



**County of San Diego
PRIORITY ISSUES
2014 Legislative Program**

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LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM 2014

PRIORITY STATE ISSUES

1. BUDGET IMPACTS

In January 2013 Governor Jerry Brown's Administration stated that the state budget deficit which totaled \$26.6 billion in January 2011 had been eliminated. The Governor credited past spending cuts contained in the last two budgets and the approval of temporary tax increases by California voters in November 2012. According to the Governor, California is enjoying a rare and potentially short lived budget surplus.

Governor Brown signed the FY 2013-14 State Budget on June 27, 2013. Included in the State Budget was direction to counties related to the implementation of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Under Medi-Cal expansion required by the ACA a significant portion of health realignment funds will be redirected from counties to the State to cover the costs associated with the implementation of the ACA. Counties will be required to give up a portion of their potential savings after the expansion begins on January 1, 2014. The Enacted Budget presented two options for counties to choose from to establish the process for how savings from Medi-Cal expansion will be shared with the state.

The Enacted State Budget also maintained the program allocation formulas for 2011 Public Safety Realignment that were adopted as part of the FY 2012-13 Budget. This fall the California Department of Finance will begin discussions with the California State Association of Counties and a group of County Chief Administrative Officers to develop a new funding formula for 2011 Public Safety Realignment that would go into effect beginning FY 2014-15 as the previous allocation formula will expire on June 30, 2014.

The Governor and the State Legislature also took action in the Enacted State Budget to address the debt of deferrals and budgetary obligations accumulated over the prior decade. The Governor refers to this as the "Wall of Debt" that had reached \$35 billion when he first took office and now totals approximately \$27 billion. The Enacted State Budget continues the pay down of this debt to \$4.7 billion over the next four years. The remaining debt includes \$3.1 billion owed to local governments and public agencies for state mandates.

According to the California Department of Finance (DOF) the budget remains balanced only by a narrow margin. The DOF has stressed that the pace of the economic and revenue recovery is still uncertain, and California needs to address other liabilities that have been created over many decades. Eliminating the liabilities will take many years and constrain the State's capacity to make other investments.

Community Services

The Enacted Budget maintains the suspension of most mandates not related to public safety or property taxes for FY 2013-14 and FY 2014-15, including election-related mandates. Election-related SB 90 claims are for voter registration, absentee ballots, and permanent absentee voters. Governor Brown's Enacted Budget also suspended three new election-related mandates; these include the Modified Primary Election, Permanent Absentee Voter II, and

Voter ID Procedures mandates. Therefore, the suspension of election-related mandates results in an estimated impact to the County of \$2.3 to \$2.6 million in lost revenue per year.

Health and Human Services

The FY 2013-14 Enacted Budget outlines the state-based approach that will be used for the Health Care Reform – Medi-Cal expansion. The Administration estimates that counties will save \$300 million in FY 2013-14, \$900 million in FY 2014-15, and \$1.3 billion in FY 2015-16. These proposed estimated savings will shift current county health funds through a financial mechanism to cover state costs. A significant portion of Health Realignment funds will be redirected from counties to the State to cover state costs. Counties are currently evaluating the two options on how to calculate the amount of local funds that will be redirected. The deadline to submit the County decision to the State is January 22, 2014.

The FY 2013-14 Enacted Budget implements a change in a piece of the 1991 Realignment, shifting all the general growth from county social services programs, and a portion of general growth from health services to the state to cover increased rates for CalWORKs grants.

The FY 2013-14 Enacted Budget does not provide any clarity about the exact funding implications of the federal sequestration since the federal agencies have not issued all the necessary guidelines. Effected State departments are in the process of putting measures in place to minimize impacts.

The FY 2013-14 Enacted Budget maintains the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) to integrate care for individuals who are enrolled in both Medi-Cal and Medicare but changes the implementation date to no sooner than January 1, 2014 with a scheduled phasing for beneficiaries enrolling in CCI over 12 months.

Land Use and Environment

The County is responsible for maintaining approximately 2,000 miles of roads in the unincorporated area through a variety of tasks including: pavement treatments such as sealants and overlays; culvert repair; curb, gutter and sidewalk repair; guardrail repair or replacement; mowing; tree and brush trimming; safety improvements; capital project design and construction management; and emergency response.

The County receives approximately \$60 million in gas tax annually to perform this maintenance from the Highway Users Tax Account (HUTA), which is an excise tax per gallon of gasoline. In addition, the County receives a portion of a half-cent sales tax called TransNet which generates approximately \$13 million a year for the unincorporated area for transportation improvement projects and maintenance. Finally, the County receives some funding from the federal government for bridge maintenance projects.

Despite these dedicated funding sources, the County faces a potential funding shortage to maintain its current system and construct new transportation facilities needed to keep pace with the growing demands on its transportation system. This is in part because of a state and diesel fuel tax that fluctuates in response to high prices. For example, when gas prices increase, usage decreases, reducing the amount of tax available for maintenance. In addition, as the popularity of fuel efficient cars increases, less gas is being consumed on which a tax is charged.

The State Administration and Legislature have recognized the funding shortage for transportation facilities throughout California and have made transportation funding a priority.

In 2010 a change was made whereby a portion of the fuel tax received by counties and cities can be indexed as long as the California Board of Equalization approves the increase. Despite that legislative change, there are constant pressures trying to roll back any legislative gains.

In 2013 Governor Brown signed AB 1042, which appropriates \$9.1 million from the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund to the California Gambling Control Commission to provide funding for grants to local agencies. This amount is only half of what has been allocated in past years, but is the same as the 2012 and 2011 allocations. These funds are for the purpose of local grants for the mitigation of casino impacts. This measure is anticipated to provide \$1.5 million to the San Diego County region to fund local mitigation projects.

Public Safety

Under Criminal Justice Realignment, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's adult corrections and supervision populations have been shifted from the State's responsibility to counties. Two years into the multiyear implementation of this fundamental shift of responsibilities, the complete operational and fiscal impact of the Public Safety Realignment is still being determined. However, it is clear that the funding that accompanies this part of Realignment will not adequately cover the necessary services for this population for which the County will now be responsible. The County agencies primarily impacted by the realignment are Probation and the Sheriff, but also included are Health and Human Services, Housing and Community Development, the District Attorney and the Public Defender.

In addition, funding for Probation's juvenile camps and ranches, the Citizens Option for Public Safety (COPS) program, the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act, Trial Court Security and certain criminal justice grants moved to reliance on a share of state sales tax and vehicle license fee revenue.

2. PUBLIC SAFETY REALIGNMENT (AB 109 AND RELATED LEGISLATION)

The FY 2013-14 Enacted Budget continued the major realignment and shift of responsibility for criminal offenders from the State to counties. This includes offenders that will serve their sentence in local custody (Sheriff) and offenders released from prison and local custody to county probation for community supervision.

The initial funding formula for AB 109 expires at the end of FY 2013-14. Currently the California State Association of Counties has a workgroup comprised of several Chief Administrative Officers who will create a long term funding formula to submit to the state Department of Finance to govern the distribution of these funds to the 58 counties. The funds are constitutionally guaranteed per Proposition 30, passed by the voters in 2012.

A federal court ruling has ordered California to reduce its prison population to 137.5 percent of capacity or approximately 112,160 inmates in certain facilities by December 31, 2013. As of September 2013, the state inmate population had been reduced to approximately 120,250.

Public Safety Realignment could continue to be impacted by additional legislation including bills that impact sentencing and custody options.

Strategic Initiative:

- Safe Communities

Action Needed:

- Oppose legislation that would involve further shifts of responsibilities from the state to the County level.
- Advocate for adequate funding for the housing, services and supervision of prisoners released or jailed as part of Public Safety Realignment.
- Oppose legislation that limits the authority of counties to administer Public Safety Realignment pursuant to local needs.
- Oppose legislation to direct or limit the authority of counties to apply resources received under Public Safety Realignment to address local needs.
- Support legislation to expand the authority of the State Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to enter into contracts with privately operated facilities to house state inmates.
- Support legislation that reduces the County's liability for medical care costs associated with offenders transferred to County responsibility.
- Oppose legislation that would make any changes to the Community Corrections Partnerships by any entity other than the County.
- Support legislation or administrative efforts to reduce or eliminate the fee charged by the State to counties to house fire camp inmates.
- Support legislation that provides local public safety partners tools to address the impact of Public Safety Realignment including but not limited to alternative custody issues, bail options, and caps on time spent in local custody.

