

County of San Luis Obispo



2025 State and Federal Legislative Platform

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County of San Luis Obispo

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Introduction

To reflect the priorities of the County, the 2025 Legislative Platform is organized as follows:

- **LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS**
- **GENERAL PROVISIONS** – Board adopted priorities and guiding principles.
- **COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES** – Issues the County will actively pursue that directly affect the County as well as other jurisdictions; divided in the Platform by each of the functional areas of county government:
 - Administration of Justice
 - Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources
 - Economic Development
 - Government Finance & Administration
 - Health and Human Services
 - Housing, Land Use, Transportation & Infrastructure
- **COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**
 - Child Supportive Services
 - Economic Development
 - Environmental Health
 - Infrastructure
 - Public Health

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General Provisions

This section includes the Boards priorities, goals and principals.

The FY 2025-26 Board adopted priorities are:

[To be updated after FY 25-26 Priorities are Established]



The primary goal of County of San Luis Obispo’s Board of Supervisors and its employees is to serve and support the well-being of its residents; County of San Luis Obispo government is dedicated to enhancing the economic, environmental, and social quality of life in the County. To this end, in 2025, the County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors supports the general principles set forth below. County staff, including the County’s legislative advocates, will apply these general principles to evaluate legislation, as well as executive and regulatory directives, and take those actions necessary for their implementation.

General Principles

Maintain and Increase Funding

Seek to maintain State funding levels of local government programs to the furthest extent possible and to ensure adequate funding for any new mandate. Additionally, the Board seeks to maintain close relationships with the County of San Luis Obispo’s legislative delegation and key legislative leaders to foster greater understanding of local concerns and needs.

Preserve County of San Luis Obispo and other local revenues and funding sources from further reductions, especially those that directly impacts the County’s ability to serve its residents; support legislative and policy initiatives that maintain funding levels.

Support increased appropriations to the County for mandated programs, including capital acquisition costs. Oppose mandates without revenue and/or unnecessary State mandates.

Local Control

Support legislation that allows maximum flexibility to local governments to effectively and efficiently administer state-mandated programs and provide local government additional protection from state mandates that are not supportive of local control. Oppose the transfer of additional state programs to the County, unless adequate, secure, and ongoing

revenues are provided by the State. Where State funding is not available, support legislation that authorizes locally developed, functionally equivalent programs in place of subjecting municipalities to state laws/regulations (e.g., Williamson Act).

Quality of Life

Encourage and seek legislation that protects, promotes, and preserves the County's quality of life, its diverse natural resources, its economic base, and the character and history of the County, including legislation that would provide funding to local agencies to develop programs, policies, and projects.

Regional Cooperation

Support legislation that: 1) encourages cooperation between the County and its cities, special districts, and other local agencies as well as neighboring jurisdictions in efforts to develop regional plans, programs, and initiatives, and 2) facilitates regional cooperation on issues of community-wide and regional concerns, including regional economic development and the development and provision of adequate infrastructure which includes water, roads, and technology.

Support the principles adopted by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), where they are consistent with the principles and priorities identified by the County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors.

State Legislative Priorities

Administration of Justice

Financial Elder Abuse

Problem: Financial Elder abuse, such as identity theft, is a growing problem in California. The state has not allocated resources for controlling this problem area.

Resolution: Support efforts to increase State budget allocations to both criminal justice and human services for controlling the problem of financial elder abuse, particularly identity theft, in California.

Incompetent to Stand Trial

Problem: District Attorneys face a difficult challenge in handling those persons found incompetent to stand trial and spend up to three years in custody (or the maximum, if less than three years, that the conviction dictates.) These persons are considered Murphy Conservatees.

Resolution: Support legislation which would provide clear direction to district attorneys on the management of Murphy Conservatees who are not restored to competency during their time in custody and remain a danger to themselves or others.

Proposition 57 Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act of 2016

Problem: Proposition 57, the Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act of 2016, was approved by the voters of the State of California in November 2016. The intent of the proposition was to allow parole consideration for nonviolent felons, authorize sentence credits for rehabilitation, good behavior or education achievements, and allow juvenile court judges to determine whether juveniles ages 14 and older should be prosecuted and sentenced as adults for specified offenses.

Resolution: Due to the harm caused by this proposition to the community, e.g., increased criminal activity without real consequence for the perpetrators and/or chance for rehabilitation support legislation that would modify or repeal all or part of Proposition 57.

Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources

Agriculture

Arroyo Grande Creek Levees

Problem: Land in agricultural production along the Arroyo Grande Creek levees is an important local resource. In 2023 and in 2001, a levee breach flooded agricultural land, and it is reasonable to assume a major flood event could cause a levee breach and flood agriculture again. The levee system was deemed to be past its useful life in 2009 and does not provide the original flood protection for which it was designed. A levee breach would have significant economic impacts to the local community. Crop insurance does not fully recover losses, and in many instances, it is unavailable or not provided for certain crops. The County of San Luis Obispo desires to have the farmers and property owners within the agricultural region protected, via insurance, to the highest extent possible should a breach occur. Farmers and property owners in the area have expressed it is costly, difficult, and sometimes impossible to obtain adequate insurance coverage.

Resolution: Sponsor and support legislative changes to ag-related insurance programs to cover more crops and cover more losses. Encourage Congress to make changes to the National Flood Insurance Program that would establish flood zones for agriculturally based communities and allow for certain ag-related development. Encourage Congress

to allow for adjusted rates based on actuarial risk, thereby lowering base rates in areas of lower risk. Support funding or other resources from the State and Federal government to assist in implementing projects identified in the 2006 Arroyo Grande Creek Erosion, Sedimentation and Flooding Alternatives Study. Support programs or legislation that enhances the ability to conduct flood control channel management.

Agricultural Commissioner Appointment

Problem: There is a very limited pool of Agricultural Commissioners in California due to the dual certifications required of persons who hold the position. There is no flexibility in the current statute to appoint an individual with some or most of the necessary qualifications and allow some grace period to obtain all necessary certifications of an Agricultural Commissioner.

Resolution: Seek and support legislation that gives a Board of Supervisors more flexibility in appointing Agricultural Commissioners, by authorizing the appointment of a Commissioner who has obtained some or most of the qualifications and certifications necessary and will obtain or complete those qualifications within a specified period.

Agricultural Land Preservation/Williamson Act

Problem: The preservation of agricultural land is vital to the County's future economic stability and the sustenance of agriculture as a viable industry in San Luis Obispo County.

Resolution: Support legislation and budget action to restore the Williamson Act subventions to their highest historical levels. Support legislation to establish uniform statewide enforcement of the Act; specifically, to increase the County's authority to enforce the provisions of the Williamson Act. Oppose any effort to repeal the Williamson Act.

Direct Marketing/Certified Farmers Markets

Problem: The Direct Marketing program is intended to provide a viable channel for California farmers to market their agricultural products directly to consumers, individuals, organizations, or entities at the point of production or at Certified Farmers Markets (CFMs), providing exemptions from minimum size, labeling, standard pack, and container requirements under the Standardization Program. The Direct Marketing program provides opportunities for over 3,000 certified producers to sell their certifiable agricultural products directly to the public at approximately 800 CFMs throughout California. Increased focus on local food systems, such as Retail Farm Stands, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) entities, Community Gardens and School Gardens, has precipitated legislation relating to direct marketing. The Direct Marketing program under the direction of County Agricultural Commissioners (CACs) is well established in many counties; however, enforcement of complex regulations is cumbersome and not effective, largely due to significant underfunding and resources inadequacies. Without appropriate funding, the California Department of Food and Agriculture and CAC's are unable to provide levels of enforcement expected by consumers and the direct marketing industry or sufficient to maintain compliance.

Resolution: Support legislation and proposals that enhance funding and resources to support an effective regulatory program for direct marketing at, both, the State and local level.

Invasive Species/Pest Prevention Programs

Problem: Many significant invasive species are routinely introduced and detected in California that threatens agriculture and the environment. Continued funding of Pest Exclusion, Pest Detection Trapping and Survey Activities, Rapid Response, Pest Management and Eradication (if feasible), and Public Education Outreach Programs is critical in protecting California's resources.

Resolution: Support legislation that:

- Protects existing revenue sources and enhances state and federal funding of Pest Prevention Program activities. Provides full cost recovery from state and federal sources for new programs.
- Maintains or enhances funding for current programs.

- Supports all reasonable efforts by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, County Agricultural Commissioners, and the agricultural industry to acquire funding and to prevent the introduction and potential spread of invasive pests in California.
- Provides for effective pest management and eradication activities.
- Provides local flexibility to enhance the abilities of Agricultural Commissioners to respond to pest emergencies and high priority local pest exclusion pathways.
- Support budgetary efforts to restore funding for agricultural border stations.
- Supports research on invasive species pathways as well as funding mechanisms to close potential pathways.

Problem: Invasive noxious or non-native weeds continue to proliferate on public and private lands throughout California, threatening the State's critical infrastructure, its biodiversity, and ecological integrity. Weed Management Areas (WMA's) have been formed around the State to bring together all stakeholders concerned about invasive weed control within their respective areas. County stakeholders had established viable WMA's and funding needed to support these efforts. Unfortunately, weed management funding has been eliminated and the State's role in weed management has been significantly reduced or eliminated.

Resolution: Support legislation and resources that would provide stable funding for Weed Management Areas or programs for the control of harmful non-native or invasive weed pests.

Drought and Water Resiliency

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

Problem: The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) established requirements for the management of groundwater basins in California to ensure their long-term viability. SGMA requires each basin to achieve sustainability by 2040 or 2042. Significant work efforts over the next few years will strain County resources in implementing the sustainability plans developed for each basin. There are many stakeholders that must be considered in any proposed way to manage a groundwater basin and included to maximize the use of the water and the basin for the benefit of the community. Private or exclusive efforts to manage basins or bank groundwater have been proposed, raising concerns from the larger community.

Resolution: Support inclusive, fair approaches to managing groundwater basins that ensures the long-term viability of all of the members of the community that rely on the basin for resident, commercial and agricultural uses. Oppose and reject proposals that would privatize groundwater banks.

Seek funding or other resources from the State and Federal Government to assist in the implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plan's. Work with State legislators and agencies on seeking clarity, as well as new or clean-up language and policy related to SGMA, including but not limited to funding, and basin boundaries. Sponsor legislation to modify Government Code Section 53313 to authorize community facilities districts to collect funds through a Mello Roos fee to administer basins.

