12 budget trigger cuts which would have required counties to pay an annual rate of \$125,000 for every youthful offender committed to DJJ. The Governor later included closure of DJJ in his Fiscal Year 2012-13 Proposed Budget. The Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) came out in full force and prevailed in opposing the closure of DJJ and partially prevailed in reducing the amount of fees for DJJ commitments. DJJ will remain open for now and the fees have been reduced to \$24,000 per youthful offender committed to DJJ after July 1, 2012. The state has a necessary role to play in the juvenile justice system and Stanislaus County would have great difficulty finding appropriate facilities and programs for these offenders who are the highest risk and highest need, if we were forced to absorb them back into our existing system. It is critical that DJJ remain a viable commitment option and that counties not be required to pay more than the current fee structure. Increases to fees would further impact counties' funding for prevention and intervention programs that are designed to prevent youth from escalating further into the criminal justice system.

Action: Oppose any legislation that requires increased fees or closure of the Division of Juvenile Justice.

2. Title IV-E Funding

Issue: Recent decisions by the Federal Government regarding billing for Title IV-E activities could imperil critical funding sources for juvenile justice probation activities.

Action: Encourage Policies and Funding that Support a Strong Juvenile Services System. Maximize and protect federal revenue resources such as Title IV-E and Medical Administrative Activity (MAA).



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Public Works

**Contact: Matt Machado, Director
(209) 525-4153**

1. Transportation Funding

Issue: Transportation infrastructure funding primarily comes from state and federal gas taxes, with tax rates last established more than 20 years ago. The buying power of this revenue has steadily declined over this same period. Additionally, consumption has gone down due to more efficient and electric vehicles. This declining source of revenue needs to be maximized while new funding sources are developed.

Action: There are three actions needed to keep transportation revenue stable in the near term:

- **Transportation Tax Swap Clean-Up: New Highway Users Tax Account (HUTA) for Off Highway Vehicle (OHV).** Seek coalition to support the return of the new HUTA revenues attributable to OHV fuel sales to counties, cities, and the State as intended under the Transportation Tax Swap. This share of funds is approximately \$128 million annually statewide and approximately \$28 million for counties.
- **Return Weight Fee Revenues to Transportation.** Work with Transportation coalition partners to consider means of returning nearly \$1 billion in truck weight fee revenues to transportation purposes. Weight fees have been used to backfill general fund debt service payments for general obligation bonds since the Tax Swap. Restoring weight fee revenues to transportation through a phased-in approach and/or securing another source of revenue to pay for transportation related bond debt service will avoid imposing massive costs on the general fund at the expense of other County programs.
- **MAP 21 Reauthorization.** Advocate for the reauthorization of MAP 21, which was set to expire on September 30, 2014, but which was subsequently extended through May 2015. Consistent with the new policies, advocate on behalf of California's transportation needs, especially the needs of the county road system during the new authorization of the federal surface transportation funding act, including shoring up the Highway Trust Fund, dedicating funding for all local bridge projects, increased funding for safety programs, and securing a "CEQA for NEPA" reciprocity Program.



Stanislaus County 2015 Legislative Projects and Issues

2. Stormwater Regulations

Issue: The State Water Resources Control Board controls and periodically changes permit requirements for Small Municipal Separate Storm Water Systems (MS4s). The permit changed in 2013 and has become more expensive to implement. New proposals will add additional measures to regulate trash in stormwater, costing millions to implement. There are two tracks to compliance and only one is guaranteed to shield the agency from trash fines and/or lawsuits - that is to provide full trash capture on all seventeen (17) outfalls that discharge to the rivers.

Action: Support storm water and urban runoff regulation which cost-effectively protects the environment and local communities and provides appropriate funding for implementation. Oppose new regulations which create unfunded mandates, are not cost-effective or place an undue financial burden on the local community.

3. Road Construction Projects

Issue: McHenry Corridor (Ladd to San Joaquin County Line), West Main Street Widening Project, State Route 132, State Route 219, Claribel Widening Project and the North County Corridor Project serve, or will serve, as primary transportation roadways and corridors for Stanislaus County residents. These important projects are needed for the assurance of a quality road system for the County. In addition, Highway 132 needs to be added to the interregional improvement plan via legislation.