3. COST OF DOING BUSINESS**Child Support Services**

The adopted budget did not provide a Cost of Doing Business (CODB) increase for the local child support agencies; the department has operated with flat funding for over a decade. Over the last eleven years, the state has denied the County approximately \$22.2 million in funding to cover cost increases in the child support program. These funds might have also leveraged additional federal funds. The reduction in funding and failure to provide CODB increases has created the need to severely cut operational costs and balance the budget through attrition. Although service levels have been impacted, Department of Child Support Services has minimized the impact, and in some areas increased productivity, using strategic planning and business process reengineering and enhanced technology.

Health and Human Services Administrative Cost Allocations

Counties are legislatively mandated to administer numerous human services programs. State funding for the Cost of Doing Business for many of these services has been frozen at 2001 cost levels, while the cost to counties for administering these programs continues to grow. It has been estimated that budget cuts and the failure to fund administrative cost increases has resulted in annual funding cuts of \$1 billion statewide, with the County's share estimated at approximately \$90 million. This is twelve years of compounded funding shortfalls which have denied counties the ability to maintain staffing and infrastructure resources at the levels necessary to meet the increased demand for services associated with significant caseload growth and high unemployment.

As mandates continue to grow, they cannot continue to be met without increased funding to hire the necessary staff and to support other increasing operational costs, such as information technology and staff training. The Enacted Budget includes allocation methods for administrative requirements that make no allowance for a Cost of Doing Business assumption. This is an assumption that is an industry-standard and routinely utilized in private and public

sectors. Without a revised funding formula or additional revenue to keep pace, counties will be at even greater risk of being out of compliance with service and administrative requirements.

Additionally, as counties are subject to various federal performance measures, based on the assumption that they are sufficiently funded to meet program requirements, failure to adequately fund CODB places the state and counties at risk for hundreds of millions of dollars in federal penalties for these programs.

Strategic Initiatives:

- Safe Communities
- Healthy Families

Action Needed:

- Support a budget process for programs that is based on full, current costs, and considers adequate implementation time for automation, training and other necessary operational changes.

4. JUVENILE JUSTICE DESIGN

In 1996, in an effort to assess and address the strengths and weaknesses of the juvenile justice system in San Diego County, the Board of Supervisors obtained the first grant awarded to a county by the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to develop a comprehensive strategy to find new approaches based on best practices to prevent juvenile delinquency. With San Diego's comprehensive plan as the framework, in 2000 the County developed the Comprehensive Multi-agency Juvenile Justice Plan, which has functioned as a blueprint for community action and collaboration.

The underpinning of the County's juvenile justice system is an array of services that include resources and responses to meet the needs of children and youth. The programs include the Truancy Supervision Program, Breaking Cycles, Juvenile Drug Court, Substance Abuse and Community Assessment Team/Working to Insure and Nurture Girl's Success. The juvenile justice programs in San Diego County encompass a full spectrum of prevention, intervention, supervision, treatment, suppression, detention, and after care services. The services provided are highly integrated programmatically and financially, therefore, reduced funding for any program in the County's juvenile justice continuum causes a ripple effect that weakens the continuum of services.

Following the realignment of responsibilities to house certain juvenile offenders in 2007, the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) realignment which shifted juvenile parole responsibilities to County Probation effective January 17, 2011 remains a concern regarding the necessary funding to provide the necessary services that this unique population needs to successfully transition back into the community. Funding for this population is not available until one year after services have been provided, creating an unfunded mandate. In addition to the DJJ realignment funding formula, there is a need for discretionary funding opportunities. The DJJ realignment is a significant reorganization; therefore, to successfully implement this realignment plan funding opportunities are essential.

In addition to concerns about maintaining and enhancing state and local funding, law enforcement and justice professionals working in state and local agencies have relied upon a strong partnership with the federal government to combat juvenile justice issues. Any reduction in allocated funds, or elimination of major programs that support crime prevention efforts,

endangers significant progress that has been made in reducing crime and improving the quality of justice in our communities. Additionally, cuts and elimination of crime prevention/justice assistance funding will not provide counties with the stability or levels of funding needed to maintain our current services.

Strategic Initiatives:

- Safe Communities
- Healthy Families

Action Needed:

- Oppose legislation to transfer the remaining DJJ population to local/county custody.
- Oppose legislation that would permanently close all DJJ facilities.
- Support legislation and administrative actions that provide adequate funding for the housing, services and supervision of juvenile offenders resulting from Juvenile Realignment.
- Support discretionary funding opportunities such as grant listings to augment the current DJJ realignment funding formula. These funding opportunities will assist the Probation Department with providing services to the DJJ population while in custody and for supervision.
- Support legislation calling for assessment of existing services, identifying and ranking programmatic gaps in the continuum of responses to juvenile crime, and developing strategies that maximize the provision of collaborative and integrated services for at-risk youth and their families.
- Support appropriations at a level that will sustain existing and proven programs and allow for an increase in levels of services to meet the needs of children and families.
- Support an effective partnership and coordinated efforts between the DJJ, probation departments and juvenile courts in the treatment and incarceration of youthful offenders committed to the DJJ as well as local custody in lieu of DJJ custody, and support legislation which would provide funding opportunities to the County to enhance services for this population.
- Support legislation to address the needs of at-risk youth and focusing on best practices in responding to emerging issues and trends in this arena.
- Support full funding for probation juvenile camps and ranches.

5. PROPOSITION 172

The Legislature placed Proposition 172, the Local Public Safety Protection and Improvement Act of 1993, on the November 1993 ballot to permanently extend a half-cent sales tax that would have expired on December 31, 1993. This was done to mitigate, but not fully offset, the \$2.6 billion shift of property taxes from counties and cities to local schools and community colleges by providing a dedicated source of revenue to public safety agencies. Special districts that provided fire and life safety services did not have property tax transferred as part of that \$2.6 billion loss. In addition, the State shifted another \$28 million from the County to Educational Revenue Augmentation Funds (ERAF) in FY 2004-05 and FY 2005-06 as part of the solution to the state budget deficit. Over 57 percent of California voters approved the proposition.

In the first full year of funding, the Legislative Analyst estimated that Proposition 172 would produce approximately \$1.5 billion in revenue statewide, leaving a \$1.1 billion shortfall. Each fiscal year, Proposition 172 has provided less in revenue than the County of San Diego would have received if the property tax shift had not occurred.

The 2007 fires that struck Southern California taxed the resources of public safety agencies. The fires destroyed thousands of homes and burned hundreds of thousands of acres of land. There were more firefighting resources available to battle these fires than in 2003, however there were still insufficient firefighting resources available to fight the fires at the optimum level. These events led to calls for the County of San Diego to divert Proposition 172 funds to independent fire districts, at the expense of its public safety agencies including: the Sheriff, District Attorney and Probation.

The solution to the need for additional fire resources is not diverting needed revenues from County public safety agencies. The County of San Diego supports local fire agencies and districts in meeting their needs, but not at the expense of vital public safety services provided by the Sheriff, District Attorney and Probation Department.

Strategic Initiative:

- Safe Communities

Action Needed:

- Assist cities and fire districts in advocating for additional fire-related resources.
- Oppose efforts to divert Proposition 172 funds to fire districts or cities, reducing resources for the County's public safety services.

6. IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) provides personal care and domestic services to aged, blind or disabled individuals in their own homes. IHSS is funded through a combination of federal, state and county funds. The number of people eligible for IHSS continues to rise as the population ages, with a historical annual growth of seven percent over a ten year time period. Continued caseload growth and the resulting increase in costs for the IHSS program threaten an array of safety net services in the health, mental health, and social services arenas. The cost of the program has more than tripled locally, from \$75 million in 1998-99 to a budget of \$265.6 million in FY 2012-13.