Drought Impacts to Trees

Problem: Problems related to or resulting from recurring droughts have caused over 100 million tree deaths since 2010. The County Grand Jury in a March 2015 report found that 40% of the Monterey pines in the community of Cambria have died. The dying of trees at such a large scale significantly worsens wildfire risk as well as life safety risks from falling trees, especially in rural, forested communities such as Cambria.

Resolution: Advocate securing available funding and other resources to help combat the tree mortality crisis in the County. Seek to expand the use of state funds to support new technologies to prevent further devastation to forests.

Drought Impacts to Water Supply

Problem: All existing local water supplies are dependent on rainfall and have been significantly impacted during recent multi-year droughts. Developing any new water supply projects or programs need to address changing weather patterns and be resilient to future droughts.

Resolution: Support the development of a regional desalination facility and develop programs that maximize the use of the Flood Control District's state water portfolio.

Drought Task Force

Problem: Senate Bill (SB) 552 (2021-22) requires Counties to form a standing drought task force and to develop a plan that "includes potential drought and water shortage risk and proposed interim and long-term solutions for state small water systems and domestic wells within the county's jurisdiction". The County is able to comply with the requirements because of the flexibility to use an alternative process for a task force (e.g., the Water Resources Advisory Committee) and an existing plan. Because County authority and funding are limited with respect to imposing requirements and/or implementing solutions on behalf of the small systems and well owners, SB 552 appropriately requires only consideration of drought mitigation actions. However, there is the possibility of changes to this legislation that would limit this flexibility and introduce mandates for plan implementation.

Resolution: Reject legislation that modifies SB 552 in any way that would require the County to implement the plan or solutions therein and that does not identify appropriate funding for any new mandates placed on Counties relative to planning for and responding to drought-related water shortages experienced by small water systems and domestic wells. Support legislation that respects the rights of small water suppliers and the individual well owners to voluntarily participate in water supply monitoring programs otherwise established by the Legislature.

Water Supply and Supply Resiliency

Problem: There are significant opportunities to improve local water supply and supply resiliency. However, financial barriers, as well as stringent and complex regulations and permitting processes, inhibit the ability of communities to address their water resources needs.

Resolution: Seek funding and grant programs, and permit streamlining requirements, which would facilitate project construction and program implementation to maximize the accessibility to existing and supplemental water supplies in the region, provide adequate and sustainable water supplies and infrastructure, develop, and implement conservation programs, developing recharge opportunities, and diversify water supply sources including the use of recycled and desalinated water.

Fire

Legislative Impacts on Property Owners

Problem: Updated California Fire Codes and related legislative changes to deal with the increased fire risks associated with the results of the most recent drought have resulted in some new requirements on the use of private property that are burdensome to homeowners utilizing their own property; for example, large, private gatherings on private property may now require a permit from a fire agency.

Resolution: Support rational, pragmatic updates to the Fire Code and statute that ensures adequate public safety in the face of wildfire threat while not creating unnecessary new barriers or bureaucratic intrusions into the lives of Californians.

Public Safety Power Shutoff

Problem: In response to wildfire liabilities, electric utilities including Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) have pursued aggressive Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) programs. The PSPS programs require extensive coordination amongst and between the public and private sector, and within the community.

Resolution: Support legislative or administrative action, and budget actions that would aid in the preparation, response, and recovery PSPS program implementation.

Property Insurance

Problem: Next year, 2025, Fire Hazard Severity Zones will be identified within the LRA (Local Response Area). Currently, business owners and residents are having a difficult time finding affordable insurance in areas which are identified in the higher wildfire risk areas. While fire departments don't establish insurance rates there are several items San Luis Obispo County Fire can accomplish to improve insurability and wildfire survivability.

Resolution: Continue to work with the Fire Safe Council to reduce hazardous vegetation throughout the County. Inspect the properties which will be identified in the LRA to ensure they meet vegetation reduction and construction requirements. Ensure new construction in the identified areas meets the wildfire building standards. Work with the County of San Luis Obispo to become a Fire Risk Reduction Community through the Board of Forestry, which has shown to reduce insurance rates. Additionally, support legislative or administrative action that would result in the availability of insurance for business owners and residents located in higher wildfire risk areas.

Natural Disaster Planning

Replacement of Destroyed Structures

Problem: AB 885 (Irwin, 2019-20) was a California Assessors' Association sponsored bill for disaster relief. It would have provided "new construction" of replacement structures destroyed by natural disaster to receive up to 120% of size or value. This conforms to Revenue and Taxation (RT) Code within an existing provision that provides up to 120% for a "replacement dwelling" on another site within the same county. The bill received no "no" votes in the entire process yet was vetoed by the Governor.

Resolution: Support legislation that provides critical relief to victims of California natural disasters by allowing up to 120% replacement of destroyed property, for property owners who reconstruct on the existing site. This is an important equity issue as existing law provides up to 120% for disaster victims who replace destroyed property at another location within the County.

Climate Change

Problem: The effects of climate change exacerbate health inequities in under-resources communities and populations.

Resolution: Support funding for counties to increase climate resilience and mitigate inequitable health outcomes impacting climate vulnerable communities.

Economic Development

Wind

Problem: California has set a planning goal of 2-5 GW of offshore wind capacity by 2030 and 25 GW by 2045. The Morro Bay wind energy Area is one of two federal offshore wind call areas on the West Coast that were auctioned in

December 2022. The economic benefits from offshore wind development that could be realized by San Luis Obispo County are dependent in part on development of an operations and maintenance facilities.

Resolution: Support Statewide offshore wind development programs and initiatives, as well as funding for Central Coast-specific offshore wind development, including studies aimed at infrastructure, workforce training and development, economic benefits, supply chain development, environmental analyses, permitting, and more. Support initiatives that improve coordination between local, state, and federal agencies as well as with other communities preparing for offshore wind development. Support local hire initiatives to ensure the jobs generated in the building and construction phase of offshore wind development go to local workers.

Diablo Canyon Power Plant

Problem: The closure of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) will have significant ramifications on the County of San Luis Obispo, school districts, and residents including a significant loss of jobs (anticipated 1,500) and opportunities for jobs in the County. In 2018, Senate Bill 1090 (authored by Senator Monning and Assemblymember Cunningham), was signed by former Governor Jerry Brown to ease the transition for the employees, community members, and public services that rely in many ways on the operation of the plant and will be impacted by its closure. The law provides funding for the County to plan for the plant's closure.

Senate Bill 846 (Dodd, 2022), co-authored by Assemblymember Cunningham, was signed into law by Governor Newsom on September 2, 2022. The law provides a pathway for PG&E to continue operating the DCPP beyond the expiration of its Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licenses (October 2024 for Unit 1 and August 2025 for Unit 2). Under SB 846, the DCPP may operate until October 2029 for Unit 1 and October 2030 for Unit 2. SB 846 also enabled PG&E to receive a loan of up to \$1.4 billion from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the purposes of extending DCPP operations through 2030. The law also enabled PG&E to obtain \$1.1 billion of federal funding from the United State Department of Energy's (USDOE) Civil Nuclear Credit Program.

To extend the operations of the DCPP, PG&E is required to renew its NRC operating licenses. PG&E submitted its license renewal application to the NRC in November 2023. Currently the NRC anticipates issuing a decision on the application in August 2025.

SB 846 includes several potential "off-ramps" based on regulatory decision making by several state agencies. Many of these approvals have been obtained. These include:

- California Public Utilities Commission: On December 14, 2023, the CPUC issued a [decision](#) conditionally approving the extended operations of the DCPP until 2029 for Unit 1 and 2030 for Unit 2.
- California Energy Commission (CEC): In February 2023, the CEC approved a [staff analysis](#) recommending the state pursue extending operation of Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) through 2030 to ensure electricity reliability.
- California State Lands Commission (CSLC): In June 2023, the CSLC approved a lease extension authorizing PG&E to continue its existing use of public lands beneath the mean high-tide line for DCPP continued operations through October 31, 2030.
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB): In January 2023, the SWRCB issued a draft amendment to its Once-Through Cooling (OTC) Policy to extend DCPP's compliance date to October 31, 2030.

PG&E must still obtain approvals from the California Coastal Commission and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. In addition, review of DCPP seismic information required by SB 846 is continuing with the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee and the Diablo Canyon Independent Peer Review Panel.

SB 846 specifies that investments made in the DCPP using grant or loan funds will not be added to the operator's rate base for tax purposes. It is not, however, clear how components of these additional investments in the plant will be treated by the Board of Equalization for purposes of determining assessed values subject to unitary tax. Given the

uncertain impacts, the County wants assurance that the state will make the County and local agencies whole, as additional investments would normally be assessed and subject to unitary tax. The County and local agencies should be assured to realize the same additional unitary taxes for investments made under SB 846 they would receive for equivalent investments made outside the scope of SB 846.

Resolution:

Safe operation of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant in compliance with all existing federal and state laws, state and local permit requirements, and all local emergency preparedness protocols, must be adhered to always.

All the emergency preparedness and response infrastructure and associated funding, including those funded by PG&E for on-site response, must remain in effect. The infrastructure and emergency response personnel must comply with ever-evolving standards and regulations throughout the operating life of the plant and for as long as spent fuel is located within the County.

Once plant operations cease and the DCP is decommissioned, the spent fuel will remain on site. In addition, a Greater than Class C (GTCC) waste storage facility will be built as part of decommissioning to store irradiated components of the nuclear reactors. Since an interim or permanent federal repository for spent fuel and GTCC waste does not exist, it is unknown how long the radioactive material will remain at the DCP. As noted above, it will be critical that appropriate emergency preparedness infrastructure and funding remain in effect. Additional consideration should be given regarding how to compensate the community for the prolonged storage of this material.

In response to the severe drought, the County has sought to have access to the unutilized or underutilized capacity of Diablo Canyon's desalination plant to provide critically needed water to the South County. At a minimum, it was estimated the plant could convey 1,300 acre-feet annually, which would provide a much-needed increase in local water supplies to help offset the public health threats associated with the current drought. Since announcing the planned closure, PG&E has ceased discussion with the County on this issue. The San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Flood Control District) will evaluate this facility as a potential long-term regional resource as part of its DESAL Plan work effort.

The County will encourage, seek, and support legislation that will allow it to further its economic development goals and community well-being, including pursuit of assets made available by PG&E or Eureka Energy through the closure of the DCP.