Action: Support any budget, legislative or administrative action to provide funding for the successful completion of the road projects and their phases. Sponsor and support legislation that will include Highway 132 in the interregional improvement plan.



Stanislaus County 2015 Legislative Projects and Issues

Sheriff

Contact: Adam Christianson, Sheriff
(209) 525-7216

1. Court Security

Issue: The Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department is responsible for court security services in the Stanislaus Superior Court. The Sheriff, as directed by Government Code 69926 with the approval and authorization of the Board of Supervisors, enters into a memorandum of understanding with the Superior Court for court security services. Furthermore, Assembly Bill 118 Chapter 6.3 Section 3005 (f) (3) requires the monies in the Trial Court Security Account be used exclusively to fund court security provided by the County Sheriff. No general county administrative costs may be charged for court security services. Currently the general fund is forced to subsidize these services by over \$200,000 on an annual basis.

Action: Support any budget, legislative or administrative action to provide Stanislaus County full cost recovery for court security services.



Stanislaus County 2015 Legislative Projects and Issues

2015 Federal Legislative Projects

Project Funding:

Stanislaus County Public Safety Radio Interoperability: \$6 million

Stanislaus County representatives are seeking \$6 million in funding to help obtain public safety equipment for regional law enforcement and homeland security needs. The requested funding would be used in ongoing efforts to build out an interoperability solution for the Highway 99 corridor from Modesto to Turlock. Funding will be used to replace twenty-five (25) 9-1-1 center dispatch consoles with P25 systems which would link the Dispatch Centers in Modesto, Turlock and Ceres. Six additional P25 linear trunking transmitter sites would be installed to expand county-wide coverage.

Crows Landing Industrial Business Park: \$28 million

Infrastructure funding for site development is needed for Phase 1a of the Crows Landing Industrial Business Park. Funding would be used for basic road, sewer and water infrastructure for the first 200 acres of the development. Phase 1a would provide for the first five years of the site build out.

Tuolumne River Regional Park (TRRP): \$1.8 million

\$1.8 million will provide for development of a two-lane access road in the TRRP Gateway Parcel, including a Finding of Conformance to the existing Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR), creation of Construction Documents with construction of approximately 2,300 feet of local access roadway within the Gateway Parcel a gateway connection to 10th Street and a Pedestrian Bridge over Dry Creek.

North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program (NVRWP): \$25 million

The Cities of Modesto, Turlock and Ceres, and the Del Puerto Water District are seeking an initial \$25 million in funding to develop and establish the North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program (NVRWP). The total estimated cost for all program projects is \$100 million. Funding would allow NVRWP the ability to provide 32,900 acre-feet per year of recycled water to the drought-impacted west side of Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties. This provides enough water to irrigate 10,966 acres of prime agricultural land, restore 572 jobs, generate \$29 million in total annual income, and provide \$67.5 million in total annual economic output to an area with historically twice the national unemployment rate.

Veterans One-Stop Facility:

Stanislaus County is working on a public/private collaboration for the development of a facility that consolidates services such as counseling, medical referrals, transportation, meeting space, education and training programs, Veterans Administration and California



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Veterans benefits coordination. The facility would include an assembly hall, kitchen and serving facilities for meetings and banquets and business meeting space.



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Federal Legislative Policy Items 2015

(not in rank order)

Affordable Care Act

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) imposes a 40 percent excise tax (Cadillac tax) on high-cost group health coverage for taxable years beginning in 2018. The intent of the excise tax was to slow the rate of growth of health costs. Unfortunately, the tax disproportionately impacts public entities. The following information outlines the top issues facing Stanislaus County and other governmental agencies as the Cadillac tax draws closer to implementation:

1. State and local governments typically offer more expensive plans than private business, and to maintain these benefits, government employees tend to receive less in wages. This tendency means that government employees will likely be disproportionately represented among those whose plans will be adversely affected by the “Cadillac Tax.”
2. Typically, health insurance plans are more expensive for smaller agencies, agencies with older or more expensive (less healthy) employees and agencies with employees in high-risk professions (e.g., public safety). As such, these agencies pay more for similar health plans than larger agencies, or agencies with younger, healthier employees in lower risk professions. This paradox means that smaller agencies, or those agencies with an aging or sicker workforce, will be disproportionately impacted by the “Cadillac tax” and will likely have to reduce benefits even further (in comparison to larger group agencies or younger, healthier employees) even though they tend to need more health benefits.
3. Health Savings Account (HSA) contributions made by employees should not be included in calculating the taxable health plan benefit for “Cadillac tax” purposes, because employers do not control employee contributions; however, the tax does impact employers. As such, employers will be unjustly penalized if employees contribute money into their HSAs.
4. The ACA definition of a full-time employee as someone who works on average 30 or more hours per week is inconsistent with a number of state and federal labor laws, as well as traditional employment practices. The current definition places an undue burden on governmental agencies that have operational needs to hire part-time (less than 40 hours per week) employees but cannot afford to provide “full-time” health care benefits. The likely outcome from the current ACA definition of full-time is less employment of employees working less than 40 hours per week and fewer resources for public services.



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5. State and local governmental agencies must rein in skyrocketing health costs or face the massive cost of the excise tax, which would cause severe financial problems thereby threatening governmental jobs, public services, and employee compensation. As such, most governmental agencies impacted by the “Cadillac Tax” will begin to offer lower-level health plan benefits to employees to avoid the tax, such as larger deductibles and higher co-pay plans, which means that people who tend to be more sick will absorb more healthcare costs.
6. For most state and local governmental agencies, employee benefits are determined through collective bargaining, which means that addressing the impact of the “Cadillac tax” will likely lead to contentious concessions affecting health insurance benefits and create additional labor relations issues.
7. There is little guidance from federal agencies, such as the Internal Revenue Service, on the Cadillac tax. As a result, there is a general lack of information and understanding on the effects of the tax which makes it difficult for employers and labor groups to plan and bargain.
8. Employers are faced with a difficult compliance conundrum of providing affordable healthcare that meets minimum essential coverage while at the same time ensuring that those health plans do not implement the “Cadillac tax.” As such, employers are diverting important resources away from actual healthcare programs to ensure complex compliance measures are followed.

Support appropriate reforms to the Affordable Care Act which recognize the multiple factors influencing the cost of health plans including participant health status, age, professional job risk, cost of living factors, regional disease/health status, and the inherent higher cost of public agency benefit plans. Consider exemption of public entities, tax modifications for public entities, and/or incorporating the recognition of key factors of cost differences for public agencies, geographical locations, and extension of the 2018 deadline. Support changes that would no longer penalize employers for employee contributions to Health Savings Accounts. Support reforms that change the definition of a full-time employee from 30 hours to 40 hours to comport to other State and Federal labor laws and traditional employment practices.

Behavioral Health Recovery Services

Behavioral health services continue to be under-funded at the federal and state levels. Support efforts to provide adequate funding for behavioral health needs in Stanislaus County.



Stanislaus County 2015 Legislative Projects and Issues

City/County Islands

Stanislaus County has identified more than 25 city/county islands that have infrastructure needs. The County is working with local cities to create a strategy for continuing to improve infrastructure in these islands. Support any efforts that would assist the County's attempt to improve infrastructure in these islands.

Department of Labor Statistical Tracking

Currently, the Department of Labor's (DOL) Workforce Investment Act (WIA) unemployment and mass layoff statistics do not include agricultural workers, forestry personnel, fishermen, and government workers. Stanislaus County supports inclusion of these statistics for the formula based funding allocations and Migrant Seasonal Farm Worker funds. Non-inclusion of these personnel could negatively impact the County.

Waste-to-Energy /Alternative Energy

Waste-to-Energy (WTE) is a renewable energy source that needs appropriate inclusion and recognition in legislation. Stanislaus County partners in an extremely environmentally clean energy-from-waste plant that diverts more than 50% of waste from the landfill into the plant. The County is very concerned with legislative attempts to revise the definition of a solid waste facility. Legislation has been introduced in the U.S. Senate to create a national Renewable Energy Standard (RES). The current legislation specifically excludes WTE from the RES program. Supporters of WTE want to make sure that future legislation allows the anthropogenic portion of the waste stream to qualify as renewable. Without this fix, only two-thirds of Stanislaus' waste would qualify as renewable and receive a higher value for the electricity. Any new definition of renewable energy must include the WTE facility and WTE should be included in any renewable energy standard. Legislation must give WTE a full renewable energy credit in the Renewable Energy Standard. Further, EPA regulations must be sure to recognize the greenhouse gas and renewable benefits of WTE.