San Diego County has been chosen as a dual eligible (Medi-Cal/Medicare) demonstration site for older adults and persons with disabilities as part of the Coordinated Care Initiative, recently enacted into state law. As part of this process, four health plans applied to administer both health and social services for this population. Recent state law now mandates IHSS to become part of a new managed care demonstration project and sets a Maintenance of Effort (MOE) for counties (using 1991 realignment funding) for the cost of IHSS services and administration, which also includes administrative costs for the IHSS Public Authority. Though the MOE initially appears favorable to counties, in that it identifies an annual cost growth rate of 3.5 percent (well below the historical averages), realignment funding may be insufficient to cover the costs for this program on a long-term basis.

New state law related to the Coordinated Care Initiative also allows health plans to purchase additional IHSS services. How this will occur and how counties will be reimbursed has yet to be clarified.

State Funding

IHSS ranks as the third largest social-service program in state government and has undergone many changes that have raised concerns and costs for local governments since the 1991 shift

in program responsibility from the State to counties. Some of the changes that have taken place over the last ten years:

- A change to ensure optimal federal funding participation under the federal IHSS Plus Waiver and the 1915 (i) State Medicaid Plan Option.
- Implementation of a Quality Assurance (QA) program at the County level.
- Formation of local public Authorities and mandate to establish an employer of record (increasing costs for IHSS provider's wages and benefits).
- Requirement for counties to perform 90 percent of IHSS eligibility reassessments in a timely fashion.
- Requirement for counties to perform criminal background checks and provider enrollment activities for IHSS providers.
- 8 percent across the board reduction in services.
- Initiation of the Community First Choice Program, a new federal program that will impact IHSS and bring additional workload impacts as well as a decrease in county costs.

These and other administrative responsibilities and tasks have continuously increased, while state funding to counties for the administration of the program has remained flat since 2001. During the past four years due to the state fiscal crisis, IHSS administration has been reduced by five percent. For FY 2012-13 the administrative funding was reduced another \$4.7 million. The funding provided has not been sufficient to fully cover the cost of the new requirements.

The approval of the 1915 (j) State Medicaid plan option, which allows the state to offer services to specific populations and to draw down increased federal financial participation (FFP), has also created a new process with additional staff workload.

Strategic Initiatives:

- Safe Communities
- Healthy Families

Action Needed:

- Oppose increased workload and cost shifts to the County for IHSS programs. This includes further across the board service reductions.
- Oppose elimination of Maintenance Of Effort (MOE) and cost shifts to the County.
- Oppose addition of new requirements for the Coordinated Care Initiative that come without additional funding.

7. TESTING FOR BEACH WATER QUALITY

Under the Beach and Bay Water Quality Monitoring Program, the County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health performs beach water quality sampling and posts signs warning of contaminated water at beaches affected by sewage spills when monitoring indicates bacteria levels exceed state standards, or during other events that may pose a threat to public health. Water samples are currently tested using culture-based methods, which typically require at least 24-48 hours for results. The United States Environmental Protection Agency, in an attempt to address the slow 24-48 hour response time for culture-based testing methods, certified qualitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) as a rapid measurement method. This alternative method can return results in about four hours. The qPCR method is genetically based and measures the presence and amount of DNA from target bacteria (Enterococcus).

The length of time between when a sample is taken and when the test results come back under the current culture-based testing methods leaves a 24-48 hour window during which the public may be vulnerable. Alternatively, the quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) testing method produces results in about four hours.

Strategic Initiatives:

- Sustainable Environments
- Healthy Families

Action Needed:

- Support certification by the California Department of Public Health of the qPCR testing method for use in laboratories throughout the state and urge the California Department of Public Health to allow inter-laboratory calibration until certification is complete.
- Support reimbursement for public agencies for use of the qPCR testing method by the State Water Resources Control Board in the same way the existing culture-based method is currently reimbursed.

8. SAN PASQUAL ACADEMY

San Pasqual Academy, a first-in-the nation residential education program, opened in 2001 to meet the unique needs of adolescent foster youth and to prepare them for self-sufficiency upon exiting the foster care system. The Academy has the capacity to serve up to 184 youth between the ages of 12 to 18 years old, who are dependents of Juvenile Court. Through a unique partnership of public and private agencies, the Academy offers an alternative placement option for foster youth and provides them with a stable, caring home, a quality individualized education, and preparation for independent living. Academy partners collaborate to provide a seamless delivery of residential, education, work readiness and child welfare case management services. Together, the partners create a community for the foster youth to develop and thrive as they move towards exiting the foster care system.

While San Pasqual Academy is licensed by the State's Community Care Licensing division as a group home, the distinctive services offered set the program apart from other licensed congregate care facilities. Group homes are licensed on a Rate Classification Level (RCL) scale of 1-14, with a RCL 14 providing the highest level of services and supervision. The Academy, which is licensed as an RCL 9 facility, provides individual, family-style homes for up to eight youth each. Campus administrators, as well as senior volunteers serving as "surrogate grandparents" also live on campus, creating a community set around the school buildings. Youth have access to health and wellness, therapeutic, and independent living skills services on campus. Enrichment activities such as music lessons, intramural sports, outdoor adventures, community service, clubs, etc. are available to the youth by campus partners and philanthropic organizations. Making a long-term commitment to the youth is a part of the Academy's mission and values, and graduates often return from college to reside in alumni housing during the holidays and school breaks. Youth placed at the Academy have demonstrated significant positive outcomes in regards to high school completion, post-secondary education, transitioning to safe housing, and permanency connections.

Recent legislation indicates a trend for congregate care to serve only as a treatment-oriented placement in which foster youth may reside for no more than a year, putting the unique services offered at San Pasqual Academy in jeopardy, as well as the youths' placement stability. Although the Academy is licensed as a group home, the campus is built around a residential education environment that promotes independence and self-sufficiency while focusing on completing high school, preparing for the world of work and practicing independent

living skills. Youth are continuously assessed for family reunification, opportunities to reside in a lower level of care and adoption while at the Academy.

Strategic Initiatives:

- Safe Communities
- Healthy Families

Action Needed:

- Oppose legislation that would threaten the unique residential model of San Pasqual Academy as it operates today as a long-term voluntary placement option for San Diego's foster youth.
- Support legislation that would explore and develop alternative placement options for foster youth to include specialized residential education programs for foster youth which maintain the existing Title IV-E licensed group home funding levels for placement.
- Support funding to upgrade information technology resources for students at San Pasqual Academy.

9. AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

In 2010, the federal government enacted the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). The law establishes comprehensive health reforms related to coverage, costs, and care with the goal of increasing the number of Americans with insurance, and cutting the overall costs of health care to individuals and families. The ACA requires most United States citizens and legal residents to have health insurance that can be obtained through government programs, privately purchased, or purchased with or without subsidies through a health benefits exchange (HBEx) referred to in California as Covered California. On October 1, 2013, enrollment for HBEx products began with insurance coverage starting on January 1, 2014. It is estimated that 220,000 individuals will be eligible for HBEx insurance in San Diego County.

One of the major changes related to coverage under ACA is the expansion of the Medicaid program (called Medi-Cal in California). Beginning 2014, there will be changes to eligibility standards, enrollment processes, and outreach for Medi-Cal. Medi-Cal provides health care services to low-income Californians who meet predefined eligibility requirements. Eligibility for Medi-Cal will be expanded to cover single adults less than 65 years of age who are at, or below, 138 percent of Federal Poverty Level. In San Diego County, it is estimated that there will be 111,000 applicants who are newly eligible to Medi-Cal and an additional 200,000 who are currently eligible for Medi-Cal but not enrolled. HHS will accept applications for health insurance and Medi-Cal enrollment in-person, on the phone, through the U.S. mail, or electronically.