The County will work to ensure that appropriate staff and financial resources are available to fully support decommissioning activities, extension of operations, and land conservation and regional economic development planning in alignment with the new timeline under SB 846. The County will also work to ensure resources are available to adequately support the workers displaced by the closure of DCP to ensure their timely re-entry/continued participation in the local workforce.

The County will continue to play a role in determining potential reuse of the Diablo Canyon lands, including pursuit of assets. SB 846 enables PG&E and Eureka Energy to disburse lands outside of its site boundaries, which could allow for sale of land before the plant's operations cease, so long as the sale conforms with Public Utilities Code 851. As part of the FY 2023-24 state budget the State Coastal Conservancy and Go-Biz were both appropriated \$5 million. Pursuant to SB 846, the State Coastal Conservancy will use its funds for identifying a coastal access trail along the 12,000-acre Diablo Canyon lands on which there is currently no public access. Go-Biz will use its funds for local economic development associated with the DCP site. The County will work with these entities on these activities. In addition, \$40 million out of the \$150 million specified in SB 846 was appropriated to the State Coastal Conservancy in the 2024-25 state budget for the acquisition of Wild Cherry Canyon. The County will continue to work with the State Coastal Conservancy on this acquisition. The County also supports the inclusion of the remaining \$110,000 in a future state budget for the acquisition of the Diablo Lands.

The County will work to ensure that Diablo Canyon Power Plant's continued operations do not interfere with any efforts to pursue alternative resources that could utilize the existing transmission infrastructure, such as potential large-scale offshore wind and long-duration storage installations.

The County seeks to reserve the right to evaluate the application of investments made under SB 846 to assessed values subject to unitary tax, and recoup any unitary taxes determined to have been accrued to the County and local agencies at levels below those which would have accrued to the County and local agencies for equivalent investments made outside the scope of SB 846.

Broadband

The Loan Loss Reserve Fund provides a credit enhancement related to the financing of local broadband infrastructure development. The reserve fund expands the ability of local governments, tribes and non-profits to secure financing for building last-mile projects, with an emphasis on public broadband networks, by providing collateral to local governments to enable more favorable borrowing rates and terms for bonds issued to deploy broadband infrastructure.

In July 2021, Senate Bill (SB) 156 (Stats. 2021, Ch. 84 and 112) and Assembly Bill (AB) 164 (Budget Act of 2021), among other things, created a Broadband Loan Loss Reserve Fund in the California State Treasury. This included plans for up to \$750 million dollars over multiple years to fund costs related to the financing of broadband infrastructure deployment by local government agencies, nonprofit organizations and Tribal governments.

As part of the final 2024-25 state budget adopted last June, SB 109 (Chapter 36, Statutes of 24) revised previous appropriations, and specified a significantly reduced Broadband Loan Loss Reserve appropriation to only \$50 million and provided that: "Awards made from the Broadband Loan Loss Reserve program shall be issued by December 31, 2024, irrespective of cycles and tracks."

In context, the \$50 million in FY 2024-25 will only cover demand of \$451 million in applications putting many Golden State Connect Authority County Federal Funding Account (FFA) project applications in limbo, including for the County of San Luis Obispo.

Other

Economic Expansion

Encourage, seek, and support legislation that facilitates orderly economic expansion and diversification and increases the opportunity for discretionary revenues and programmatic and financial flexibility for the County.

Infrastructure, Energy, and Economic Development Projects

Support legislative initiatives that provide funding sources or financing tools for programs or projects that enable infrastructure, energy, and economic development projects including but not limited to development of adequate infrastructure; increased energy efficiency; development of renewable energy and energy storage systems; all zero net energy buildings; and, access to energy consumption data to support infrastructure and resiliency planning.

Renewable Energy

Support legislation that recognizes hydroelectricity and nuclear power as renewable energy sources.

Encourage, and seek legislation that supports balanced energy solutions and retains local control by allowing all technologies and energy resources that can power buildings and fuel vehicles that meet or exceed emission regulations.

General Government, Finance & Administration

Revenue

Delinquent Property Related Fees and Charges

Problem: As of 2009 legislation, Community Service Area (CSA) law does not allow the collection of delinquent "property related fees and charges" (water and sewer rates) on the tax roll when the property owner is not the water/sewer customer, causing significant loss of revenue for services provided.

Resolution: Sponsor and/or support legislation re-establishing CSA law to allow the collection of delinquent "property related fees and charges" (water and sewer rates) on the tax roll regardless of whether the account is in the name of the property owner or tenant.

On-line Travel Agencies/Transient Occupancy Tax

Problem: On-line travel agencies and platforms are actively seeking legislation and judicial remedies to alleviate their obligation to collect and remit all or portions of transient occupancy taxes to the appropriate jurisdictions. As this model grows in its usage, facilitating more and more usage of private homes as short-term rentals, it is imperative that local control is preserved to ensure that the quality of life for permanent county residents, and that compliance with local and state laws is vigorously enforced.

Resolution: Oppose any legislation which would reduce or eliminate on-line travel agencies and platforms from collecting and remitting transient occupancy taxes to the appropriate local jurisdiction. Support legislation that properly balances the quality of life of permanent residents with the economic benefits of short-term rentals booked through internet websites.

State Authorized Tax Exemptions

Problem: State agencies authorized to provide sales and property tax exemptions to private businesses are not required and do not, as a matter of practice, notify local agencies, such as the County, of such tax treatment. Because local agencies are also affected by such exemptions, it is extremely important for planning and operations purposes that local affected agencies be notified by the State of any application for beneficial tax treatments for a private business located within the County.

Resolution: Seek legislative or administrative action which would effectuate notice by the State to local agencies when a business located within the County has applied for a sales tax exemption.

Weights and Measures Device Registration Fees

Problem: Weights and Measures Programs are important to businesses and consumers in California. Weights and Measures Programs ensure there is a "level playing field" in the marketplace for businesses and industries. Likewise, these programs are critical in providing protection for consumers and reliable means for value comparisons when products are purchased by weight, measure, count, or time. County Sealers must maintain the ability to recover the costs for inspection programs to provide protections to both consumers and merchants.

Resolution: Support legislation that would eliminate the repeal date in the Business and Professions Code Section 12246 pertaining to Weights and Measures Device Registration Fees and oppose legislation that would prevent the collection of fees up to cost recovery for device testing and registration.

Pesticide Regulatory Program Funding

Problem: A major source of funding for County Agricultural Commissioner's Pesticide Use Enforcement programs is the pesticide mill fee imposed on the registrant at the first point of sale of a pesticide in California. To maintain the

integrity and quality of the pesticide regulatory system, it is critical we support methods to maintain or increase funding through the mill fee assessment.

Resolution: Support legislation that maintains or increases funding that is sufficient for pesticide regulatory activities to protect the safety of workers, the public and the environment and provides funding for education, outreach and compliance assessment activities related to the safe use of pesticides.

Employment

Meyers-Milias-Brown Act

Problem: Amendments to the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act (MMBA) to impose additional requirements not only erode fundamental management rights, but also frequently require the County to increase administrative processes with employee organizations, which increase costs and impact efficiencies of our operations.

Resolution: Oppose proposed legislation on the basis that further restrictions to management rights would provide an undue burden on the County by adding additional requirements to negotiate with employee organizations. MMBA provides for more than adequate protection to employees and Unions, already requires extensive requirements, and limits local governmental control. It is our position that MMBA does not require further definition.

Presumptions of Occupational Injury or Illness

Problem: The Legislature has approved several bills in recent years to increase the type and number of advance presumptions for illness related to work. This results in increased county costs.

Resolution: Oppose legislation that expands or extends any public safety presumptions of occupational injury or illness and support legislation that repeals the presumption that the findings of a treating physician are correct. Support legislation that requires formulas to rely on more evidence of work-related causation to determine compensability, higher thresholds for compensation, or a proportionate exposure formula, limits abuse of the Workers Compensation system or reforms the process to incentivize employees returning to work and create a disincentive for those that do not return to available modified duty or alternate positions.

Liability Exposure

Problem: Legal claim liabilities for local governments have skyrocketed in recent years as claims of tens of millions of dollars have become commonplace and the legal costs to prevail in cases with little or no merit are often hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Resolution: Support measures to reform California's tort system to curtail unreasonable liability exposure for public agencies and restore the ability of public agencies to obtain affordable insurance.

Other

Proposition 13

Oppose any legislation or initiative that proposes to modify Proposition 13. Specifically, oppose any proposal that would weaken the homeowner protections of fortified Proposition 13 by increasing or eliminating the 2% cap on annual property tax increases for homeowners. Oppose any legislation or proposal that would establish a so-called "Split Roll" for property tax, which would thereby reduce protections for commercial property owners.

Contracting for Services

Oppose legislation that constrains county contracting ability to contract for services. Such constraints would require the expenditure of valuable local resources to do analyses that would likely be flawed due to the prohibition on

incorporating certain data points but are critical to fiscal management decisions every county must make. Support legislation that upholds the principle of the subsidiary relationship between the State and counties.

Cannabis Industry Funding

Encourage, seek, and support legislation that results in State funding, collected from the cannabis industry, being provided to local jurisdictions where impacts from the newly legalized and regulated cannabis industry are being encountered. Specifically, pursue any legislation or proposal that provides funding for cannabis education or illegal cannabis cultivation eradication and its resultant impacts.

Community Service District Bankruptcy Process

Problem: Current state law is not clear about what happens if a community services district declares bankruptcy.

Resolution: Sponsor and/or support legislation which clearly establishes the process for the continued operation and governance of a community services district that declares bankruptcy.

State-County Assessors' Partnership Agreement Program

Problem: The State-County Assessors' Partnership Agreement Program (SCAPAP) has been revised, renewed, and expanded; however, it is still a three-year pilot. The 8-County pilot program has been an overwhelming success. The California Assessors Association continues to work with the Department of Finance to establish a permanent replacement to SCAPAP.

Resolution: Support legislative or budget proposals that expand and make permanent the SCAPAP.

Packaged Commodities Labeling

Problem: Failure to fully disclose the actual identity and quantity of packaged commodities prohibits accurate value comparison for consumers and promotes unfair business practices among competing manufacturers.

Resolution: Support legislation which assures clear labeling and accuracy of the net quantity of packaged products to promote value comparison and to ensure the consumer receives the product and the quantity of product for which they pay.

Tax Sharing Agreements

Support the County's authority to assure mutually acceptable tax sharing agreements for annexation and incorporation that protect or enhance the County's ability to provide services to its residents.

