

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

2026 State and Federal Legislative Platform



Approved February 10, 2026

County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors



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Introduction

The State and Federal Legislative Platform (Platform) articulates the County's overarching policy advocacy principles and areas of focus for actionable legislative and budget advocacy on issues that affect the County as well as other jurisdictions. The Platform establishes a Board of Supervisors' approved policy framework for State and Federal advocacy and guides the advocacy efforts of County leadership, staff and legislative advocates.

BOARD 2026 PRIORITIES

Ongoing: Public Safety; Fiscal Stability; Legal Mandates; Debt Service

First Tier: Economic Development; Homelessness; Mental Health; Housing

Second Tier: Resiliency (emergency preparedness, infrastructure recovery, water); Organizational Effectiveness

MISSION

The County of San Luis Obispo is committed to serving the community with pride to enhance the economic, environmental, and social quality of life of its residents.

VALUES

Integrity, Collaboration, Professionalism, Accountability, Responsiveness

COMMUNITYWIDE GOALS

A safe community, healthy community, livable community, prosperous community, and a well-governed community.

Purpose and Use of the Platform

The Platform establishes the Board of Supervisors' policy framework for State and Federal advocacy and guides the activities of County leadership, staff and legislative advocates. The Platform is organized to guide advocacy engagement through Board approved direction:

Advocacy Principles, which articulate continuing County policy positions, and the annual **Policy Focus**, which identifies the specific areas where the County will concentrate its advocacy efforts during the upcoming year. It is not intended to enumerate every potential issue or proposal, but to provide clear direction to the County's leaders and advocacy team that can be applied as legislative and budget actions develop throughout the year.

Advocacy Principles

The County will pursue State and Federal advocacy consistently with the following principles:

1. Secure stable, ongoing funding for County-administered and County-impacted programs, including adjustments to reflect workload and service demand.
2. Prevent unfunded or underfunded mandates and cost shifts from the State or Federal government to counties.
3. Preserve local control, governance authority, and implementation flexibility in the administration of programs and services.
4. Improve public safety, justice system effectiveness, and emergency preparedness, including coordination across County, State, and Federal partners.
5. Strengthen homelessness response and behavioral health systems, including prevention, treatment capacity, workforce sustainability, and housing-linked services.
6. Advance community resilience to wildfire, flood, drought, climate impacts, and infrastructure failure.
7. Promote housing production across income levels while preserving local land use authority and regulatory flexibility.
8. Support economic and workforce development, infrastructure investment, and regional economic diversification.
9. Maintain fiscal stability by protecting local revenue authority, managing liability and risk exposure, and mitigating adverse fiscal impacts from State and Federal actions.
10. Support workforce sustainability across County-administered programs, including recruitment, retention, training, and staffing flexibility.

2026 Policy Focus

In 2026, the County will concentrate its State and Federal advocacy efforts on the following policy areas. The order of sections does not imply relative priority. Supported by the Board's advocacy principles and 2026 focus, this framework provides more detail about the County's positions in each topic area. Jurisdictional scope: State (S), Federal (F), State and Federal (S/F).

Administration of Justice and Public Safety

1. Secure funding and policy support for implementation of Proposition 36, including probation supervision, behavioral health treatment, housing, case management, and court-aligned services. (S)
2. Support restoration and stabilization of pretrial services funding to ensure safe, data-informed release decisions. (S)
3. Support expanded mental health, behavioral health, and substance use disorder treatment services within the justice system. (S/F)
4. Clear direction on management of individuals incompetent to stand trial (IST), and elimination of penalties for counties exceeding IST growth caps. (S)
5. Funding to support criminal justice and human services to address and prevent financial elder abuse and identity theft. (S/F)
6. Protect County authority over public safety governance, including probation leadership and emergency medical services systems. (S)
7. Support funding, streamlined permitting, and state responsibility for risk in state responsibility areas; disaster preparedness, flood protection, levee systems (Arroyo Grande Creek); response and recovery from floods, wildfires, and climate-related emergencies. (S/F)

Health and Human Services

1. Engage on State and Federal budget and policy actions, including H.R. 1 implementation, that affect health and human services funding stability, to maintain or improve service capacity and non-federal cost sharing. Amend H.R. 1 to advocate for federal policies that preserve access to healthcare and nutrition assistance, maintain adequate federal funding participation, and avoid cost shifts that destabilize county-administered programs. (S/F)
2. Advocate for increased, stable, and flexible funding and streamlined permitting for homelessness prevention and response, shelter availability, interim and permanent housing, supportive services, and environmental protection. (S)
3. Support sustainable ongoing behavioral health funding, including Medi-Cal rate reform, workforce flexibility, conservatorship capacity, and substance use disorder treatment. (S)
4. Support ongoing funding for public health infrastructure, disease surveillance, laboratories, emergency preparedness, access, and prevention programs. (S)

