

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

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA #: *B-2

AGENDA DATE: March 22, 2016

SUBJECT:

Approval of the Stanislaus County Legislative Platform for 2016

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2016-140

On motion of Supervisor Chiesa, Seconded by Supervisor Withrow
and approved by the following vote,

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

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST: Elizabeth A. King
ELIZABETH A. KING, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

File No.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
AGENDA ITEM**

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA #: *B-2

Urgent Routine

AGENDA DATE: March 22, 2016

CEO CONCURRENCE: _____

4/5 Vote Required: Yes No

SUBJECT:

Approval of the Stanislaus County Legislative Platform for 2016

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve the Stanislaus County Legislative Platform for 2016.

DISCUSSION:

941 bills were sent to the Governor in 2015, of which he signed 807 and vetoed 133. For Stanislaus County, there were several important pieces of legislation:

- SB 107 (Committee on Budget) chaptered. One key element of this bill was language that eliminated the historic Negative Bailout problem the County had faced for more than 30 years.
- AB 323 (Olsen) chaptered. The bill extends until January 1, 2020 certain CEQA exemptions for repairs, maintenance or minor alterations to existing roadways.
- AB 57 (Quirk) chaptered. Would provide that an application for a wireless telecom facility is deemed approved if a city or county fails to approve or disapprove the application within acceptable FCC time periods.

The Legislative Platform for 2016 consists of State and Federal components. The platform addresses general policy concerns as well as very specific pieces of legislation or topics of concern 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. The Platform also includes the policy for the Board of Supervisors and staff to address support or oppose positions on issues. Identified Legislative Priorities of the State Platform include water policy, transportation funding, pension reform, renewable energy 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

Approval of the Stanislaus County Legislative Platform for 2016

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, the Crows Landing Industrial Business Park and more.

The Legislative Platform for 2016 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 2016 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 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 of Supervisors for consideration for inclusion in the Legislative Platform.

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 Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP for Federal legislative advocacy at an annual cost of \$90,000. These advocacy agreements are included in the Chief Executive Office - Operations and Services 2015-2016 Final Budget.

POLICY ISSUE:

Approval of the Legislative Platform provides authority for County staff to advocate on State and Federal legislative, regulatory and administrative issues in accordance with Board of Supervisors direction. The Legislative Platform also provides a framework for addressing issues that develop during the year, that are not in the approved Legislative Platform.

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.

Approval of the Stanislaus County Legislative Platform for 2016

Cost of recommended action: - NA

Source(s) of Funding:

Funding Total: _____ \$ _____ -
Net Cost to County General Fund _____

Fiscal Year: _____
Budget Adjustment/Appropriations needed:

No

Fund Balance as of

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:

Approval of the Legislative Platform supports the advancement of each of the seven Board of Supervisors' priorities by promoting policy advocacy across a spectrum of County services and projects.

STAFFING IMPACT:

The County will use existing staff for implementation of the Legislative Platform. Staff may include members of the County Chief Executive's Office, County departments and the Board of Supervisors.

CONTACT PERSON:

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

ATTACHMENT(S):

Legislative Platform for 2016

2016

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY AGENDA



**STANISLAUS COUNTY
2016 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY AGENDA**

**STANISLAUS COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

William O'Brien..... District 1
Vito Chiesa District 2
Terry Withrow District 3
Dick Monteith..... District 4
Jim De Martini..... District 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. &
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLC

Stanislaus County 2016 Legislative and Policy Agenda

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Stanislaus County 2016 Legislative Projects and Issues

Stanislaus County State 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 2016 legislative session. The 2016 Legislative Platform will not expire until the passage of the 2017 Legislative Platform.

- **Water Policy** - Support policies that appropriately protect unimpaired river flows for rivers running through Stanislaus County. Support policies that promote appropriate local control of water resources and protect local water needs. Seek all necessary technical and policy assistance in implementing new laws related to groundwater management. Advocate for favorable criteria in the development of any water, parks or resources bond grant funds that may become available through current or future voter-approved bonds.
- **Transportation Funding** – California counties are in desperate need of restored transportation funding and a stable ongoing funding stream for appropriate maintenance and infrastructure growth. Support appropriate State measures to enhance local funding to provide a basic level of funding for the maintenance of roads.
- **Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA)** - Support an exemption that would allow current/classic members of the retirement system to transfer to Stanislaus County and be eligible for the retirement benefits that were in place on December 31, 2010. This issue is the result of Stanislaus County's early adoption of pension reform ahead of the State.
- **Covanta Renewable Energy** - Oppose any legislation that may negatively affect the renewable energy designation of the Covanta Waste-to-Energy facility. Support legislation that protects the designation.
- **Economic Development/Job Creation** - Support policies that appropriately promote local economic expansion and job growth, including development of the Crows Landing Industrial Business Park.