Individuals who call the Covered California Call Center are screened for Medi-Cal eligibility and callers who are San Diego residents and have an individual in their household potentially eligible for Medi-Cal will be transferred to HHS's CalHEERS call center. Residents will also be able to call the HHS CalHEERS call center directly. Applications from the Covered California web portal and U.S. mail will be forwarded to HHS for eligibility determination.

The FY 2013-14 Enacted Budget proposes to shift funding from local health program to local human services programs in response to the anticipated decrease in county costs and responsibilities for indigent healthcare under ACA. The Budget includes healthcare coverage for legal immigrants with less than five years of residency. However, it is anticipated that

individuals who miss the HBEx open enrollment period or choose not to enroll would be able to enroll in County Medical Services, if they meet eligibility requirements.

The Community-based Care Transitions Program (CCTP) is a five year demonstration mandated by the Affordable Care Act. CCTP, which began in April 2011, provides funding to test models for improving care transitions for high risk Medicare patients. CCTP was allocated \$500 million in funding to award to communities across the country to improve transitions of Medicare patients from the inpatient hospital setting to other care settings. In November 2012, the County was awarded a two-year CCTP Program Agreement to serve up to 21,390 patients in partnership with thirteen local hospitals. Based on the availability of funding and performance outcomes, the County's Program Agreement could be renewed for an additional two years. The funding for CCTP was cut by \$200 million in the federal FY 2013-14 budget. With reduced funding available for CCTP, CMS may decide not to fund the County for the additional two years even if the program meets the performance targets.

Strategic Initiatives:

- Healthy Families

Action Needed:

- Support legislation that would limit counties indigent health care responsibilities to individuals ineligible for Medi-Cal or subsidized coverage through the Health Benefits Exchange.
- Oppose legislation that would shift funding needed to provide indigent care from counties to the State.
- Support legislation that would allow community-based organizations to be reimbursed as Medicare providers for care transitions services.
- Oppose legislation that would cut funding for CCTP.

PRIORITY FEDERAL ISSUES 2014

1. BUDGET IMPACTS

Over the last few years the federal budget process has been tumultuous. Congress has adopted Continuing Resolutions (CR) every year since 2000 as it has failed to adopt the 12 individual appropriations bills that make up the Federal Budget before the start of each new fiscal year on October 1. Some CRs have continued spending at previous year's levels for the duration of the new fiscal year.

The foundation of these fiscal crises rests in Congress's inability for the last several years to adopt a budget that sets overall spending and tax limits. Congress attempted to resolve this problem with the adoption of the Budget Control Act of 2011, which set spending limits for the next ten years. If Congress failed to adhere to those spending limits, automatic across-the-board spending cuts, known as "sequestration," would take effect. The first year of sequestration took effect in January 2013 when federal domestic discretionary programs were reduced 5.1 percent across-the-board. Again without a budget for FY 2014, the next round of sequestration will impose additional cuts on domestic discretionary programs; however the federal agencies will have greater discretion on how those cuts will be administered.

Sequestration in FY 2014 will be a bit different than FY 2013. Rather than across-the-board cuts of 5.1 percent for all domestic programs as was the case in FY 2013, Congress has more flexibility to determine where the cuts will be focused. Unlike last year, Congress can determine how discretionary programs will be funded as long as the spending caps are not exceeded. Certain mandatory programs such as Medicare and some smaller health programs are exempt from cuts. Other domestic mandatory programs are limited to 2 percent cuts, including Medicaid, Social Security, CHIP, SNAP, TANF.

Fiscal Year 2014 appropriations remain contentious resulting in another series of CRs. After a federal government shutdown that lasted 16 days, government was reopened with a CR that continues funding at the reduced or post sequestration levels of spending favored by the House of Representatives (\$986 billion) until January 15 when the next round of automatic sequestration budget cuts kick in. A budget conference committee will consider long-term budget revisions and report recommendations to Congress by December 13, 2013 that could include changes to entitlement programs and changes in the tax code. The national debt limit is allowed to increase until February 7, 2014. While this agreement solves temporary spending problems and provides Congress and the President additional time to negotiate spending for FY 2014 and beyond, it also leaves open the potential for another fiscal crisis early in 2014.

The economic slowdown, fears of a double dip recession, and heated federal debt limit/spending cap debates have given way to federal funding reductions to programs that directly impact the County of San Diego. Negotiations for a “grand bargain” to replace the annual sequestration mandate could result in spending cuts and tax changes that affect the County. Funding for domestic assistance programs, cuts in Medicaid and Medicare that shift costs to local governments, and the future of tax-exempt municipal bonds are at stake. The President’s proposed budget for FY 2015, as well as proposed Congressional budget alternatives, can be expected to continue to threaten the elimination of or reductions to program funding, thereby making advocacy for the preservation of present levels of funding a priority. The sustained prohibition of the Congressional earmarks—the ability for Congress to direct spending for specific projects—has also impacted local governments’ potential receipt of discretionary grant funding.

Without a major budget agreement between the Congress and the President, the outlook of the federal budget in the out-years is dismal. In a climate of sustained federal budget funding reductions it will be imperative for the County to focus advocacy efforts on preserving funding for priority federal programs and effectuating change in statute or regulation to allow for more flexibility regarding how those funds are allowed to be spent locally.

2. ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA)

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is intended to protect species that have been determined either endangered or threatened according to assessments of their risks of extinction. The ESA has not been reauthorized since 1992, and efforts to do so have been controversial and complex because it affects the use of federal and non-federal lands and resources, and because decline and loss of species can be seen as a harbinger of broader ecosystem decline.

There currently are 60 species in San Diego County listed as rare, threatened, or endangered by the state and federal governments, and there are more species of concern in San Diego than in any other county in the continental United States. To reconcile the often-competing demands of environmental protection and economic development, the County has embraced the multi-species habitat conservation plan approach to protect and recover these species,

utilizing the state of California's Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) program as a vehicle for the effective development of these plans. The NCCP is an unprecedented partnership among landowners, environmentalists, local governments and state and federal wildlife agencies to protect permanently entire ecosystems, while also accommodating needed economic activity. Through these efforts, the County has become an acknowledged national leader and model for the implementation of multi-species Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs). But to ensure their continued success, the following provisions must be codified:

- **Multi-Species Approach.** The most effective way to protect and recover species is through multi-species HCPs that target ecosystems rather than individual species, and in essence represent a suite of recovery actions.
- **Assurances.** Local jurisdictions must have “no surprises” assurances that they will not have to amend multi-species HCPs for newly listed or newly discovered species, or for subsequent critical habitat designations.
- **Cost/Benefit Assessment.** The ESA requires the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to consider scientific data in listing determinations, but not potential economic and social impacts on local communities. USFWS should be required to consider economic and social concerns of local communities in the listing process.

Strategic Initiative:

- Sustainable Environments

Action Needed:

- Support legislation that enhances the ability to prepare and implement multiple species HCPs for a more systemic approach to compliance with the ESA.
- Support legislation that would provide a guarantee that, once created, a multi-species HCP would not have to be amended to take additional conservation measures even if a new endangered species were discovered in the area.

3. PUBLIC SAFETY BORDER ISSUES

The County of San Diego, local governments, schools and health care providers in the region continue to incur millions of dollars in unreimbursed costs because they must either provide services to undocumented immigrants, or they must expend criminal justice resources to apprehend, incarcerate and adjudicate undocumented immigrants who violate laws.

San Diego County faces unique challenges due to its proximity to the international border with Mexico. As a border county, San Diego incurs additional costs not shared by non-border counties for health and social services, law enforcement, and environmental impacts. The federal government must provide appropriate resources required to mitigate the impact of expenses generated by a porous international border.