5. Support funding for early childhood development, nutrition, child support, social services, adult services, aging, and veterans' access to programs to meet rising service demand and statutory mandates. (S/F)
6. Advance workforce sustainability across health and human services programs, including recruitment, retention, and training. (S/F)
7. Advocate for federal Medicare reimbursement reforms that reflect the true cost of providing care in rural and regional communities, including adjustments for geographic cost variation, support for physician and specialty care recruitment, and incentives for providers to practice in underserved areas, in order to strengthen local healthcare capacity, improve access to care for seniors and people with disabilities, and reduce long-term pressure on county-operated safety-net and indigent care systems. (F)

Housing, Land Use, Transportation, and Infrastructure

1. Support production of workforce, affordable, supportive, and moderate-income housing, while preserving local control and regulatory flexibility. (S)
2. Protect County land use authority over planning and zoning, including clean energy and infrastructure projects. (S/F)
3. Support transportation infrastructure funding for highways, roadways, transit systems, electrification, airports, and traffic safety improvements. (S/F)
4. Support staffing Airport's control tower to meet current and projected growth. (S/F)
5. Support rural, senior, and disability-focused public transportation services. (S/F)
6. Support infrastructure investments—water supply (conservation, desalination, recycling, recharge, storage), flood control, broadband, energy production and transmission; and alternative project finance, award and delivery methods. (S/F)
7. Support transfer of Salinas Dam from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to local control. (S/F)
8. Support streamlined permitting and coordinated State and Federal processes that reduce delays while maintaining environmental protection. (S/F)

General Government, Finance and Administration

1. Protect existing local revenue authority and independence of counties. (S)
2. Oppose unfunded mandates that reduce local fiscal stability. (S/F)
3. Support transparency in State tax actions affecting local governments, including property, unitary, sales, and transient occupancy taxes. Oppose any modifications that would undermine Proposition 13 protections for homeowners or businesses, including proposals to increase or eliminate the 2% cap on annual property tax

increases, or to establish a so-called “Split Roll” for commercial property. Oppose measures that reduce the supermajority vote required to raise taxes from two-thirds to 55%. (S)

4. Support risk management and liability reforms that improve insurance availability and affordability for public agencies. (S)
5. Preserve flexibility in labor relations, contracting authority, cost containment, and County governance structures. (S)
6. Engage on State and Federal actions, including H.R. 1 implementation, with fiscal impacts on County finances, liability exposure, and cost containment flexibility. (S/F)
7. Support state legislative and regulatory reforms that stabilize California’s homeowners insurance market, expand coverage availability in high-risk areas, and improve affordability for residents, while maintaining strong consumer protections and promoting investments in wildfire risk mitigation. (S)

Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources

1. Support ongoing Williamson Act subventions and agricultural land uses. (S)
2. Support robust water supply, groundwater management, flood control, and drought resilience that balances agricultural, residential, and commercial needs. (S/F)
3. Support authorization of recreational swimming at Santa Margarita Lake, consistent with health, safety, and water quality standards, and protecting drinking water. (S)
4. Support wildfire prevention, forest health, fuels reduction, and community resilience initiatives. (S/F)
5. Support environmental health protections, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) mitigation, water quality, and public health safeguards. (S/F)
6. Oppose unfunded environmental mandates and regulatory actions that disproportionately impact coastal, rural and agricultural communities. (S/F)
7. Support sustainable water supplies and the operational viability of reservoirs and water infrastructure, while ensuring environmental protections are implemented in a manner that avoids unintended impacts to drinking water reliability, agriculture, and public safety. (S/F)
8. Advocate for procedural changes that provide local governments with a formal, transparent, and timely process to appeal CAL FIRE Fire High, and Very High, Hazard Severity Zone mapping determinations or to request modifications prior to map adoption, ensuring that accurate data, conditions, and mitigation efforts are adequately considered. (S)

Economic Development

1. Support economic diversification, workforce development, and infrastructure investments that strengthen the regional economy. (S/F)
2. Advocate for energy policies that support reliability, affordability, and low-emission generation, while preserving local flexibility. (S/F)
3. Support permitting pathways and infrastructure planning for emerging energy technologies and offshore wind development that provide regional economic benefits. (S/F)
4. Advocate for targeted investments that support local hiring, supply chain development, and long-term economic resilience. (S/F)
5. Support Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) policies that ensure inclusion of specified operating costs in unitary property assessment, safe extended operations consistent with applicable laws, preservation of emergency preparedness infrastructure, mitigation of community impacts including long term spent fuel storage, conservation, and use of transmission and water-related assets to support regional economic stability. See Attachment 1, Diablo Canyon Advocacy Letter. (S/F)

Sponsored Legislation

- Require the Diablo Canyon Power Plant operator to annually provide comprehensive data to the Board of Equalization for the assessment of unitary property through December 31, 2030, to ensure appropriate assessment, tax collection and distribution to the County, cities, special districts, and school districts. (S)

Ongoing Implementation

This Platform informs legislative, regulatory, and budget advocacy, including funding requests, bill positions, testimony, and intergovernmental engagement. County leadership and legislative advocates will pursue State and Federal advocacy consistent with this Platform and will advance specific legislative positions, funding requests, and policy actions needed to support the Board's Advocacy Principles and the 2026 Policy Focus. To the extent that there are ambiguities in advocacy positions for pending State or Federal action, those specific issues will be addressed by returning to the Board for consideration and direction.