Health and Human Services

Public Health

Foodborne Illness

Problem: The Centers for Disease Control estimates that each year in the United States, about 9.4 million people become ill from 31 known foodborne germs. These illnesses lead to about 56,000 hospitalizations and 1,350 deaths.

Resolution: Support legislation that sustains or further strengthens the food safety system and does not present a food safety risk to the County of San Luis Obispo residents and overnight guests.

Reproductive Health Services

Problem: Reproductive health services, including family planning and diagnosis and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), are typically less available to persons of lower income and who have access to care

issues. To prevent unwanted pregnancies, teen births and transmissions of STIs, legislation that enhances access to care and affordability will help all members of the local community in the long run.

Resolution: Support legislative action that expands coverage of over-the-counter family planning methods and vasectomies with no cost-sharing, increases access to STI testing at home, allows for expedited partner therapy, and expands screening for congenital syphilis.

Chronic Disease Prevention

Problem: Chronic disease related to a host of place-based, environmental, and behavioral factors are also on the rise across all California jurisdictions. In recent years, State and philanthropy-based funding streams have used funding distribution mechanisms that are based on prioritization of need and geographic distribution rather than allowing for base funding in each jurisdiction. For example, the California Endowment is investing in only 14 counties for its Building Healthy Communities Initiative. The Let's Get Healthy California State Innovation Plan similarly selected a small number of counties to address overarching health improvement aimed at chronic disease prevention.

Resolution: Seek a sustainable, dedicated State funding stream for chronic disease prevention, with equitable distribution across all local health departments.

Emergency Medical Services

Problem: A variety of policy and legislative efforts have emerged in recent years which would potentially dilute existing statute (H&S Code, Division 2.5: 1797.200, 1797.202 & 1797.204) and regulation (CCR Title 22, Division 9: Prehospital Emergency Medical Services) which afford the local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agency local medical control. Maintaining the current construct is important to ensure universal, equitable, quality, and efficient EMS services throughout the county jurisdiction.

Resolution: Support legislation, regulatory, and other efforts, including funding, to maintain and/or increase the authority and governing role of counties and their local emergency medical services agencies to plan, implement and evaluate all aspects and components of the EMS system. Conversely, oppose legislative, regulatory, or other efforts that would threaten or weaken the authority and governing role of counties over EMS, limit or diminish the authority of the local EMS agency medical director to maintain medical control of the EMS system or decrease funding for associated Public Health Emergency Preparedness programs.

Single Payer Health Care System

Problem: In the 2023 legislative session AB 1400 (Kalra, Lee and Santiago) proposed a single-payer health care system. This bill would require the elimination of health care plans throughout the State and require all employees to be covered by a single-payer system (CalCare) run by the State of California.

Resolution: Support public health forward policies that focus on providing proactive health care services to reduce costs and complexity of our healthcare system.

Transportation Safety

Problem: Among Californians aged 15 to 44, road injuries are the second leading cause of death. According to the Office of Traffic Safety, out of 58 counties, San Luis Obispo County ranks 12th for the number of victims killed or injured in bicycle crashes. (Note: Number 1 in the rankings is the highest, or "worst." Number 58 in the rankings is the lowest, or "best.")

Resolution: Advance legislative and funding initiatives that implement the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe System Approach. The strategy will prioritize infrastructure improvements, develop targeted safety education programs, and create multimodal transportation solutions that protect pedestrians and cyclists.

Pediatric Developmental Screening

Problem: Pediatric developmental screening has long been a tool to raise parent/caregiver and pediatrician awareness of the social-emotional needs of young children. Importantly, such screening promotes identification of early social-emotional issues, such as mental health, behavioral factors and developmental delays, which in turn provides the opportunity for early intervention and lessening of long-term impacts of social-emotional and developmental problems. One in four children 0-5 across the socio-economic spectrum are at risk for delays.

Resolution: Work with state partners to support legislative remedies to the low private insurance reimbursement rates for pediatric developmental screening.

Master Plan on Aging

Problem: San Luis Obispo County's aging population is growing rapidly, with older adults (age 65+) expected to increase from 23% of the population in 2020 to 31% by 2040. Alzheimer's Disease, the fourth leading cause of death in the County, disproportionately affects vulnerable groups like low-income and Latino seniors, whose dementia cases are projected to rise by 258%. Public Health's efforts to educate on dementia prevention and support have been impactful, but without renewed funding after June 2025, critical programs and infrastructure to address this growing challenge are at risk. Continued support will ensure we prevent untreated dementia from overwhelming our healthcare system and keep our aging population healthier and more independent.

Resolution: Support legislation that ensures stable, sufficient funding to implement San Luis Obispo County's Master Plan on Aging, enabling local health jurisdictions to offer comprehensive and culturally responsive services. Advocate for policies that promote early dementia diagnosis, preventative care, and cognitive health education, ensuring equitable support for the County's growing senior population.

Youth Access to Cannabis

Problem: High-potency cannabis use among youth is a growing public health concern linked to adverse health outcomes.

Resolution: Support legislation that strengthens regulations on youth access to cannabis, and funds Public Health education and awareness campaigns for early intervention and support.

Electronic Smoking Devices

Problem: Electronic smoking devices (vapes) present a growing environmental threat due to their lithium-ion batteries and nicotine-contaminated plastic components. These devices often end up in landfills, where they release toxic chemicals into the environment and increase the risk of hazardous fires. Despite these risks, vapes are not included under California's Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003, leaving gaps in safe disposal practices.

Resolution: Support legislation that includes electronic smoking devices under California's electronic waste regulations and provides funding for public education and programs to promote their safe and responsible disposal.

Post-COVID Impacts to Children

Problem: The post-COVID impacts to children's learning and well-being are as yet unknown and uncounted. Schools have shared anecdotally that children have increased behaviors, decreased social/emotional skills and decreased academic performance due to learning interruptions during the pandemic.

Resolution: Expand support for the public health and economic crises that include the as yet unknown cost of treating youth with more mental health and learning challenges.

Public Health Funding Annual Inflation

Problem: As political subdivisions of the State of California, counties carry out public health and health care programs as contractors to, and partners with, the State. Counties incur legitimate increases from year to year in the cost of providing those services, and in most cases, the State does not recognize those legitimate cost increases, failing to provide a commensurate increase in the flow of State revenue to counties to carry out those health care delivery services.

Resolution: Support legislation and budget actions that will increase funding to the County in recognition of the increased costs of providing existing services through its contractual and other formal relationships with the State.

Insurance Coverage for Substance Abuse/Addiction Treatment

Problem: Health insurance providers often do not cover services provided to patients receiving treatment services for illnesses caused from or complicated by substance abuse or addictions.

Resolution: Support legislation that would require insurance providers to increase the extent to which services to patients whose conditions are caused or complicated by substance abuse or addiction and serious mental illness are included in the scope of coverage.

First Five Program

Problem: The First Five program can provide tremendous assistance to families with children five years and younger. However, the revenue stream continues to diminish, as California's public health goal to reduce smoking has the commensurate effect of reducing the tax dollars collected on cigarettes. The financial viability of programs funded with First Five dollars is commensurately impacted.

Resolution: Support legislation that enhances early childhood development by promoting coordinated programs focused on child health, parent education, childcare and comprehensive services for children from prenatal through age 0-5.

Medicare/Healthcare Reimbursement Rates

Problem: Access for Medicare beneficiaries to primary medical care and specialty care services in the County is impaired as a result of inadequate reimbursement rates from the federal Medicare program. After many years of members of Congress advocating on behalf of SLO County to include SLO County in a region with higher reimbursements rates, there was success under Rep. Lois Capps. There is one pie such that if one area goes up another decreases. Sadly, SLO County's rate has again been reduced after several years of realizing improved reimbursement rates.

Resolution: Support/sponsor advocacy and/or legislation which increases in the rates of reimbursement for Medicare, consistent with rates available in other like jurisdictions and costs experienced by providers. Work with federal lobbyists and congressional offices to try to achieve this end.

Problem: Access to healthcare for low-income families to primary and specialty medical care and due to inadequate reimbursement rates.

Resolution: Advocate for or support legislation that:

- Extends "disproportionate share" subsidies (presently available to inpatient care providers) to providers who serve a disproportionate share of lower-income patients on an outpatient basis.
- Provides reasonable reimbursement for acquisition of medications, such as chemotherapy agents, which are administered in physician offices.
- Provides reasonable reimbursement rates for physical, mental and dental health services for all age groups (children, adolescents, and adults).

- Support 2024 Proposition 35: Protect Access to Health Care Act of 2024.

CalFresh/Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

Problem: San Luis Obispo County ranks 57th out of 58 counties in California for CalFresh enrollment, placing it among the worst in the state and leaving thousands of eligible residents without critical nutrition benefits. Limited access to programs like CalFresh and WIC, combined with low awareness of healthy eating, drives poor health outcomes and inequities among vulnerable populations. Although California produces over half of the nation's fresh produce, 72% of residents fall short of daily fruit and vegetable intake, underscoring the need for improved access to nutritious food and targeted nutrition education to reduce chronic disease, enhance food security, and promote health equity in SLO County.

Resolution: Support legislation to sustain and increase funding for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs like CalFresh and WIC. Advocate for Healthy Food Incentive programs that improve access to affordable fruits and vegetables for low-income individuals. Support measures to streamline CalFresh enrollment and reduce barriers for eligible residents. Advocate for funding and programs that enhance nutrition education and outreach to low-income populations.

Problem: WIC serves 35% of infants born in San Luis Obispo County, benefiting over 4,700 participants monthly with nutrition education, healthy foods, and breastfeeding support. Proven to improve health outcomes and save \$2.48 for every \$1 invested, SLO County WIC also injects \$4.2 million annually into the local economy through food benefits. As a federally funded program, WIC depends on annual appropriations. Budget cuts or competing priorities in Congress can threaten its funding levels.

Resolution: Advocacy for stable and increased funding is essential to ensure WIC can continue to support vulnerable families and deliver its proven health and economic benefits.

Public Health Laboratories

Problem: Public Health laboratories are a necessary component of a Public Health Department due to their testing timely for a number of pathogens that are not done in clinical labs. These include TB quantiferon and nuclear amplification, influenza subtyping, measles, mumps and select agents associated with bioterrorism. Costs of advanced equipment and medical supplies due to technology advances are putting significant financial pressure on counties to keep up with laboratory expenses.

Resolution: Seek legislation for, and/or State Department of Public Health to, providing financial support to maintain public health laboratories.