Stanislaus County 2016 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 appropriate State efforts that address topics such as homelessness, strengthening families, youth early intervention, reducing recidivism and gang reduction including 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 Realignment. 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



Stanislaus County 2016 Legislative Projects and Issues

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 and dedicated exclusively for that purpose. Oppose language that would recognize projects to be “deemed approved” if action is not taken by local jurisdictions within prescribed timeframes, if those timeframes are not reasonable. Support reimbursement from the State in full for any previously deferred mandate payments.

- **New Regulations & Legislation** - Support legislation that freezes or decreases the imposition of new regulations that negatively impact local governments. 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.



Stanislaus County 2016 Legislative Projects and Issues

- **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 2016 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

Alliance Worknet

Contact: Kristie Santos, Director
(209) 558-2113

1. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Issue: Stanislaus County currently is providing employment services under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act by providing career services to adults, dislocated workers, youth and businesses.

The State of California has draft regulations from the Department of Labor known as Notice of Proposed Rule Making which states that career services must be procured out unless a waiver is requested by the Chief Local Elected Official and approved by Governor's office. The Governor's office has been silent as to the waiver, the process to obtain a waiver and reasons to obtain a waiver.

Action: Support legislative or administrative action to allow Counties to keep local control by providing career services under WIOA in the County, if deemed by the Chief Local Elected Official (CLEO). This would allow each county to decide what is best for their residents and communities.



Stanislaus County 2016 Legislative Projects and Issues

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 8,150 properties with more than 544,000 acres under contract in Stanislaus County. Of these parcels, approximately 6,800 are economically productive and can benefit from the Williamson Act. For the 2015-2016 tax year, the Williamson Act reduced overall revenue from property taxes by nearly \$12.53 million. The County's share of that would have been \$1.38 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.



Stanislaus County 2016 Legislative Projects and Issues

Auditor-Controller

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

1. Property Tax Allocation – AB 8

Issue: Counties receive an average of 15% 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.

2. Property Tax Administration Fee

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

The current property tax administration fee legislation specifically precludes counties from recovering their costs from school districts. This has a significant impact on discretionary funds which must be diverted to cover these costs. In fiscal year 2014-2015 these unreimbursed costs totaled over \$5 million.

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



Stanislaus County 2016 Legislative Projects and Issues

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

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

1. Appropriate Funding for Behavioral Health including Mental Health (MH) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment

Issue: Inadequate State and Federal funding for mental health programs has significant impacts on the provision of service for clients and County budgets. Decreases in funding, without decreases in service mandates, is highly problematic. Likewise, growth in program clients without appropriate growth in funding is problematic. Funding decreases or elimination without program elimination is a real threat. Secured, stable and appropriate funding sources are needed.

Action: Support full compensation for all behavioral health programs including any increased cost of new legislation and entitlements. Support full funding of the federal Substance Abuse Prevention Treatment – Block Grant Maintenance of Effort. Support legislative efforts to have counties participate in developing the reimbursement methodology for entitlement funds that is equitable for all entitlements. Ensure that the state honors Proposition 30 for Katie A expenditures. Support legislative efforts to extend or do away with the sunseting of Proposition 30. Advocate for the continuation of the federal SAPT funds at current or higher levels. Oppose unfunded mandates.

2. Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) Waiver

Issue: Some rules and regulations for the DMC-ODS 1115 waiver are inappropriately restrictive and need to be changed. One example is Drug Medi-Cal certification where local rates and certifications of non-county programs are being set by the State instead of at the local level like Mental Health programs under the 1915(b) Waiver.

Action: Advocate for and raise awareness for reasonable Department of Health Care Services Drug Medi-Cal rules, regulations, and rates with top DHCS administration and with higher state administrative and legislative levels.