Border Violence

Violence along the United States (U.S.)/Mexico border has gained international attention. The Obama Administration and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security have recognized the potential for the violence in Mexico to spillover to the U.S. and have put an increased emphasis on the southwest border in response to the cartel violence. San Diego County, because of its busy ports of entry and maritime and land borders with Mexico, has one of the highest concentrations of drug trafficking organization presence in the U.S., according to the U.S. National Drug Intelligence Center. In San Diego County, the surge in illicit drug trafficking has spawned a wide range of other crimes being committed in San Diego County ranging from

human smuggling, human trafficking, gun trafficking, money laundering, illegal cross-border money transfers, kidnappings for ransom, increased white supremacist group activities, and violence against law enforcement officers.

In 2008, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department spearheaded a regional initiative to obtain funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for border-related, intelligence-led crime suppression operations via the Operation Stonegarden (OPSG) grant program. Since then, OPSG in San Diego County has grown from six to 20 local and state law enforcement agencies working in an "all threats, all risk" layered and integrated approach to combating the multi-faceted aspects of border-related crimes. With OPSG funding, the Sheriff's Department greatly expanded its multi-agency, multi-layered border crime suppression activities including a 50 percent increase in highway interdiction operations that continue to result in a significant increase in vehicle stops and vehicle searches. The border crime suppression efforts also reported a 135 percent increase in citations issued and a 44 percent increase in felony and misdemeanor arrests from the previous quarter. Parole and probation searches also jumped nearly fourfold, reflecting the targeting of gang-related suspects by Operation Allied Shield. During this period, contraband seized consisted of illegal narcotics, firearms, and currency, indicating that narco-trafficking continues to be a major border security threat in the San Diego County area. Federal grant programs directed towards border crime, such as OPSG and one-time funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), have increased information sharing among federal and local law enforcement agencies; however, grant programs alone are not the solution. Additional resources for local law enforcement and prosecution to combat border-related crime are needed.

Ongoing and sustained OPSG funding would allow state and local law enforcement to continue to perform county-wide gang sweeps, freeway interdiction operations, truck checkpoints on major routes in San Diego, increased aerial patrols and surveillance, weapons trafficking checks at U.S./Mexico entry points, maritime smuggling interdiction efforts, and specialized details targeting drug trafficking organizations and any criminal element that would exploit our proximity to the Mexican border in furtherance of their criminal enterprises. Continued OPSG funding would also enable state and local law enforcement to assist in federal drug operations (including those of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Homeland Security Investigations, and Border Patrol).

Strategic Initiative:

- Safe Communities

Action Needed:

- Support ongoing funding that would sustain enhanced border-related crime suppression operations conducted by state and local law enforcement agencies.
- Support efforts to modify the OPSG grant application cycle such that grant applications are submitted for a multi-year period, instead of on a yearly basis.
- Support efforts to increase the nationwide OPSG competitive grant cap.

Enforcement of Federal Immigration Statute by Local Law Enforcement

Over the last several years, proposals have been introduced in Congress that would have required states and local public safety agencies to become involved in enforcement of federal immigration law. Proposals such as this would result in a substantial unfunded mandate and detract from the primary public safety missions and responsibilities of local law enforcement. While the federal Department of Homeland Security has the responsibility of enforcing immigration laws, the role of local government agencies in border control and

immigration enforcement is likely to continue to be a topic of discussion during the debate on immigration reform in Congress.

Southwest Border Prosecution Initiative (SWBPI)

Southwest Border Prosecution Initiative (SWBPI) reimburses county and state governments for costs associated with the prosecution and pre-trial detention of federally-initiated criminal cases declined by local offices of the U.S. Attorney. The County prosecutes approximately 1,140 cases annually and has received reimbursement for handling these cases since 2001. The SWBPI is excluded from the President's proposed FY 2014 Budget. If not funded this year, the impact to the County's District Attorney would be a \$3 million loss. The County's District Attorney must continue to receive these funds as supported by claims for actual federally-initiated cases to continue to prosecute those federally initiated cases.

State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)

Over the last ten years, the Bush and Obama Administrations have proposed to eliminate funding for SCAAP in the annual budget request to Congress. However, Congressional support for the program has remained high, particularly in the California delegation, and Congress has restored funding each year. The President's FY 2014 budget again proposes to eliminate SCAAP funding. SCAAP was funded in FY 2013 at \$255 million. Even with this funding however, actual incarceration costs of criminal aliens are much higher and enhanced funding is still a priority issue.

Strategic Initiative:

- Safe Communities

Action Needed:

- Support state and federal legislation that would provide funding and/or resources for local law enforcement and the District Attorney to combat border related crime.
- Support legislation to authorize and appropriate full reimbursement to the County of San Diego for its costs of apprehending, detaining, adjudicating and providing for defense of adult and juvenile undocumented immigrants in the local criminal justice system.
- Support legislation that would increase Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice agency participation in existing regional task forces and resources dedicated to the San Diego County border to stem the flow of undocumented immigrants, criminal organizations, illegal drugs, firearms and associated criminal activity into the U.S.
- Support legislation that would expand military authority to interdict smugglers, and deployment of the U.S. military and the California National Guard during the fire season to reduce the danger of fires caused by undocumented immigrants — by preventing illegal immigration at the border.
- Support legislation to provide full reimbursement of verifiable Southwest Border Drug Prosecution Initiative costs for border related arrests made within 70 km of the U.S./ Mexico border.
- Oppose legislation that would require states and local public safety agencies to enforce federal immigration laws, and penalize them for failing to do so by withholding funding from SCAAP or other federal justice assistance programs.
- Support legislation that would require the Department of Homeland Security or the Department of Justice agencies such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to share information with local law enforcement.

- Support legislation that would direct funding from the Social Security Administration “earning suspense file” to the County of San Diego.
- Support legislation that would require SCAAP funds to be distributed to states no later than 120 days after the last day of the annual application period for such programs.
- Support legislation that would require SCAAP reimbursements to states and localities for the costs of incarcerating undocumented aliens who have been convicted or charged with criminal offenses, rather than the current reimbursement based on conviction alone.
- Support legislation that would restructure the guidelines of Section 1011 of the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) to distribute funding to cover the burden of local hospitals, to address uncompensated emergency medical costs provided to undocumented immigrants.
- Support legislation to appropriate sufficient funds to reimburse local health care providers, including ambulance providers, for services provided to indigent undocumented immigrants — and termination of the “patient dumping” practices of the Border Patrol.
- Oppose legislation considered by the Mexican Congress that would decriminalize the possession and consumption of drugs in Mexico.

4. TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

The next federal transportation investment authorization should not only address highways, but also address local streets and roads. The region has a population of over three million with over 4,000 square miles. The County maintains about 2,000 miles of roads in extreme terrains and temperature fluctuations. The County relies on local roads to ensure connectivity between major regional routes. Well maintained local street and road networks connect our communities and provide access to jobs, schools, healthcare and other services, which stimulate our local economy and global competitiveness.

Deferring maintenance not only can have immediate safety consequences, it also increases the cost and extent of repairs later. According to the National Center for Pavement Preservation, spending \$1 on a street in fair condition (75 percent of life) eliminates or delays spending \$6 to \$14 on rehabilitation or reconstruction when a street is in poor condition (12 percent of life). Extensive repair costs take money away from vital enhancement projects. Funding sources for local streets and roads are limited. State Highway Users Tax Account (HUTA) funding is the most important local source for road maintenance. Because it is a per-gallon excise tax, only a very small portion can be indexed and then, only as long as the California Board of Equalization approves the increase. Unless a new ongoing funding source is developed, local streets and roads infrastructure will eventually deteriorate.

As a border county, San Diego’s roads and infrastructure are important. Each day, more than 136,000 cars and 6,200 trucks, and nearly 340,000 people, travel between the United States and Mexico via the San Ysidro, Otay Mesa, and Tecate border crossings. This makes the San Diego-Baja California point of entry one of the busiest in the Americas. Approximately \$29.8 billion in trade is conducted at the border region. But this region loses money because of long wait times at the border. In fact, the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) estimates that the economic impact to the San Diego region is a loss of more than \$2.5 billion annually.

It also makes sense to support projects that encourage walking and biking. The County of San Diego is committed to providing a mobility system that addresses all active modes of transportation. Funding for trails and transit projects are also very much needed.