Dental Care Access

Problem: Residents of San Luis Obispo County have limited access to dental care due to a shortage of dental providers. SLO County has long struggled with having enough dental providers to meet the demands of the community, however the pandemic has exacerbated the problem significantly. Data from the California Department of Health Care Services shows that utilization rates of Medi-Cal dental benefits decreased from the 2019 calendar year to 2020. Many people were not able to seek care during the pandemic. The statewide total utilization rates for annual visits of the following age groups 1-20 and 21+ decreased from 51.4% and 25.0% in 2019 to 42.2% and 21.0% in 2020. Going without regular preventive dental care for months can be detrimental to a person's oral health status. Minor problems such as early signs of decay can become major problems that may need restorative work such as fillings, root canals and crowns. Dental disease also impacts systemic health making individuals more susceptible to all disease, especially in a pandemic situation.

Now more than ever, dental offices in SLO County are struggling to keep up with the increased demand for dental care services due largely from delayed routine care and treatment during the pandemic. As the need for dental services has increased, dental practices continue to be short-staffed. Specifically, dental practices are struggling to

hire and retain mid-level dental health staff such as Registered Dental Hygienists and Registered Dental Assistants. Additionally, many areas of our county lack Medi-Cal dental providers. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has designated SLO County as having some Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) and scores these areas of SLO County high in the priority list for assignment of dental clinicians. However, smaller communities are sometimes clustered together for the purposes of evaluation HPSA status, thus masking deficiencies in the availability of Medi-Cal providers.

Resolution: Support legislation (listed below), regulatory, and other efforts, including funding, to support and/or increase training/coursework offered for mid-level dental health professionals locally. Increasing the number of mid-level dental health professionals/providers increases dental providers capacity to care for patients. Mid-level dental health professionals can provide routine care for patients, which frees up a dentist's dental chair time for more severe cases. Also, support legislation which:

- Increases the rates of reimbursement for Medi-Cal dental, consistent with rates available in other jurisdictions and costs experienced by efficient providers.
- Provides reasonable reimbursement rates for dental services for all age groups (children, adolescents, and adults).
- Includes funding for prevention services that are culturally responsive, family centered, and needs driven.
- Expands SLO County's HPSA-designated areas to create opportunities for more Medi-Cal providers to open offices in SLO County's small, semi-rural communities.

Access to Health Promoting Activities

Problem: Today's public health professionals are realizing that our modern built environment is negatively impacting health, with individuals unable to easily engage in daily physical activity due to unsafe communities, limited access to parks and recreation, and inadequate pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. These conditions limit physical activity and create and exacerbate the symptoms of many chronic diseases such as heart disease, hypertension, asthma, bronchitis, stroke, diabetes, obesity, osteoporosis and depression while also increasing the risk of serious injury. Increasingly, local public health departments are getting involved in helping to mitigate these health risks. From traffic-calming to bike lanes to transit-oriented development, the public health "voice" can help inform land use and transportation decisions to help create safer, healthier communities.

Resolution: Support legislation and funding that encourages the inclusion of health in all policies and consideration of public health impacts in the design and planning of healthy communities.

Health Disparities

Problem: Health disparities and inequities stem from a combination of community environments, social factors, and economic conditions. These social determinants of health—the conditions in which people are born, live, work, play, and age—profoundly influence health outcomes, quality of life, and associated risks. In San Luis Obispo County, rural communities, low-income residents, and communities of color face higher rates of chronic diseases, premature mortality, and limited access to vital resources such as medical care, nutritious food, and affordable housing. Equitable support throughout life is possible through the development of public health systems that effectively address the unique needs of all residents. While local health departments have taken steps to improve systems and reduce disparities, increased resources, staffing, and community outreach are needed to ensure meaningful progress.

Resolution: Support legislation and funding to reduce health disparities by ensuring equitable access to resources and opportunities for all residents. Prioritize policies that encourage local communities to participate in health decisions, promote cross-sector collaboration, and increase funding for culturally and linguistically appropriate services and workforce development. Advocate for applying a health equity lens to policy decisions.

Climate Change

Problem: San Luis Obispo County is experiencing more frequent events of extreme heat, drought, wildfires, smoke, and flooding, with projections showing significant increases in occurrence. These climate-related hazards can contribute to rising cases of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, injuries, food- and water-borne illnesses, and increased risks of vector-borne diseases like Valley Fever. The populations most negatively impacted by these hazards include older adults, farm workers, outdoor workers, and people experiencing homelessness—groups that will struggle to adapt due to limited resources, such as cooling during heatwaves or transportation during disasters. This results in cascading health impacts, including worsened respiratory conditions, heat-related illnesses, delayed healthcare, and mental health strain from displacement and economic loss.

Resolution: Support efforts and funding to build climate-resilient communities in San Luis Obispo County, mitigate climate-related hazards, and address their health impacts. Prioritize equitable climate policies, increase healthcare access, and invest in infrastructure that reduces exposure to environmental hazards.

Chronic Diseases

Problem: Three behaviors—poor diet, physical inactivity, and tobacco use—drive four chronic diseases that cause nearly 50% of deaths in SLO County. Public Health departments are essential in preventing chronic disease, promoting health, nutrition, and injury prevention. Sustained funding is critical to maintain these efforts, prevent avoidable health problems, and reduce healthcare costs.

Resolution: Advocate for policies and funding that preserve and sustain comprehensive Public Health programs, including health promotion and disease prevention. Support measures to ensure Public Health can continue addressing chronic diseases, promoting healthy behaviors, and preventing injuries to protect community health and reduce strain on the healthcare sector.

Environmental Health

Local Primary Agency

Problem: In 30 counties throughout California, oversight of water quality safety is delegated to the local health officer and is administered through local Environmental Health programs in what are known as Local Primary Agency (LPA) Delegation Agreements. Historically, the program has been funded by a direct fee charged to the public water system. Differences in state and local costs and administration resulted in fee variability. Increasing state requirements to administer the program continue to grow, resulting in a need to raise permit fees to fund the program.

Resolution: Support legislation that provides supplemental state funding for administering the program.

Land Application

Problem: With increasing requirements to divert organic waste from landfills, there comes an increasing potential risk that more land application of waste in various forms will become a problem for local counties to tackle. This could potentially be true for rural jurisdictions that have more open spaces where organic waste of some kind can be land applied.

Resolution: Support legislation that limits improper land application that can cause a potential contamination risk to surface and groundwater and/or become a vector/pest control issue.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

Problem: Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are known chemicals that have contaminated ground water throughout the county and proper remediation will be a significant financial undertaking for local government.

Resolution: Seek resources and support legislation which provide direct financial assistance and grant opportunities focusing on PFAS environmental abatement, mitigation, and restoration of our watersheds.

Behavioral Health

Medi-Cal Rates

Problem: Medi-Cal rate setting is based on an outdated formula which looks at Medi-Cal member population within a County without regards to cost of living of the County nor location of the County nor Medi-Cal member penetration rates.

Resolution: Support legislation that will re-evaluate Medi-Cal rate setting methodology to include a regional model, along with expected penetration rates based upon historical service levels.

Realignment Funding

Problem: Realignment funding has not kept pace with the growing Medi-Cal population and increased service needs for Behavioral Health programs.

Resolution: Support legislation that will re-evaluate realignment allocation methodologies to include increases in caseloads for Behavioral Health and number of Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

Ongoing Funding

Problem: Growth in Behavioral Health programs have been funded primarily through competitive grants and one-time funding.

Resolution: Support legislation that ensures stable, sufficient funding for all behavioral health services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries, uninsured and underinsured county residents.

Conservatorship

Problem: SB-43 (2023-24 Behavioral Health, Eggman) has been implemented in San Luis Obispo County and experience has demonstrated that this legislation will help individuals into treatment and will result in more individuals in long-term care and conservatorships that need behavioral health specialized services. New regulations and programs like SB-43 and CARE Court are resulting in an increased caseload for Public Guardian offices. The number of Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) conservatees is increasing while staffing remains constant. Without a paralleled increase in staffing, court cases will be impacted and there will be an inevitable decline in conservatee care.

Resolution: Support legislation that develops increased capacity for conservatorship and appropriate long-term care facilities for those with behavioral health needs.

Services for Unhoused Individuals

Problem: SB-326 (2023-24 Behavioral Health Services Act, Eggman), has changed the funding categories for the Mental Health Services Act to the Behavioral Health Services Act which is more inclusive and focused on individuals who are unhoused.

Resolution: Support legislation to provide a comprehensive array of services for unhoused individuals, especially outreach and engagement activities, and case management within the housing component of BHSA as not all needed behavioral health services are covered by Medi-Cal nor are all unhoused individuals covered by Medi-Cal from the onset of services.

Workforce

Problem: The available behavioral health workforce has diminished in recent years. County and contracted program agencies have challenges in filling open positions, impacting client care.

Resolution: Support legislative and regulatory initiatives that allow for more flexibility in workforce, including the addition of certified peers and other non-professionally licensed individuals.

Veterans Services

Problem: San Luis Obispo County is home to approximately 23,000 veterans. The unique health and human services needs of veterans, particularly as they return home from conflicts, require, and deserve important health and human service programs.

Resolution: Support legislation that provides for full funding of the allowable State budget allocation of \$11 million per year for County Veterans' Services offices which support other services for veterans, including transportation to facilities, providing claims assistance, medical services, and other veterans' benefits.

Veterans Retirement Pay Tax Rate

Problem: Currently, Armed Forces Retirees in California have their retirement pay taxed at the standard state income tax rate. However, every other state in the Nation provides partial or total exemption from state income taxes. This disincentivizes Armed Forces Retirees from retiring in California. Most Armed Forces Retirees go on to second careers as experts and managers in many technical fields.

Resolution: Support legislation that provides either total or partial exemption of Armed Forces Retirees' retirement pay to ensure that San Luis Obispo County continues to strengthen its skilled workforce.

In-home Care Management

Problem: When adults are discharged from acute care hospitals, there is often no in-home care available to ensure that patients can follow doctor's orders, purchase, and take medication and otherwise care for themselves.

Resolution: Support legislative efforts to create funding for positions to ensure that discharged hospital patients receive follow-up in-home care management to ensure that patients can comply with medical orders and recommendations and get and take prescribed medications. Expand the assisted living waivers to support these individuals.