Stanislaus County 2016 Legislative Projects and Issues

Chief Executive Office

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

1. Property Tax Administration Fee

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

The current property tax administration fee legislation specifically precludes counties from recovering their costs from school districts. This has a significant impact on discretionary funds which must be diverted to cover these costs. In Fiscal Year 2014-2015 these unreimbursed costs totaled over \$5 million.

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

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

Issue: The Stanislaus County Jail needs significant expansion and upgrading. Multiple projects are underway to expand facilities and create new space for beds and programs. New facilities will be completed 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, including ongoing operations. Support any budget, legislative or administrative actions that promote timely completion of



Stanislaus County 2016 Legislative Projects and Issues

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)



Stanislaus County 2016 Legislative Projects and Issues

and Construction phases of the US Army Corps of Engineers Orestimba Creek Flood Control Project.

6. Workers' 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. Workers' Compensation Program Reforms

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

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



Stanislaus County 2016 Legislative Projects and Issues

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 1.96 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.



Stanislaus County 2016 Legislative Projects and Issues

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.



Stanislaus County 2016 Legislative Projects and Issues

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.



Stanislaus County 2016 Legislative Projects and Issues

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 \$32 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.



Stanislaus County 2016 Legislative Projects and Issues

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: Support increased funding for veterans services. Support increased local services for veterans with appropriate funding. Support budget, grants, legislative and administrative action or other efforts that would assist in successful completion of the veterans' one-stop facility.

23. Pension Reform Related to 2011 Pre-PEPRA Benefit Reductions

Issue: Stanislaus County reduced retirement benefits on January 1, 2011 prior to PEPRA being implemented on January 1, 2013. PEPRA provides protections to current/classic members regarding reciprocity in order to allow them to transfer from one public sector employer to another and still maintain pre-PEPRA benefits by allowing them to enter the retirement tier in place on December 31, 2012. Because Stanislaus County reduced benefits in 2011, current/classic members who transfer to Stanislaus County still receive a reduced level of benefits. An example would be an employee who has 20 years working for a County that offers a retirement benefit for General Members of 2% at age 55. If this employee wanted to accept a transfer or promotion in Stanislaus County, the candidate would need to accept a retirement benefit of 2% at approximately age 61.5. A public safety officer currently working at an employer eligible for a retirement benefit of



Stanislaus County 2016 Legislative Projects and Issues

3% at age 50 transferring to Stanislaus County would be eligible for a retirement benefit of 2% at age 50. This same employee would have the ability to transfer to another public agency and maintain their level of retirement benefits.

This reduced level of benefits has severely impacted the County's ability to attract qualified candidates to leadership positions as well as to attract lateral public safety officers. This has resulted in Stanislaus County being negatively impacted for taking action to curb pension costs prior to other California agencies.

Action: Support an exemption that would allow current/classic members to transfer to Stanislaus County and be eligible for the retirement benefits that were in place on December 31, 2010.



Stanislaus County 2016 Legislative Projects and Issues

Child Support Services

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

1. Child Support Flat Funding

Issue: The Department of Child Support Services continues to experience flat funding from the State which does not account for annual cost of business increases. The State funding allocation formula needs to be updated. The continued flat funding over a period of more than 10 years has reduced staffing from 242 to 162. The State 2016-2017 Proposed Budget included cost of living increases for State employees due to retirement increases and negotiated salary increases; however, similar increases for county programs at the local levels were not included. Without increased funding from the State, the Department's budget will not have the capacity to absorb increased costs for labor contracts, health insurance, and retirement without holding open staffing vacancies. Over the past 10 years the Department has had a practice of holding open vacancies due to the flat state funding. Holding open the staff vacancies ultimately causes less families to be served and threatens the ability to increase collection dollars to families. Collections over the past five years have stayed relatively flat.

Action: Support State funding allocation changes that would increase payments to Stanislaus County to reflect full funding of County costs.



Stanislaus County 2016 Legislative Projects and Issues

Clerk of the Board

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

1. **Brown Act and Public Records Requests**

Issue: Changes in the law regarding Open Meeting regulations (Brown Act) or Public Records Act 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.



Stanislaus County 2016 Legislative Projects and Issues

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. The Governor included \$150 million in new funds for this in the enacted 2015-2016 Budget; these needs are not one-time. A permanent increase in funding for these activities is needed in order to keep pace with the growing and permanently larger Medi-Cal enrollment.