The region has made great efforts to boost its own funding for local transportation projects. San Diego voters approved TransNet, a funding source for capital improvement projects. The County also imposes a Transportation Impact Fee (TIF) for new developments. State TransNet funding has declined each year for several years, and has been deferred by the state for its own general fund purposes on more than one occasion. There is a great need for additional funding to supplement the efforts made locally. Federal funding contributed towards local projects would be a great step in enhancing the economy, both locally and for this bi-national region.

Strategic Initiatives:

- Safe Communities
- Sustainable Environments

Action Needed:

- Support a streamlined and flexible approach to allocating federal funds for highway, transit, local roads, safe routes to schools and bicycle/pedestrian improvements based on need.
- Increase funding to provide for adequate maintenance and preservation of local roads and transportation systems.
- Increase funding for regionally important transportation infrastructure and maintenance.
- Streamline environmental regulations to allow California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance to satisfy National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- Support federal funding for construction of transportation projects included in the County's Capital Improvement Program.

5. INCREASE IN REFUGEE ARRIVALS AND ASSOCIATED IMPACTS

San Diego County has traditionally received a large percentage of new refugees who enter the country and it is designated by the state as a high impacted county. Over the past five years, San Diego County has experienced a significant increase in the number of refugees and funding provided by the federal government for these refugees does not immediately adjust to these increases. The influx of refugees has largely resulted from individuals and families who have come here from Iraq.

Refugees previously received services and cash assistance from the Wilson Fish project operated by Catholic Charities and funded by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) during their first few months in the county. After this initial assistance period, refugees were referred to the County of San Diego for both cash assistance (if they are eligible for CalWORKs) and employment services. Due to a change in federal policy, as of February 1, 2010, all individuals who are eligible for CalWORKs are referred directly to the County of San Diego and will no longer receive aid from Wilson Fish.

The increase in arrivals and the diversion of refugee clients from Wilson Fish to the County has significant impacts on several County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) programs as well as other community services such as affordable housing, education and private healthcare, primarily based in the City of El Cajon.

The demographic characteristics present two types of challenges that could be better addressed with additional funding:

- Many of the refugees have limited English language skills, which makes it difficult to navigate application processes and creates difficulties in accessing services such as CalWORKs. The application process is made more complicated by the lack of translators available to assist the clients.
- A culturally competent approach is necessary to serve this population. For example, trauma they have faced in their country of origin require support to access specialty services such as Mental Health. County and community programs are already under-funded, and the population of refugees and the need for culturally competent services is increasing with no commensurate increase in resources.

The examples provided below demonstrate that these challenges are shared across public and private sector agencies including public education and County's HHSA.

- The El Cajon Family Resource Center continues to experience a large volume of walk in clients. Lobby traffic averages 1,200 clients per day and can be as high as 1,400. Approximately 60-70 percent of walk in clients need interpreting services – predominantly Arabic. To meet this need four full-time Arabic speaking interpreters have been hired and \$150,000 has been identified to accommodate the increased need for translation services.
- Although the County and its partners have made efforts to increase the availability of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to meet the needs of the new arrivals, there continues to be a gap between availability and need. Without adequate English language skills, newcomers cannot obtain employment and become successfully integrated in mainstream society.
- The local public school system (K through 12) reports experiencing difficulty in meeting state standards because many of the refugee school children are not proficient in English and they are failing to pass state tests.
- Public health clinics continue to see a large number of refugee patients who need immunizations and struggle to accommodate language needs.
- Local mental health agencies are reporting an increase in demand for trauma-therapy and referrals.

The County receives two grants from ORR intended to help refugees seek employment and enable them to achieve self-sufficiency. However, the funding is restrictive and not all of the needs can be met with these funds. In addition to requests for more funds to provide mental health services, the County has been receiving input from various stakeholders that more resources for education and health care translation are needed to address the multiple needs of the expanding refugee community in San Diego.

Strategic Initiatives:

- Safe Communities
- Healthy Families

Action Needed:

- Support adequate and ongoing federal funding to increase self-sufficiency and reduce dependency on welfare and government funded housing programs funded by local

governments among refugees in impacted areas including the provision of federal resettlement benefits for longer than the current eight month time frame.

- Support adequate and ongoing federal funding to meet the health needs of refugees in impacted areas.
- Support adequate and ongoing federal funding to provide stable and affordable housing for refugees in impacted areas.
- Support an increase in targeted federal funding to effectively resettle refugees and aid in assimilation.
- Support 100 percent federal reimbursement of expenses incurred by local governments and agencies engaged in the refugee resettlement efforts including physical and mental health services, education and social services.
- Support a federal planning process that produces a national refugee resettlement plan, in advance of future refugee arrivals, utilizing input from the state and local government.
- Support distribution of funding based on the refugee's current residence rather than his or her point of initial resettlement.
- Support legislation that would require full federal funding for refugee services designed to enable refugees to become self-sufficient including language classes, job training and physical and mental health services.
- Support legislation that would make current refugees responsible for the relatives whose entry they sponsor.
- Support legislation that would provide funding from a federal discretionary grant to provide assistance to government agencies and community organizations in San Diego County heavily impacted by Iraqi refugees.
- Support legislation that would require the federal government to adopt outcome or results based contracting practices with the organizations they fund to provide refugee services.

6. FARM BILL – PROTECTION FOR REGIONAL AGRICULTURE

The County of San Diego receives funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) for plant pest exclusion, early detection and surveillance, threat identification and mitigation programs and specialty crop certification and risk management systems. This funding is made possible by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 "Farm Bill" Section 10201: Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention. The 2008 Farm Bill was set to expire in 2012, but Congress passed a one year extension. Congress has not acted in 2013 to move forward with a new multi-year bill or once more extend the 2008 Farm Bill, and the 2008 Farm Bill expired on September 30. Congress has continued to debate the best way forward for possible Farm Bill legislation but has not been able to find common ground. Due to the expiration of the 2008 bill, certain 1940 permanent authorizations have automatically been activated, but to fully address the range of programs funded through the 2008 bill, Congress will have to pass a new bill, either reauthorizing the 2008 Farm Bill for another year, or putting a new multi-year bill into place.

The County of San Diego receives Farm Bill funding because it is identified as a high-risk pest pathway due to a number of risk factors, such as: the number of international ports of entry; the international border and the volume of international passengers and cargo; the geographic location and types of agricultural commodities produced that are conducive to agricultural pest and disease; and crop diversity or natural resources, including unique plant species. California received 28 percent (\$14 million) of the \$50 million allocated to the Farm Bill for these purposes in 2011. The San Diego region received \$642,000 of California's allocation.

Without Farm Bill funding, County programs such as the Detector Dog Teams, who inspect parcel terminals such as FedEx, UPS, and eventually, the United States Post Office, to detect and prevent illegal introduction of plant pests and diseases that could be detrimental to the County's \$1.75 billion agricultural industry, would not exist. Other County programs include Light Brown Apple Moth, Pierce's Disease (Glassy-winged Sharp Shooter) and Sudden Oak Death. These programs are crucial to enable San Diego County growers to ship to other states in the United States and to other countries, such as Mexico and Canada. Without a Light Brown Apple Moth program, for example, San Diego County growers would not be able to ship to either of the top two countries to which they export agriculture.

Strategic Initiative:

- Sustainable Environments

Action Needed:

- Support legislation that provides adequate and ongoing federal Farm Bill funding at the current levels annually to prevent the introduction and establishment of plant pests and disease and provide a comprehensive approach to compliment federal detection efforts.
- Support legislation that increases federal Farm Bill funding to fully fund all of the exclusion and detection programs.
- Support legislation that increases funding for the Detector Dog Teams so that additional teams may be deployed and all parcel terminals can be covered to prevent the introduction of invasive pests and diseases.
- Support legislation that automatically provides funding for USDA oversight of the Farm Bill funding for pest and disease management programs.

7. SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

The County of San Diego receives funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) for the administration of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known as the CalFresh program in California with funding through the Farm Bill. The 2008 Farm Bill was set to expire in 2012 but instead was extended through September 30, 2013. The SNAP/CalFresh program is the largest nutrition assistance program administered by the County, and supplements income and improves access to healthy foods for families living in poverty. Changes to SNAP program eligibility would hurt already vulnerable populations in San Diego County.

One of the causes of obesity is poor nutrition. Families living in poverty often have no choice but to purchase foods that cost less, are easier to preserve, and will curb their hunger to a greater degree. However, these types of foods tend to have less nutritional value. Altering nutrition habits is partly predicated on having access to healthy foods. Children and families living in poverty often reside in neighborhoods with an abundance of convenience and liquor stores and a lack of grocery stores. Grocery stores typically offer a greater selection of fresh foods and are less expensive than smaller outlets.

Many families who have lived in chronic poverty and have not had access or resources to purchase nutritious food may not know how to select nutritious foods. The lack of funding for outreach and nutrition limits opportunities to educate vulnerable populations about the importance of good nutrition and healthy eating. To further promote healthy eating, publicly financed nutrition assistance programs should prohibit the purchase of unhealthy foods with high sugar content and no nutritional value and provide incentives for the purchase and

consumption of healthy foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables. To this end, the 2008 Farm Bill authorized the Healthy Incentives Pilot (HIP) Program to encourage the purchase of more fresh fruits and vegetables by SNAP households, to improve their dietary and health status, and to reduce obesity. USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and California Department of Social Services are currently working with Santa Clara County on implementation of the HIP program. Also, the County receives USDA funding from the California Department of Public Health and California Department of Social Services for the SNAP-Ed nutrition education program. This nutrition and physical activity program is a critical component of the County's Live Well San Diego chronic disease prevention efforts.

Improving access to nutrition assistance programs includes simplifying rules and streamlining the application process to remove unnecessary barriers for eligible low-income working families and vulnerable seniors. Currently, there is no federal or state funding that targets assessment of business efficiencies and supports changes needed to create a streamlined and user-friendly environment in County family resource centers.

Strategic Initiative:

- Healthy Families

Action Needed:

- Support reporting outcomes from the SNAP Employment and Training Program to provide more accountability.
- Support improving the quality of stock provided participating retail stores.
- Support use of an immigration status verification system.
- Support increased oversight of the Restaurant Meals Program (RMP).
- Support change to end SNAP benefits for substantial lottery or gambling winners.
- Support requirement to verify that SNAP benefits are not being paid to deceased individuals and that beneficiaries are not receiving payments in more than one state.
- Oppose elimination of Modified Categorical Eligibility (MCE), which allows eligible SNAP households to be determined categorically eligible.
- Oppose changes to limit eligibility to the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) to households receiving a Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).
- Oppose restricting SNAP eligibility for traditional college students.
- Oppose termination of SNAP advertisements which would limit the ability to provide program outreach.
- Oppose elimination of state performance bonuses for SNAP payment accuracy, application timelines and program access.

8. TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) REAUTHORIZATION

Under the welfare reform legislation of 1996, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) replaced the old welfare programs known as the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program. TANF ended federal entitlement to assistance and instead created a block grant that provides States, Territories, and Tribes federal funds each year. The TANF block grant funds cover benefits and services targeted to needy families and helps move recipients into work and turn welfare into a program of temporary assistance. The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 reauthorized the TANF program through fiscal year FY 2010.

Strategic Initiatives:

- Safe Communities
- Healthy Families

Action Needed:

- Support TANF Reauthorization to extend the TANF Program.
- Support state requirement to guarantee child care services to TANF recipients and work-eligible individuals who are employed (subsidized or unsubsidized) or are participating in a work activity and who have income below 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
- Support the prohibition of considering financial aid tied to education of a child in determining eligibility or grant amounts for TANF.
- Oppose legislation to sanction individuals for failure to engage in work activities if the failure results from the inability to secure child care or after-school arrangements for a child under age 13.
- Support extending the TANF block grant at or above the same level as authorized for fiscal year 2012.
- Oppose penalties for failure to meet standards through a merit-based system in the administration of TANF.
- Oppose legislation that would ban state use of federal TANF funds to replace state or local spending for non-qualified state expenditures.
- Oppose legislation that would require all child support collected by a state on behalf of a child in a family receiving assistance to be distributed to the family.
- Support the ban on providing assistance to families not assigning certain child support rights to the state.

PRIORITY STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES 2014

1. WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS (WEA)

WEA is a public safety system that allows customers who own an enabled mobile device (many newer phone models have WEA enabled hardware and software installed) to receive text-like messages alerting them of imminent threats to safety in their area. WEA was established pursuant to the Warning, Alert and Response Network (WARN) Act of 2006.

WEA enables government officials to target emergency alerts to specific geographic areas through cell towers, which push the information to dedicated receivers in WEA-enabled mobile devices. WEA complements the existing Emergency Alert System (EAS) which is implemented by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through broadcasters and media service providers.

Wireless companies volunteer to participate in WEA. WEA is the result of a unique public/private partnership between the FCC, FEMA and the wireless carrier industry with the objective of enhanced public safety. Participating wireless carriers were required to deploy WEA by April 7, 2012. Today authorized national, state or local government officials can communicate alerts regarding public safety emergencies, such as a flash flood warning or a terrorist threat through WEA.

WEA authenticates the alert, verifies that the sender is authorized and sends it to participating wireless carriers. Customers do not pay to receive WEA alerts. Customers of participating carriers are automatically signed up, such that no action is required to “opt in” to receiving the messages. WEA allows government officials to send 90 character emergency alerts to all subscribers with WEA-capable devices of participating wireless carriers.

Alerts from WEA cover critical emergency alert messages. Consumers will receive three types of alerts:

1. Alerts issued by the President
2. Alerts involving imminent threats to safety or life
3. Amber Alerts

After participating wireless carriers push the alerts from cell towers to mobile devices in the affected area, the alerts appear as text-like messages on mobile devices. Alerts are geographically targeted, so a customer living in Los Angeles would not receive a WEA alert message for an emergency in downtown Los Angeles if they happen to be in San Diego when the alert is sent. Similarly, someone visiting Los Angeles from San Diego on that same day *would* receive the alert. Again, this requires a WEA enabled mobile device and participation by the wireless carrier and the customer hasn't opted out of receiving messages.

In accordance with the minimum requirements of the program one or more wireless carriers have elected to send WEA alert and warning messages *countywide* rather than targeting a smaller geographical area. Due to complexities and variability in network configurations some wireless carriers have stated an inability to target a smaller, more targeted area while other carriers successfully broadcast the alert and warning messages to specific communities rather than an entire county.

WEA and San Diego

The County of San Diego, which is 4,206 square miles or roughly the size of the state of Connecticut, encompasses a large geographical area such that alert and warning messages broadcast to the entire county population is largely irrelevant to most residents. Flash floods, fires and other hazards often impact only a small subset of our county's population. While the major four mobile carriers (AT&T, TMobile, Verizon and Sprint) are able to broadcast WEA messages at the cell tower level rather than to the entire county, numerous smaller mobile carriers comply with the minimum FCC qualifications and broadcast Wireless Emergency Alerts to the entire county.

When the federal rules and regulations were developed for the WEA system years ago, it was not known if the cellular networks would be able to target alert messages to an area smaller than an entire county. Therefore rules were implemented which require participating carriers to target a *county* area, but provides the option to target a smaller area.

Any WEA evacuation notice issued by a federal entity should be coordinated with local officials. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) automatically issues pre-scripted messages for flash flooding, tsunamis and other warnings. The local National Weather Service office has no control or ability to adapt the messages. These messages are problematic particularly in the case of the tsunami warning Wireless Emergency Alert, which directs people to, “Go to high ground and move inland.” Because of the extensive “bleed over” with WEA messaging, a significant potential exists for over evacuations. History in San Diego indicates that most tsunami waves pose little danger beyond the immediate coast. Pre-scripted

messages sent from a national office – and directing potentially unnecessary evacuations – pose a real and significant risk to public safety.