Environmental Policy

1. *Promoting New Manufacturing Act*. This bill would require the Environmental Protection Agency to concurrently publish regulations and guidance for implementing any final rule establishing or revising National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The bill reduces delays for air permits required by the Clean Air Act's New Source Review preconstruction permitting program. If it is enacted into law, this legislation should have a positive impact on Stanislaus County and the County's plans for economic growth.
2. *"Waters of the United States" rule*. This bill gives the Environmental Protection Agency excessive authority to regulate activities near rivers, streams and ponds, as well as dry creek beds, puddles and ditches. The EPA received more than 250,000 comments before the comment period closed. EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers will move to finalize the rule in 2015. Leaders in



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Congress will no doubt take action to prohibit the EPA from issuing a final rule. Any effort would likely result in a veto showdown.

Health Services Agency

The Stanislaus County Health Services Agency is critical to the healthcare infrastructure of Stanislaus County. Agency staff provide over 200,000 outpatient clinic visits each year. The County has received the Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike designation from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) which will help to preserve health access in the community, protect access to federal funding that will support the provision of healthcare to the underserved community and support increased funding for FQHC-LAs.

Levees and Flood Control

There is not sufficient 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 risk for the County.

Public Safety Radio Interoperability

Stanislaus County continues to work collaboratively in a regional approach to public safety radio interoperability. Support any efforts that expand Stanislaus County's ability to apply for grant funding to develop interoperable communications. Support appropriation of federal funds to the County's interoperability project.

Public Safety Resources

Stanislaus County public safety departments are in need of additional staffing, equipment and other resources for the provision of services. Support appropriate grant applications to federal agencies such as the United States Department of Justice for financial support for hiring of personnel, equipment and support of programs in accordance with County priorities. Support appropriation of Federal funds for County public safety.

Stanislaus Family Justice Center

Ongoing funding is needed to support the work of the Stanislaus Family Justice Center. Support appropriate efforts to secure funding to continue and grow the work of this agency.

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



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unemployment benefits, and other disadvantaged individuals in Stanislaus County. Support skills and career training enhancements for people currently employed.

Title IV-E Funding for Probation Services

Title IV-E funding from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is extremely important to the health and safety of residents of Stanislaus County. Stanislaus County receives approximately \$800,000 in funding each year through a federal claiming process that is used to support home interventions for youth in the probation system. ACF has sent a directive to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) that all California Probation Departments must cease claiming for funds related to this program retroactive to October 1, 2013 because of concerns of inappropriate use of funds. CDSS has proposed an alternative resolution that contains an expedited corrective action plan. Support the immediate reversal of the cease claim decision for the Title IV-E claiming process while corrective actions are taken by California counties.

Transportation System

There is not sufficient 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 the roads, bridges and highway network in Stanislaus County. Support timely reauthorization of the MAP 21 transportation bill.

Valley Family Medicine Residency Program

Physician training is vital to help change the disproportionately low share of physicians per capita in the valley. Support additional funding for the Valley Family Medicine Residency Program through various funding sources.

Veterans Affairs

Support appropriate funding for veterans' issues. Support efforts to increase prompt benefits processing and payment for veterans. Support funding for veterans' housing and homeless programs. Support increased funding and services for veterans' medical care and counseling. Support jobs training and workforce development programs that positively impact veterans. Support programs for veterans that support, promote and develop self-sufficiency and successful transitions to civilian life. Support funding for local veterans facility one-stop center.

Water Recycling

Water is a scarce but vital resource to the Central Valley. Support any appropriate legislative, agency, executive or other action that would promote the advancement and completion of the North Valley Regional Recycled Water Project.



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Women, Infants and Children's (WIC) Program

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 35 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. 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.