Action: Support permanent increases in Medi-Cal funding and provide a new budgeting methodology for determining allocations to the counties.

2. 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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3. 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:

- a. 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.
- b. 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).
- c. 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.
- d. 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.
- e. Coordinate quarterly, in-person Mandated Reporter trainings to be provided in each region, on an annual basis. Develop and implement a Mandated Reporter online (“on demand”) training to include: (1)



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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.

4. 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 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.

5. Expand CalWORKs Homeless Services Program

Issue: In the 2014-15 (Current Year) budget, the Legislature appropriated \$20 million for rapid rehousing activities for homeless CalWORKs families. Counties submitted applications, which were reviewed by CDSS and funds awarded on a competitive basis. The amount of funding provided was not sufficient to allow all counties that submitted proposals to receive funds. Nor was it sufficient to fully fund those who did receive funding. The funding was increased to \$30 million in 2015-16, which still is not sufficient to meet demand.

Action: Seek additional funding to appropriately fund the CalWORKs rapid rehousing program.



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6. Consolidate the AB 98 Subsidized Employment Program and the Expanded Subsidized Employment (ESE) Program into one program.

Issue: Bifurcated AB 98 and ESE programs are difficult, and in some counties impossible, to administer. The expectation of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is that counties that operated AB 98 programs in 2012-13 (the year of the ESE base), will continue to operate those programs. There are 32 counties that operated AB 98 programs in 2012-13, including many of the large counties but also some small ones.

Action: Change statute to combine the AB 98 Program with the ESE Program and eliminate the AB 98 Program. An AB 98/Single Allocation MOE will still be required, but it will be for funding and number of slots only. This will simplify the reporting and claiming requirements to the state and local contracting and time-study processes.



Stanislaus County 2016 Legislative Projects and Issues

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 or expanded 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. 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.

4. 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



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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.

5. **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.

6. **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.



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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 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.



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8. **CalRecycle Landfill Tipping Fee Surcharge**

Issue: In the 2015 legislative session, Assembly Bill 1063 proposed to raise the State's tipping fee surcharge imposed on an operator of a disposal facility to \$4 per ton commencing January 1, 2017, up from the current \$1.40/ton. It also proposed that in 2019 a new fee would be collected from solid waste generators, which includes residential, commercial and public entities. This new fee on waste generators would have been mandated to be collected at the local level.

While we recognize that the State's funding has been fixed at the \$1.40/ton level for many years and tonnage has decreased because of mandated diversion requirements, the proposed increase to \$4/ton is over a 250% increase. This will require an increase in rates to all residents of the State. All funds collected were proposed to go directly to CalRecycle with \$1.50 or a portion thereof being allocated in the first 5 years to fund grants to promote new recycling programs. This large increase in funding is not required to fund CalRecycle's current programs and increased State revenues for new programs are not necessary.

Action: Oppose any increases in funding. Local governments should be compensated for any collection of future fees that are required by the State. If an increase in funding is approved, there should be a clear, public discussed plan for the revenues with input from local jurisdictions. State programs should be fully funded by appropriate funding mechanisms, not financed by local government.

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



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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 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. 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.



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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.

13. Renewable Energy Status for the Stanislaus Waste To Energy facility

Issue: SB350 allows for a one year extension of the renewable energy credits to Jan. 1, 2017. It is estimated the loss of the renewable energy designation would yield a potential revenue loss to Covanta of \$4,065,000 to \$5,420,000 per year. (This loss estimate is based on an estimated value of 135,500 megawatts produced by the Covanta Facility annually.) In a worst case scenario, the renewable energy designation could be removed, thereby significantly increasing the cost of processing waste at the WTE facility. Under **Section 6.05 (d) Unforeseen Circumstance Cost Limit** (Service Agreement), the cap on the unforeseen circumstances financial risk exposure is \$15 million for Covanta and the Contracting Communities collectively, with the Contracting Communities 25% share representing \$3.75 million. The Contracting Communities have set aside \$3.75 million to address this financial exposure.

Action: Closely monitor and engage in any legislation on renewable energy credits. Oppose any legislation that may negatively affect the renewable energy designation of the Covanta facility.

14. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program

Issue: The California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939), as amended, requires cities and counties to prepare, adopt, and implement an HHW Element which details a program dedicated to collection, recycling, treatment, and disposal of residential HHW. Stanislaus County has met this requirement by operating the HHW Collection Program for over 20 years. This Program utilizes a combination of a permanent collection center, mobile collection events, and extensive public education and outreach efforts. The County provides Program data on an annual basis to CalRecycle and to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). The Program provides a cost-effective means to serve all jurisdictions in Stanislaus County.



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In the 2015 legislative year, AB 45 proposed to require each jurisdiction that provides for the residential collection and disposal of solid waste to increase the collection of HHW by an unspecified percentage. Last year's version of the bill would have required jurisdictions to provide a door-to-door collection and diversion program that would have been problematic, costly, and unnecessary for jurisdictions like Stanislaus County that has a long-standing successful program. Additionally, AB 45 classified home-generated pharmaceutical waste as an HHW thus making local governments responsible for managing this waste with no help from pharmaceutical industry, which is regarded as the most profitable industry in the world.

As amended in January 21, 2016, AB 45 would require CalRecycle to create one or more model ordinances for local governments to adopt and thereby create comprehensive programs for the collection of household hazardous waste. Current law already requires cities and counties to implement HHW Programs. Stanislaus County has been implementing a HHW Program tailored to the needs of its community. This bill fails to identify the types of ordinances that might be developed and whether the outcome of their implementation would be more effective than the current HHW management system throughout the State. Therefore, there are well-founded concerns as to the need for a general HHW model ordinance when locals programs have already been established.

AB 45 lacks specific details regarding the roles of manufacturers and distributors with regard to HHW waste streams. AB 45 does, however, require CalRecycle to determine whether a "nonprofit organization has been created and funded for the purpose of making grants available to local government" to assist in educating communities about existing HHW Programs. The \$5 million that is anticipated to be provided by the nonprofit organization in the form of dedicated grants to local HHW programs over five years is wholly insufficient to cover the cost of HHW management.

We believe the best way to address the diversion/disposal of HHW products is for the manufacturers (and certain retailers and distributors) of these products to operate collection programs, commonly known as extended producer responsibility (EPR). In recent years, several EPR programs were developed to deal with HHW, such as electronic wastes, rechargeable batteries, and waste paint products.

Stanislaus County recognizes the need to increase HHW collection and ensure for the proper management of HHW in order to protect the health and safety of our communities; however, the County strongly objects to the approach outlined in this bill, specifically placing the responsibility for the disposal cost of pharmaceuticals on local government.



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Action: Oppose and closely monitor legislation pertaining to HHW programs. Oppose efforts to establish new mandates that do not fully fund local governments for State requirements.

15. 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.

16. 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. Support the acceptance of groundwater recharge as a legally defensible "beneficial use" of water in the state.



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17. 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. 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.

18. Raw Milk Sales

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

In 2014, 40 Bills were introduced in 23 statehouses in regard to raw milk sales and consumption. The most recent in California was AB 2505 that would allow the exchange, shared or selling of raw milk, and would exempt small scale home dairy farms from "burdensome laws and regulations applicable to the production of market milk by large-scale retail milk producers that are not necessary or appropriate for the operation of small home dairy farms producing raw milk." The bill also would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act. Although there was required testing, it did not state who would conduct the testing, how it would be funded, and in the event of an outbreak and/or recall, the industry that is regulated would have to fund and bear the burden of a negative impact to the industry and associated costs.

Action: Closely monitor and engage in any proposed legislation pertaining to Raw Milk Sales or new legislation that addresses Raw Milk Sales Direct to the consumer from Dairy Farms that may affect the citizens of Stanislaus County. Encourage policy that appropriately protects the public in a cost-effective manner. Oppose any unfunded mandates impacting local government.

19. 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 local government were to charge for this service, over \$100,000 in revenue could be collected; however, schools are considered exempt because of



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Government Code Section 6103. Adding a subset to Health and Safety Code Section 113920 would provide clarity to this issue and allow for cost recovery to take effect.

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

20. Local Programs such as Curbside Recycling

Issue: Local jurisdictions have for many years have chosen what types of programs, such as curbside recycling, work best given local considerations. Legislation that mandates how current programs must be operated by local jurisdictions or requires local jurisdictions to collect fees for the State programs are unnecessary. In some cases, requiring the expansion of services to a current program may cause unnecessary cost and in some cases, may put the general public in undo harm with little to no benefit to public safety.

Action: Oppose legislation that dictates how current programs must be operated and/or expanded that currently meet the existing law.