Attachment 1



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

John Peschong *District One Supervisor*

Bruce Gibson *Vice Chairperson, District Two Supervisor*

Dawn Ortiz-Legg *District Three Supervisor*

Jimmy Paulding *Chairperson, District Four Supervisor*

Heather Moreno *District Five Supervisor*

February 5, 2026

Senator John Laird
1021 O Street, Suite 8720
Sacramento, CA. 95814

Assemblymember Dawn Addis
1021 O Street, Suite 4120
Sacramento, CA. 95814

Subject: Request for Legislation Supporting Extended Operations of Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Coastal Land Conservation, and Restoration of Unitary Tax Treatment

Dear Senator Laird and Assemblymember Addis,

On behalf of the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, we write to express our firm support for legislative action to enact measures authorizing Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) to operate for up to twenty (20) additional years, restore unitary tax treatment for DCPP, and support coastal land conservation and public access near the facility.

As the host county for California's only operating commercial nuclear power plant which provides approximately 9% of the State's total generation of power, San Luis Obispo County recognizes Diablo Canyon as a critical component of the State's clean energy infrastructure. Extending the plant's operational life for up to 20 years would provide stable, carbon free baseload power that strengthens grid reliability, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and advances California's clean energy and climate goals.

Continuation of operations, however, must be accompanied by fiscal fairness for the communities that host and support the facility. We therefore urge the Legislature to restore pre-decommissioning unitary taxation for DCPP during any extended period of operation. Historically, unitary tax revenues have been distributed to the County, cities, school districts, and special districts, supporting essential public services, educational programs, infrastructure maintenance, and public safety. Restoration of this tax structure is critical to maintaining the fiscal stability of local governments and public agencies.

If restoring the pre-decommissioning unitary tax treatment proves infeasible, we request alternate financial mitigations to the County and local jurisdictions impacted by exemptions of taxable value on the DCPP during the period of extended operations established by the statutory prohibition against including operating costs in PG&E's rate base.

Katcho Achadjian Government Center

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Attachment 1

In tandem with extended operations, we support further conservation and public access frameworks for lands surrounding Diablo Canyon. Protecting these coastal and natural resources ensures long term environmental stewardship while providing opportunities for responsible public access and public benefit. This balanced approach of clean energy, fiscal stability, and environmental conservation serves both local communities and the broader interests of the State.

In addition, future DCPD allocations related to changes in the values being assessed for portions of the property that may legislatively transition from highest and best use assessed acres of land towards lower value assessed acres of land due to new conservation restrictions should not financially penalize the affected region with lower assessed revenue figures.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that the Legislature:

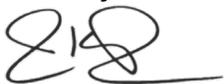
1. Support the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's regulatory approval process and establish a state licensing pathway to authorize DCPD to operate for up to 20 additional years.
2. Enact legislation restoring historic pre-decommissioning unitary tax treatment for Diablo Canyon Power Plant including land valuation for the duration of its extended operations or provide alternate equivalent financial mitigations.
3. Support the California Coastal Commission's land conservation and public access plan for lands surrounding Diablo Canyon, in coordination with appropriate regulatory and conservation agencies.

Taken together, these actions represent a prudent and forward-looking policy framework that balances California's clean energy needs with local fiscal health, environmental protection, and community interests.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We stand ready to work collaboratively with the Legislature to enact legislation that reflects these priorities and supports a sustainable and equitable future for San Luis Obispo County and the State of California.

The agencies below have considered and support this letter.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Jimmy Paulding, Chair of the Board
County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County

Katcho Achadjian Government Center

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Attachment 1

Agencies in Support



Caren Ray Russom, Mayor



Jorge Garcia, City Manager



Peter Brown, General Manager



Kassi Dee, Mayor



Ron Munds, General Manager



John Craig, City Manager



Robert Enns, President



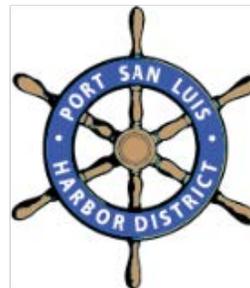
Jim Lewis, City Manager



Jeff Britz, General Manager



John Hamon, Mayor



William D. Friedman, Harbor Director



Air Pollution Control District
San Luis Obispo County

Karl Tupper, Executive Director



SAN LUIS COASTAL
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Eric Prater, Superintendent

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