Justice Services

Problem: The rates of mental disorders, chemical dependency and other chronic medical conditions are comparatively high in people who are involved in the criminal justice system. The State provides insufficient funding for medical and behavioral services resulting in inadequate treatment options for the criminal justice population and an increased likelihood of recidivism and high-cost utilization of the medical care system. Parolees at times have special needs beyond the current capacity and expertise of the local community mental health plans.

Resolution: Support legislation and budget actions that:

- Will increase funding to the County to provide expanded mental health and substance use disorder treatment in general, and for the additional costs of medical care, including preventive care and pharmacy for the jail population.
- Provide additional support and funding mechanisms to provide specialized services for individuals who were previously served within the Parole system and have been shifted to the responsibility of County Mental Health Plan and Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery Systems.

Incompetent to Stand Trial

Problem: Resulting from recent litigation involving the lack of State hospital beds and long wait times the Legislature enacted Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) section 4336 in AB133 which establishes an IST growth cap for each county (county baselines were established by using total felony IST determinations made in FY 2021-22 in each county). Beginning in FY 2023/24, each county will be assessed a steep penalty if a county exceeds its growth cap. Exceeding

the "IST growth cap" results in a steep penalty of up to \$169,500 by FY 2026-27 for each referral over the IST Growth Cap.

Resolution: Seek legislative changes that would not penalize counties for how many individuals are arrested for committing a felony and subsequently are deemed incompetent to stand trial. Remove the new liability that the State has transferred to local governments through AB133 and WIC 4336 and the IST Growth Cap Penalty Payments.

Child Support Services

Flexibility Efficiency and Modernization Rule

Support legislation related to implementing required and optional aspects of the Federal 2019 Flexibility Efficiency and Modernization (FEM) Rule. The FEM Final Rule required changes to California's statewide uniform child support guideline (The formula used for determining the amount of child support obligations, Family Code Section 4055) and legal proceedings for establishment of support orders in IV-D matters (Family Code Section 17400 et seq.) Under FEM Final Rule requirements, states' child support guidelines must take into consideration the support obligor's ability to pay and subsistence level needs of low-income support obligors.

Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement

Support legislation that creates greater access to justice for program participants and a mandatory duty to record all Title IV-D Court proceedings. Title IV-D services in California are child support enforcement services that establish and enforce child support orders. Title IV-D is part of the Social Security Act, and it requires states to establish and enforce child support orders when the government provides cash aid or when a parent requests services. The Local Child Support Agencies facilitate these services at the local county level and work with their Local Courts to provide self-help services, education activities, and more.

Maintain and Increase Resources

Oppose any legislation or initiative which proposes a reduction in child support program funding, limits or eliminates data collection tools and methods, and limits or eliminates the child support program as a safety net program.

Problem: Without adequate funding, Local Child Support Agencies (LCSA) cannot expand service capacity to sufficiently address local needs. Child Support is the third largest Safety Net program for children and plays a direct role in lifting children out of poverty. Child support payments enable parents to provide food, clothing and shelter for children who would otherwise not have access to these basic necessities. As such, the program is a vital tool in California's efforts to provide a safety net that supports all our families. In addition, because two-thirds of program funding is provided by the federal government, the need for State and local funding is significantly reduced, making the program one of the most cost-effective programs available.

Resolution: Support increased funding to the entire local child support program to help maintain the safety net, address child poverty, increase access to justice and facilitate positive, equitable outcomes for all children. Additional funding will allow LCSAs to increase outreach and engagement efforts to unserved and underserved communities, particularly communities of color, who are disproportionately impacted by child poverty issues. Increase the use of technology to encourage ease of access to program services and facilitate the opening of cases by families in need of services. Ensure LCSAs are appropriately staffed to manage the increasingly complex child support program needs, while meeting new programmatic mandates and requirements.

Problem: Families rely on child support financial obligations to meet their needs and support their children. Enforcement tools such as Income Withholding for Support Order (IWO), Driver's license, intercepts, levies, etc. are effective and lead to increased pass through to recipient parents. Effective collection and distribution of funds is the greatest service child support does. Legislation lays the pathway for creating new ways to fulfill the child support financial obligations.

Resolution: Support legislation that creates, enhances, or preserves the child support program's ability to use effective collection tools and methods.

Access to Services

Problem: Legislation can create barriers which make it more difficult for families to have access to the program and for LCSAs to serve customers effectively. Improving access to family services helps to ensure that they can provide the necessities for their children while promoting California's efforts to maintain a safety net for all families.

Resolution: Actively working to support legislation that promotes increased and equitable access to program services, while eliminating barriers to those services. Doing so will enable the program to serve more families (particularly those that are in underserved communities) and help to address California's child poverty crisis. Support legislation which promotes improved access, such as bills which include the following: Universal applications, simplified forms, using technology for ease of access. Ease of access as a means of encouraging participation in the program. Promoting family-centric services, minimizing inequity between customers seeking services and increasing program efficiencies.

Problem: It can be challenging to facilitate family access to program services, remove barriers to access and ease administrative burdens, while preserving local control and local child support agencies (LCSAs) ability to utilize effective, equitable, and flexible collection tools and methods.

Resolution: Support efforts that promote increased access to programs services, the elimination of barriers to those services, and the expansion of supportive services. Ensure LCSAs maintain the discretion to appropriately design and manage the delivery of the child support program at the local level, while maintaining a close partnership with the state. Support the continued ability to use effective, equitable, and flexible collection tools and methods to support families.

Communications/Outreach

Problem: The Child Support Program and its funding are not fully understood by the public and community.

Resolution: Partner with the Legislature in the legislative and policy making process to ensure the public and community understands the impact of changes to our funding and operations. The Department of Child Support Services is currently funded solely through the State and Federal government. The mechanism for this funding is a share of cost split. The split is 34% state and 66% Federal. For example, for every \$1 dollar an LCSA receives from their state, the Federal Government matches \$2 dollars, equaling to \$3 dollars in program funding. Cutting State funds for Child Support reduces the match received from Federal funding and impacts our program more drastically than other state departments.

Collaboration

Problem: As the Child Support Program changes and moves forward, local rules and processes should be shared amongst all LCSAs and partner agencies to ensure consistency in program administration.

Resolution: Support the facilitation of increased data sharing between LCSAs and partner agencies for improved outcomes for families. Increase the capacity to collect and analyze accurate demographic data to ensure equity within the program across the state.

Social Services

Addressing Increasing Demand

Problem: The increasing demand for services for children, youth and families exceeds the resources of local government and private non-profit agencies.

Resolution: Support legislation that:

- Creates opportunities and incentives for collaboration between businesses, schools, government, and private, non-profit agencies for improved services for children, youth and families;
- Increases the quality of childcare through annual visits by California State Department of Social Services (CDSS)/Community Care Licensing to subsidized, licensed exempt childcare providers, including support of national accreditation activities and retention incentives, such as stipends to childcare providers;
- Creates opportunities for job mentoring for youth in businesses using tax incentives.
- Advocates for health coverage for children.
- Enhances the coverage of mental health and substance use disorders treatment by insurances, including Medicare.
- Addresses administrative and privacy requirements for substance use disorder information sharing regulations.
- Addresses disparity of Medicaid (Medi-Cal) coverage for individuals requiring inpatient mental health treatment by eliminating the 16-bed rule for Institutions for Mental Disorders (IMD's).
- Supports the State DHCS to engage in additional CMS waivers, which would allow for a broadening of Medi-Cal reimbursable services, including housing supports.
- Emphasizes development of child and youth-centered programs including psychiatric youth facilities and expanding access and funding for intensive care that can be provided in the family's home.

Prevention Services

Problem: Services to support families are often limited to families who have already experienced a crisis and have to come to the attention of law enforcement or child welfare services. Early access to prevention services can be difficult to navigate. Barriers to entry such as language, availability, accessibility, and appropriateness of services exist. When parents cannot connect to adequate supports and services to address both their own challenges and the behaviors of their children, things can escalate to the point where intervention is mandated. Often, once families reach this crisis point, the traumatic impact to the family and child are so deep that healing and restoration are difficult to achieve. Each County in California is mandated to have a Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) that is charged with coordinating child abuse prevention efforts. However, each CAPC is funded primarily through local funding agreements resulting in unequal support for their programs and varying ability to create and administratively deliver on child abuse prevention priorities. In San Luis Obispo County, the local CPAC, who does business as the Center for Family Strengthening (CFS), receives funding through Children's Trust Fund (CTF) and Child Abuse Prevention Funds (CBCAP), which total only \$58,000 per year. This funding is inadequate to fully support a robust child abuse prevention program countywide. Because the CTF and CBCAP are currently the only stable funding sources, much of the child abuse prevention efforts locally are funded through fundraising efforts. Year after year, CFS spends a substantial amount of time fundraising in order to expand and maintain existing service levels, which often puts those programs and services at risk of being cut or reduced.

Resolution: Support legislation that:

- Promotes private/public partnership to enhance access to prevention services to keep families intact and children safe.
- Promotes the development and increases funding of child abuse prevention efforts.
- Reduces barriers to entry to prevention services. This includes supporting legislation that encourages service delivery through regional offices located in proximity to communities, encourages expansion of access to services through enhanced public transportation system, and enhances access to services through community-driven models such as peer-to-peer navigators.
- Creates funding and improves access to mental health, substance abuse, and crisis intervention services for youth and families. This includes supporting funding and legislation to develop youth crisis and intensive

treatment programs within San Luis Obispo County. There are currently no resources for youth experiencing a severe mental health crisis, resulting in youth having to leave the County to receive treatment.

- Includes funding for prevention services that are culturally responsive, family-centered, and needs-driven.
- Maintains one-time prevention funding provided to counties under the State FFPS Program Block Grant on an ongoing basis.

AB 2496 Foster Family Agencies Insurance

Problem: AB 2496 (Foster family agencies and noncustodial adoption agencies, Pellerin) has created a situation that may cause some Foster Family Agencies (FFA) to lose their insurance that would cause them to close. Any FFA that has to close in the State will have an impact throughout the State as we already do not have enough beds to serve our abused children.

Resolution: Work with State legislators to figure out a way to enable FFAs to get insurance and support all State legislation that will keep FFAs from closing.

Adult Protective Services Caseloads

Problem: AB 135 expanded the population of those who are mandated to be served by Adult Protective Services (APS). As a result, APS caseloads have steadily risen. Since 2019, San Luis Obispo County's APS caseloads have grown by 43%. Counties received a small amount of administrative planning allocations as a result of AB135, however, during the most recent budget year this funding was at risk of being cut. Despite the threat of cut funding, the mandate to serve the same number of APS clients remained.