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Health Services Agency

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

1. 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, emergency preparedness and community health efforts.

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.

2. California Children's Services

Issue: There are efforts underway in the State to redesign the CCS program in a way that places operational and financial responsibility on the Medi-Cal health plans for children who are eligible for CCS and Medi-Cal.

Action: Support legislation and encourage administrative regulation which clearly defines the role of County Public Health and provides commensurate funding with regard to all CCS eligible children including those who are eligible for Medi-Cal.

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

Issue: While much has occurred in the past two years regarding expanding coverage for healthcare services, there is a 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



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aggregate would reduce the exposure to the more costly inpatient and emergency room care.

Action: Support state and federal healthcare policy change which would expand access to medical care in a manner which does not financially impact Stanislaus County in a negative way. 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.

4. 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. Support the team-based Patient Center Medical Homes in the primary care setting, to extend the effective capacity of each of primary care physician.

5. Information Technology

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



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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.

6. 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, and advocate for initiatives which support the federal Triple Aim concept of improved health outcomes, improved health access and systems, and lower healthcare costs.

7. Medically Indigent Adults – W&I Section 17000

Issue: There continues to be financial exposure to the Stanislaus County General Fund for the Medically Indigent Adult program obligations. With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act's Medi-Cal Expansion and the passage of AB 85, there are substantially fewer indigents under the county's obligation, however all of the State funding was redirected to an unrelated State program such that the county receives no State funding for the residual obligation.

Action: Should changes result in an increased exposure to the County, advocate for legislation and/or administrative policy which aligns adequate funding to the county's obligations under the law, including case law.



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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. Continue to 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



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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.

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 fifth RHNA cycles 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. Allow local jurisdictions to self-certify their housing elements, and eliminates ties to housing element certification for receipt of any State funding.



Stanislaus County 2016 Legislative Projects and Issues

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. To deal with these matters, the Governor called for a Special Session on Transportation in June 2015. The Legislature convened that session and both houses appointed members of their respective houses to a Conference Committee, which is expected to work through various funding and statutory proposals that intend to improve California's transportation infrastructure.

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

1. Pursue additional funding to address local transportation needs. Cities and counties currently have \$7.8 billion in unmet annual funding needs for the maintenance and preservation of local streets and roads and related facilities. CSAC will continue to advocate for at least \$3 billion in new ongoing funding to be allocated to counties by formula with maximum flexibility for local transportation maintenance and improvements to roads and supporting infrastructure, including bridges and complete streets.
2. 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.



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3. 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.

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 2016 Legislative Projects and Issues

Sheriff

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

1. Court Security

Issue: The Sheriff's Department provides security to the Superior Court of Stanislaus County as required by State Assembly Bill 118 (AB 118) which requires each county treasurer, city and county treasurer, or other appropriate officer to create a County Local Revenue Fund 2011. Chapter 6.3 Section 30025(f)(3) requires the monies in the Trial Court Security Account be used exclusively to fund trial court security provided by county sheriffs. Certain overhead costs are not allowable expenses that can be charged under the Trial Court Funding Act of 1997 Rule of the Court 810. This fund requires a net county cost to cover the Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) charges that are not allowable under the Trial Court Funding Act or AB 118. For Fiscal Year 2015-2016, these overhead costs are budgeted at \$95,304.

While this fund currently has a positive fund balance, it is anticipated that the fund balance will start to decrease due to additional expenditures associated with security measures needed for multi defendant murder trials. The Sheriff's Department anticipates using slightly under \$500 thousand of fund balance for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. At that rate in a couple of years the Sheriff's Department will not be able to provide the level of security services needed by the Superior Court.

Action: Support any budget, legislative or administrative action to provide Stanislaus County funding to cover overhead costs and the increased costs for court security services.



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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 communications equipment for regional law enforcement and homeland security needs. The requested funding would be used in ongoing efforts to build out an interoperability communications 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 compliant systems which would link the Dispatch Centers in Modesto, Turlock and Ceres. Six additional P25 simulcast linear trunking transmitter sites would be installed to expand county-wide coverage.

Crows Landing Industrial Business Park: \$32 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



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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 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 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 2016

(not in rank order)

Affordable Care Act

Although the President signed the 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act that included a two year delay for implementing the so-called “Cadillac Tax,” the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is still set to impose a 40 percent excise tax (Cadillac tax) on high-cost group health coverage for taxable years beginning in 2020. 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 businesses, 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-paid HSA contributions. As such, employers will be unjustly penalized if employees contribute money into their HSAs.