Resolution: Support efforts to expand Adult Protective Services funding. Oppose efforts to cut funding that was allocated as a result of AB135.

Problem: On May 7, 2024, the Administration for Community Living published a final rule that expanded federal regulatory requirements for Adult Protective Services in several ways, including shortening the length of time APS has to respond to allegations of abuse from 10 days to 7. This will impact APS staff and require a redesign of workflow and a reduction of caseload sizes so that staff can respond timely. APS is already experiencing rising caseloads and this additional burden will put counties at risk of being out of compliance with federal regulations. The State of California has until May of 2028 to be in full compliance, however, planning must begin now to ensure Counties are included in the planning processes and that adequate funding is secured.

Resolution: Advocate for thoughtful and County inclusive planning of California's implementation of the final rule. Support efforts to expand Adult Protective Services funding to support County implementation of the provision of the federal rule.

In-Home Supportive Services Caseloads

Problem: In-Home Supportive Services caseloads continue to rise. In the past two years, new intakes have doubled, and ongoing cases have risen by almost 50%. This is a result of expanded MediCal eligibility, and an aging population. IHSS administrative funding is inadequate to hire the staff needed to handle this increased workload.

Resolution: Advocate for increased IHSS administrative funding so additional staffing can be hired to handle increased caseload.

Homelessness

Addressing Homelessness

Problem: Homelessness continues as a growing problem in San Luis Obispo County and across the State. San Luis Obispo County's 2024 Homeless Point-in-Time counted 1,175 homeless individuals within the County, of which 68%, were unsheltered. Additionally, 30% of homeless individuals met the definition of chronically homeless, with half of

these individuals experiencing homelessness for more than five years. While this is a reduction from the 2022 numbers, much of this success is due to one-time investments that have allowed an expansion of system capacity. These expansions and successes are at great risk unless increased, steady, and predictable funding is identified. Such funding is essential to directly address the concurrent challenges many face of being mentally ill and homeless and would greatly improve our ability to reduce homelessness in San Luis Obispo County.

Resolution: Aggressively pursue funding pursuant to SB 2 (Atkins, 2017) that is intended to be focused solely on homelessness. Pursue grants to help homeless individuals obtain services. Seek and support legislation that would allow the County more flexibility in creating shelters and temporary and permanent housing. Ensure funding includes administrative funding to ensure long-term sustainability of programs.

Supportive Service Funding

Problem: Building and capital improvement funds do not cover the ongoing and increasing need for behavioral health treatment, intervention, and case management to ensure successful transition from unhoused to housed, or for maintaining housing stability. During the 2024 PIT Count, homeless individuals were surveyed to collect additional information. Of the individuals surveyed, 45% self-identified as having a serious mental illness and 53% self-identified as having a substance use disorder. This highlights the need for intensive interventions to not only assist individuals into housing, but to provide services ongoing to ensure they successfully retain housing.

Resolution: Support legislation to ensure that supportive services funding is included in the array of homeless solution grants and allocations.

Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Programs

Problem: Prevention and Rapid Rehousing programs are some of the most effective tools at addressing homelessness early and either preventing individuals from falling into homelessness or being able to rapidly lift them out of homelessness. Prevention programs on average cost just \$1800 per household, and in FY 23/24 San Luis Obispo County prevented nearly 600 households from becoming homeless through prevention programs. Rapid Rehousing programs cost on average \$5,000 per household and in FY 23/24 San Luis Obispo County was able to move 453 households out of homelessness through rapid rehousing. These are extremely low cost and effective programs, with 100% of households served through prevention not becoming homeless for at least one year after being served. Despite the success of these programs, funding these programs competes with other services such as funding overnight shelter programs. While overnight shelter programs are very important, equal importance should be given to upstream measures that can prevent or rapidly address homelessness. Additionally, Federal funding that is currently available has income restrictions and housing affordability restrictions that limit which households can be served. In a high cost location such as San Luis Obispo County, these restrictions often make households ineligible, even though that household may meet local criteria for being below the poverty line.

Resolution: Support legislation and budget proposals that include set asides for prevention and rapid re-housing programs and which give local jurisdictions flexibility on eligibility criteria so that these critical components do not get overshadowed by other crisis care needs and Counties can meet their local need.

First Responder Training

Problem: First responders are being called upon more frequently to address situations involving persons battling homelessness and mental illness concurrently. Many times, these situations can be diffused and managed without involving the criminal justice system if the responder possesses skills and training to manage and diffuse the crisis immediately. Funding for behavioral health programs has lagged behind the need for flexible response and ongoing care.

Resolution: Seek and support legislative action and financial and Administrative support from Governor Newsom to bolster funding and training opportunities for first responders to avail themselves of crisis intervention training in

order to further resource California's communities in combatting the homelessness and mental health crisis that grows every day. Ensure ongoing stable funding for behavioral health outreach and ongoing care. Seek and support legislative action and financial support to expand crises response teams with added personnel who specialize in mental health crises treatment.

Protect Waterways

Problem: Homeless encampments along roads, in creeks and other waterways result in tons of trash that clogs vital infrastructure and becomes a safety hazard. The trash, which often includes hazardous waste or products, washes into the ocean or causes flooding.

Resolution: Support legislation that provides funding for roadside and/or creek clean up and disposal of the trash.

Housing, Land Use, Transportation & Infrastructure

Housing

Workforce Housing

Problem: The available workforce has diminished in recent years. County and contracted program agencies have challenges in filling open positions, impacting client care. One of the major barriers for candidates coming from other areas is the cost of living in San Luis Obispo, especially housing.

Resolution: Support legislative initiatives to build workforce level housing and advocate for housing programs that benefit those in the middle-class income range, including supporting increased funding for affordable housing and supportive housing services for very low, low, and moderate income individuals and/or families.

Land Use

Preservation of Coastline

Support the preservation, protection, and enhancement of the California coastline through proper planning. The County of San Luis Obispo is committed to preserve and provide access to the coast and support where appropriate beach activities, boating activities, and other recreational uses in developing and implementing precise coastal plans and appropriate zoning. Statewide efforts related to the California coastline must respect local land use authority. Support collaborative and cooperative work with the state, other counties, and cities to ensure decisions do not erode local control and decision-making. Encourage, seek, and support efforts to streamline, improve and modernize coastal development permit and local coastal planning processes, without compromising or undermining the original intent and tenets of these laws.

Streamline Land Use Regulations

Encourage, seek and support continued legislative efforts to streamline, improve and modernize state land use regulations and/or policies such as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), California Coastal Act, Subdivision Map Act, etc., without compromising or undermining the original intent and tenets of these laws.

Urban Stormwater Permit Requirements

Problem: The United States Environmental Protection Agency has mandated minimum measures for the control of urban storm water, pursuant to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System developed as part of the Federal Clean Water Act. To comply with the Federal mandate, the State Water Resources Control Board has developed Statewide General Permits for both municipalities and new construction. The requirements contained in these permits exceed the federal mandate in numerous areas and are overly prescriptive. In addition, Regional Water Quality Control Boards are given leeway to modify (increase) the statewide requirements with no oversight and

limited opportunities for municipalities to appeal. In all cases, and despite the Federal mandate to consider the costs of implementation, neither the State Board nor Regional Boards provide additional funding or include realistic limits on the costs of compliance to local agencies.

Resolution: Support legislation that prevents the State and Regional Boards from adopting statewide or region-wide permits that exceed federal clean water mandates without program-specific legislation and without full funding. Support legislation that provides Prop 218 relief on funding stormwater efforts. Oppose Statewide Permit requirements that significantly exceed federal mandates. Support legislation that prevents the State and Regional Boards from adopting new mandates on closed landfills without full funding.

Local Control

Problem: Recent State efforts to promote and regulate the siting of renewable energy power facilities conflict with local land use authority. Currently, oversight and land use related to the siting of renewable power, except thermal power plants greater than 50MW, is appropriately under the jurisdiction of the local land-use agency.

Resolution: Support legislation that retains current local land use, siting authority and final approval of renewable energy plants at the local level. Oppose any legislative or administrative action which seeks to subsume this authority and give it to the State or cedes authority to an investor-owned utility. Oppose legislative or administrative action which would result in discouraging local distributed generation or local ability to set terms and conditions over siting.

Transportation

Cooperative Approach

Support and encourage a cooperative approach between state and local agencies for the maintenance, improvement and development of transportation infrastructure and public transportation systems.

Caltrans Project Study Report

Problem: The cost to produce a Caltrans Project Study Report (PSR) for a transportation project can become a significant financial drain on the overall cost of the project and waste scarce funding on administrative hurdles instead of construction materials and jobs.

Resolution: Sponsor or support legislation that would increase the ability of a Caltrans District Director to approve projects without a PSR to \$5 million.

Caltrans Interchange Impacts

Problem: Caltrans interchange capacities are not currently defined as a state route concern (i.e., local agencies must deal with interchange issues outside of the mainline highway).

Resolution: Support legislative and administrative actions that would increase responsibility and accountability for Caltrans to prepare their own Caltrans Project Study Report (PSRs) for interchanges.

Public Transportation Funding

Problem: Public Transportation to rural communities is limited or poses barriers such as limited hours of operation.

Resolution: Support legislation and advocate for funding to expand public transit options particularly for elderly or disabled individuals.

Transportation Electrification

Problem: To reduce greenhouse gases, the State has passed ambitious transportation electrification, decarbonization, and resiliency targets. Local governments are key stakeholders in helping the State achieve its

targets. Some of the associated technologies are in nascent stages and need incentives to bring the cost down and to encourage wider adoption.

Resolution: Support state policy, funding support, tariff preservation and program designs that help advance state transportation electrification, decarbonization, and resiliency goals to support County compliance. Support programs that enable low-income, multifamily, and residential access to energy programs. Support flexibility for local agency compliance with fleet electrification mandates for heavy duty trucks based on market availability and affordability of required heavy duty vehicles and allow Public Works to have exemptions equivalent to first responders.

Problem: Animal care and control agencies provide an important service in addressing animal related public safety concerns throughout California. Among many other functions, animal control officers are responsible for the capture of dangerous and aggressive animals running at large, they assist law enforcement in responding to incidents in which animals are involved, they provide essential evacuation, rescue and support services during natural disasters, and they assist emergency response crews in their response to traffic accidents when animals are involved.

To effectively perform these functions, it is critical that animal control officers be equipped with vehicles which are reliably able to respond to calls for service under a wide range of conditions, covering large distances and remaining in service for extended periods of time while operating under significant workloads.

The Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) Regulations recently enacted by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) require that many categories of vehicles purchased by public entities meet *net zero-emission* standards. The ACF regulations provide an exemption from this requirement for emergency vehicles, which includes those vehicles operated by peace officers as defined in the state Penal Code. CARB acknowledges that animal control officers participate in emergency response services and are vested with peace officer authorities within the relevant code section. However, because animal control officers are not specifically defined as peace officers, CARB does not extend the exemption to those vehicles operated by animal care and control agencies. Consequently, those agencies are mandated to comply with the ACF regulations, despite the fact that vehicles which can provide the full functionality and performance required of those operations are not readily available. This will impede and reduce the ability of animal care and control agencies to participate in emergency response efforts supporting the community and their ability to provide timely, reliable responses to animal related public safety concerns.

Resolution: Seek and support the exemption of vehicles operated by animal control officers from the Advanced Clean Fleets regulations. This can reasonably be achieved by:

- The inclusion of those vehicles operated by animal control officers in the list of vehicle exemptions established in §2013(c) of the ACF regulations; or
- Amendment of California Vehicle Code §165 to include vehicles operated by officers whose authorities are defined by Penal 830.9 in the list of vehicles designated as *emergency vehicles*.

State Route 101 At-grade Intersections

Problem: State Route 101 travels through the County of San Luis Obispo as a primary north-south route for state commerce and travel. While the majority of Route 101 in the County operates as a full freeway facility, there are three segments which are conventional highway with at-grade intersections. With the increase in traffic volume on Route 101, safety concerns at these at-grade intersections have increased such that improved access-controlled facilities are now required.

Resolution: Support increased funding for planning, design, and construction of freeway conversion of these three segments of Route 101. Initiate Caltrans corridor plans to define access improvements and phased construction. Support funding from inter-regional funds under the State Transportation Improvement program. Oppose legislative

or administrative action that would redirect funding away from these critical projects in favor of projects in more urban areas.

Infrastructure

Seismic Retrofit

Problem: Several veterans' halls and civic halls are in a state of seismic risk. The buildings need to be upgraded to ensure their ongoing use, and to provide a safe and structurally sound gathering place for veterans and the public.

Resolution: Seek funding through the two voter-approved 2018 resources-related bond measures to specifically provide grants to local governments and civic organizations to apply for funding to retrofit these important gathering places.

Sand Dune Management

Problem: Residential neighborhoods and public facilities adjacent to State owned property (Oceano Dunes SVRA) are subject to periodic inundation of sand due to the application of CA State Park policies that emphasize allowing "natural" processes to develop and evolve on park lands, particularly related to sandbars at creeks and dunes within neighborhoods. These policies have also resulted in alterations to a significant flood control channel located within a local easement on State Park land. Sand dunes within State Park land have also expanded into private property and local roads restricting access for residents.

Resolution: Sponsor and support legislation that requires State Park management plans to proactively manage sandbars and sand dunes to not result in harm (i.e., flooding) of adjacent developed properties and existing locally maintained infrastructure.

Alternative Project Delivery Methods

Problem: Existing statutes in the Public Contracts Code limit the application of alternative project delivery mechanisms by restricting certain work type applications, establishing monetary limits, and excluding certain local agencies from utilizing these mechanisms. Some methods, such as Job Order Contracting, Design-Build, and Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) are being utilized by the County. Others like Progressive Design-Build are mechanisms the County would likely avail themselves to use in the future on an expanded basis than currently defined in the statutes.

Resolution: Support legislation that expands existing and proposed alternative project delivery methods for use into all categories of facilities and infrastructure work including flood control, transportation, parks, and fiber optics. Ensure that these are available to all cities and counties regardless of location or size. Support bills which would allow the use of Progressive Design-Build and support bills which revise and expand the monetary limits of existing alternative project delivery mechanisms and broaden their application in the applicable areas of work, including new construction, for Job Order Contracting and Design-Build.

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Problem: Effective 2035, 100% of the new cars and light trucks that are sold in California will be zero-emission vehicles. The current County electric vehicle infrastructure can support less than 2% of the vehicles currently in service.

Resolution: Support legislation that reinforces the County's fleet electrification goals and infrastructure requirements by incentivizing manufacturers to produce a variety of vehicle options and charging capabilities, with emphasis on emergency-related vehicles and the charging infrastructure to support them.

Board Member Changes to Platform - January 14, 2025

1. Support for legislative action that will result in the availability of insurance for business owners and residents located in high wildfire risk areas as well as funding for our Fire Safe Council. *[5-0 straw vote]*
2. Support of Proposition 13: "Oppose any measures or legislation that reduce the super majority-vote required to raise taxes from two thirds to 55%. *[4-1 straw vote]*"
3. Support for legislative changes to ag-related insurance programs to cover more crops and cover more losses for our local farmers. *[5-0 straw vote]*
4. Advocacy for consistent state and/or federal funding for affordable and workforce housing, homelessness, mental health, groundwater management and new sources of water for water supply, such as desalinization. *[5-0 straw vote]*
5. Support for the continued operation of Diablo Canyon, predicated on safety studies demonstrating that its continued operation is safe, consistent with the resolution supported by the Board of Supervisors advocating for an extension of 20 years. *[4-1 straw vote]*
6. Support for increasing healthcare (Medi-Cal/Medicare) reimbursement rates for healthcare professionals, thus increasing compensation available for our local physicians. *[5-0 straw vote]*
7. Support for funding the needs of the growing older adult population and our Master Plan on Aging. *[5-0 straw vote]*
8. Support for exemptions for essential county vehicles from the state's fleet electrification mandates. *[5-0 straw vote]*
9. Support for tort system reform to curtail unreasonable liability exposure for public agencies and restore the ability of public agencies to obtain affordable insurance. *[5-0 straw vote]*
10. Support for funding for Proposition 36. *[5-0 straw vote]*
11. Support for increasing the number of allowable liquor licenses in the county, to allow at least 10 more licenses, in order to support the hospitality industry. *[5-0 straw vote]*
12. Support legislation that would create permitting pathways for the development of new nuclear technologies and energy generation in order to achieve state energy security and climate goals. *[4-1 straw vote]*
13. Support for adding adequate staffing of the Airport's air traffic control tower. *[5-0 straw vote]*

Federal Legislative Priorities

Child Supportive Services

Support legislation related to implementing required and optional aspects of the Federal 2019 Flexibility Efficiency and Modernization (FEM) Rule. The FEM Final Rule required changes to California's statewide uniform child support guideline (The formula used for determining the amount of child support obligations, Family Code Section 4055) and legal proceedings for establishment of support orders in IV-D matters (Family Code Section 17400 et seq.) Under FEM Final Rule requirements, states' child support guidelines must take into consideration the support obligor's ability to pay and subsistence level needs of low-income support obligors.

Problem: The Child Support Program and its funding are not fully understood by the public and community.

Resolution: Partner with the Legislature in the legislative and policy making process to ensure the public and community understands the impact of changes to our funding and operations. The Department of Child Support Services is currently funded solely through the State and Federal government. The mechanism for this funding is a share of cost split. The split is 34% state and 66% Federal. For example, for every \$1 dollar an LCSA receives from their state, the Federal Government matches \$2 dollars, equaling to \$3 dollars in program funding. Cutting State funds for Child Support reduces the match received from Federal funding and impacts our program more drastically than other state departments.

Economic Development

Problem: California has set a planning goal of 2-5 GW of offshore wind capacity by 2030 and 25 GW by 2045. The Morro Bay wind energy Area is one of two federal offshore wind call areas on the West Coast that were auctioned in December 2022. The economic benefits from offshore wind development that could be realized by San Luis Obispo County are dependent in part on development of an operations and maintenance facilities.

Resolution: Support Statewide offshore wind development programs and initiatives, as well as funding for Central Coast-specific offshore wind development, including studies aimed at infrastructure, workforce training and development, economic benefits, supply chain development, environmental analyses, permitting, and more. Support initiatives that improve coordination between local, state, and federal agencies as well as with other communities preparing for offshore wind development. Support local hire initiatives to ensure the jobs generated in the building and construction phase of offshore wind development go to local workers.

Environmental Health

Problem: Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are known chemicals that have contaminated ground water throughout the county and proper remediation will be a significant financial undertaking for local government.

Resolution: Seek resources and support legislation which provide direct financial assistance and grant opportunities focusing on PFAS environmental abatement, mitigation, and restoration of our watersheds.

Infrastructure

Problem: The Salinas Dam, a federally owned facility built in 1942, does not have sufficient funding for improvements that would benefit downstream users and enhance storage capabilities. Additionally, it is owned by the US Army Corps of Engineers, who are conducting a disposition study to possibly remove it from their ownership portfolio.

Resolution: Seek and support legislative and grant funding opportunities to facilitate transfer from the US Army Corps of Engineers. Seek and support opportunities or legislative solutions to retrofit the dam and transfer to County of San Luis Obispo and/or Flood Control District ownership in order to secure water for local needs.

Public Health

Problem: San Luis Obispo County ranks 57th out of 58 counties in California for CalFresh enrollment, placing it among the worst in the state and leaving thousands of eligible residents without critical nutrition benefits. Limited access to programs like CalFresh and WIC, combined with low awareness of healthy eating, drives poor health outcomes and inequities among vulnerable populations. Although California produces over half of the nation's fresh produce, 72% of residents fall short of daily fruit and vegetable intake, underscoring the need for improved access to nutritious food and targeted nutrition education to reduce chronic disease, enhance food security, and promote health equity in SLO County.

Resolution: Support legislation to sustain and increase funding for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs like CalFresh and WIC. Advocate for Healthy Food Incentive programs that improve access to affordable fruits and vegetables for low-income individuals. Support measures to streamline CalFresh enrollment and reduce barriers for eligible residents. Advocate for funding and programs that enhance nutrition education and outreach to low-income populations.

Problem: WIC serves 35% of infants born in San Luis Obispo County, benefiting over 4,700 participants monthly with nutrition education, healthy foods, and breastfeeding support. Proven to improve health outcomes and save \$2.48 for every \$1 invested, SLO County WIC also injects \$4.2 million annually into the local economy through food benefits. As a federally funded program, WIC depends on annual appropriations. Budget cuts or competing priorities in Congress can threaten its funding levels.

Resolution: Advocacy for stable and increased funding is essential to ensure WIC can continue to support vulnerable families and deliver its proven health and economic benefits.