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4. The ACA definition of a full-time employee is someone who works on average 30 or more hours per week, which 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 opportunities for employees working less than 40 hours per week and fewer resources for public services.
5. The Cadillac Tax uses a flat indexed amount for all geographical areas when calculating the threshold for determining the 40% Excise Tax. As a result, those employers providing group health insurance in high cost of living areas of the United States will be more adversely affected than employers in lower cost of living areas. Legislators should recognize that the cost of group health insurance varies geographically and establish adjusting threshold amounts similar to other IRS provisions, such as Per Diem rates.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.



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9. 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, and geographical locations. 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.

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.



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Environmental Policy

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.

"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 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 provides tens of thousands of 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.

Homeland Security Funding

Homeland Security grant funding plays an important role in ensuring local jurisdictions are prepared for emergency situations, including terrorism. The County supports ongoing and increased funding for local government through the Homeland Security Grant Program, Emergency Management Planning Grants and other funding sources.

Homelessness

Homelessness is a problem faced by most every community in California including Stanislaus. Stanislaus County is investing significant time and resources into addressing the homeless issue. Support redefining the HUD definition of homelessness to take into account "doubling-up" which is when more than one family resides in single home/unit due circumstances beyond their control, or "couch surfing" which includes youth



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moving from home-to-home to find shelter for the night. While the County supports the appropriate alignment of homelessness definitions, there should be full funding for any mandates on local government associated with changes in the homeless definition. Support an increase in options for specialty shelters (like single adult or womens' shelters) to assist all homeless, including families, through alternative methods including a hotel/motel voucher system. Support funding that encourages local efforts to address homeless issues including emergency funding and housing funding - including construction. Support appropriate Federal policies to protect patient confidentiality and that also facilitates appropriate sharing of information among providers of services to the homeless community.

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.

Mental Health Services

Appropriate funding is critical for behavioral health services. Support full funding of any federal requirements for behavioral health services. Support legislation that appropriately respects the rights of individuals living with mental illness to decide who has access to their medical records. Support legislation that promotes effective, outcomes-based treatment.

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



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

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.

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 increased funding for veterans housing and homeless programs as well as veterans medical care, counseling and other appropriate services. 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.

Waste-to-Energy /Alternative Energy

Waste-to-Energy (WTE) is a renewable energy source that needs appropriate inclusion



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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.

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. Support Federal action that promotes local control of storm water and the creation and construction of storm water retention projects.

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 40 years. WIC children enter school ready to learn, showing better cognitive performance. WIC also improves the health of at-risk mothers during pregnancy and helps to rebuild nutrient stores after birth. 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.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Currently, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act has mandatory procurement language regarding America Job Center services. Stanislaus County would support removing mandatory procurement language from the WIOA.



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

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

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

- 1) A brief position paper and draft support/oppose letter or resolution is created by the Department Head and sent to the County Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for review. If the request is approved by the CEO, it is placed on the Board of Supervisors' agenda for consideration at a future meeting. If approved by the Board, the item is considered part of the complete body of approved items contained in the Legislative Platform where it remains until expiration of the current approved Platform.
- 2) If timing on the action is urgent and the item cannot be prepared for Board of Supervisors' action at a scheduled meeting, a brief position paper and draft support/oppose letter will be created by the Department Head and sent to the County CEO for review. If the CEO approves the request, the CEO is authorized to sign a support/oppose letter representing the County, but not the Board of Supervisors. This item is NOT considered part of the approved Legislative Platform as approval has not been given through official Board action. Items of this nature are appropriate for the Department Head to consider for the next year's Legislative Platform, or as a future Board agenda item if the issue will continue for some time in the current legislative session.
- 3) Individual Board members may send support/oppose correspondence on issues that are not in the Legislative Platform. This type of correspondence may not be distributed on Chairman's letterhead.
- 4) The Board of Supervisors does not, as a regular practice, take support/oppose positions on State ballot initiatives.
- 5) Requests for Board of Supervisors' letters of support/opposition or resolutions on issues not in the Legislative Platform should arise from within County government. Requests from outside County government should be weighed on having a clear and compelling direct impact on County government