Strategic Initiative:

- Safe Communities

State and Federal Action Needed:

- Support legislation and/or Rule changes which will require wireless carriers participating in WEA to broadcast alert and warning messages to cell towers surrounding the alert area defined by the “polygon” or the geographical area of the emergency defined on a map.
- Support legislation and/or Rule changes that increase the maximum number of alphanumeric characters allowed in a message from 90 to 140.
- Support legislation and/or Rule changes that prohibit national organizations from initiating a local evacuation through WEA messages without the approval of local emergency managers unless it is a matter of national security ordered by the President.
- Direct NOAA to allow local National Weather Service office personnel to devise WEA messages rather than sending “pre-scripted” messages from a national office.

2. CONTINUED FUNDING

Adult Abuse

Support state and federal funding for Adult Protective Services (APS) to enable counties to adequately investigate the continuing increase in the number of reports of abuse perpetrated against elder and dependent adults. Key provisions of the federal Elder Justice Act include:

- Direct funding for Adult Protective Services (APS) to enhance, not supplant APS services provided by local realignment funding.
- An Advisory Board on Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation to create a multidisciplinary strategic plan for elder justice.
- An Elder Justice Resource Center as a central repository for information and data regarding elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- Funding for training technical assistance, demonstration programs and research to improve ombudsman effectiveness and capacity in addressing elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

State and Federal Action Needed:

- Support legislation to provide full funding for APS to enable counties to adequately investigate the reports of abuse perpetrated against elder and dependent adults.
- Support legislation that would enact and fully fund the Elder Justice Act to address elder abuse issues and build the capacity of APS programs at the local level.
- Support legislation that would provide adequate funding for programs that address elder abuse, including the Social Services Block Grant.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Support funding for carrying out a wide range of community development activities directed toward revitalizing neighborhoods and providing improved community facilities and services.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program provides annual grants on a formula basis to entitled counties and cities. In FY 2001-02, the County’s entitlement allocation

was \$6,742,000. Since that year, CDBG funding has been substantially reduced. For FY 2013-14, the County of San Diego received an allocation of \$3,513,491. While this amount was a 4.4 percent increase from the prior year's funding level, the overall trend since FY 2001-02 has been a steady decline in funding. If funding had remained at FY 2001-02 levels, to date the County would have received an additional \$22.2 million to address critical community development projects funded through the CDBG program.

State and Federal Action Needed:

- Support funding for the CDBG program at FY 2010-11 levels of \$5,076,476. Future funding should restore the allocation for the County of San Diego to FY 2001-02 levels.
- Oppose legislation that would reduce the portion below 20 percent of CDBG funds that may be used for administrative expenses.
- Support legislation that provides increased Community Development Block Grant funding for projects that improve and/or rehabilitate facilities aimed towards improving the quality of life for senior citizens, disabled, and youth, such as parks, Boys' and Girls' Clubs, safe routes to schools and senior centers.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

CSBG is a federal block grant which funds the operation of a state-administered network of local Community Action Agencies (CAA) that develop anti-poverty strategies, working with economically disadvantaged individuals to achieve self-sufficiency and to improve the conditions of the communities in which they live. The County of San Diego Community Action Partnership (CAP) is the CAA responsible for administering CSBG funds locally. Key programs funded by CSBG in San Diego County include:

- Family Self-Sufficiency Programs, which provide emergency food and shelter resources, employment case management and nutrition education to families at 100 percent Federal poverty level (FPL) and below
- School Based Youth Self-Sufficiency Program at O'Farrell Community School that provides supportive services to children and their families living in Southeast San Diego to move toward self-sufficiency
- Interfaith Shelter Network, which provides emergency shelter to homeless individuals through a network of congregations located throughout the San Diego region
- Emergency Shelter Hotel/Motel Voucher Program, providing vouchers for homeless individuals and families from October through May
- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Coalition, which promotes participation in the EITC program and offers free tax preparation and referral to local resources

State and Federal Action Needed:

- Support the reauthorization and continuing funding for CSBG programs to adequately support the efforts funded through CSBG.
- Maintain block grant structure with emphasis on state and local control of activities to ensure flexibility to address specific local needs identified through community assessments, which the County conducts bi-annually as part of the development of a Community Action Plan (required for application for CSBG dollars).
- Allow States to move CSBG eligibility criteria up to 200 percent FPL.
- Enhance funding levels and increase opportunities for competitive grants to eligible CAA's to pilot innovative ideas in addressing the conditions of poverty.

Domestic Violence

The federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) provides funding for key programs in the San Diego region including:

- North County Family Violence Prevention Center – In 2004, the County of San Diego established a multi-disciplinary response center to assist domestic violence victims. This center provides from one centralized location, coordinated and comprehensive intervention services to families experiencing domestic violence in Northern San Diego County. It also provides assistance with restraining orders and provides links to support services offered by community partners.
- Victim-Witness Assistance Program of the District Attorney – This program provides important information as to how the justice system works and keeps victims up to date about investigations, probation issues and the prison system. Victim advocates provide comprehensive services to crime victims regardless of if there is a suspect or if the crime is a misdemeanor or felony.
- The San Diego region benefits from other VAWA funded programs, including the San Diego Family Justice Center and the Volunteer Lawyers Program. The federal government's continued support of these local programs through the VAWA grants is critical to ensuring that these services, tailored to meet the needs of the community, remain available for victims.

In addition to the federal programs, the region has benefited from state funded domestic violence programs. Domestic violence shelter-based services in the County are dependent on grants administered by the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health branch of the state Department of Public Health and the California Emergency Management Agency's comprehensive statewide domestic violence program. The State Department of Public Health's Domestic Violence Program has been eliminated. As a result, local domestic violence shelters lost funding for a portion of their budgets. This impacts the number of victims and children served and the level of service provided. Services currently provided include emergency shelter, counseling, advocacy, child care, housing assistance, parenting skills education, emergency food and legal assistance to help victims re-establish their lives and succeed.

State and Federal Action Needed:

- Support state and federal funding for programs that prevent and address family violence.
- Support legislation that would provide funding to support existing domestic violence programs and to increase the level of services supported.
- Support state and federal funding for programs to provide affordable housing and supportive services to survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and domestic violence.
- Support funding for the VAWA at a level that would sustain existing programs funded and increase the level of services supported by the Act.
- Support funding for the Shelter-Based Service Grant Program of the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Division of the State Department of Public Health and the comprehensive statewide Domestic Violence Program of the California Emergency Management Agency.
- Support legislation to provide funding for programs and services that would help prevent the occurrence of domestic violence incidents in at-risk families and recurrence of domestic violence incidents in high-risk families.

- Support legislation to allow the County to provide adequate monitoring of domestic violence contracts while maintaining victim privacy to ensure that the appropriate victims are receiving the appropriate services.
- Support funding for teen relationship violence education programs, including programs that begin in elementary schools.
- Support state and federal funding for programs that increase access to services among rural populations, tribal communities, and immigrant/refugee groups.
- Support legislation that would provide funding to support existing domestic violence programs and to increase the level of services that provide critical victim supports and perpetrator accountability.

The Methamphetamine Problem/Prescription Drug Problem

Methamphetamine abuse has been an endemic problem in San Diego County since the late 1970's. In FY 2010-11, approximately 33 percent (3,941) of the admissions to publicly funded substance abuse treatment programs identified methamphetamine as the primary drug of choice. Of these individuals, 54 percent (2,146) had children under the age of 18.

In addition to the use of methamphetamines, prescription drug abuse has escalated in San Diego County. Prescription drugs are easy to get and often end up in the hands of teens and young adults who use them to get high. According to a San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) study of juveniles arrested in 2011, 40 percent of juvenile arrestees in San Diego County reported they had abused prescription drugs in their lifetime, which is higher than the national average according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (2010). Further, 66 percent of the juveniles interviewed here locally in 2011 who obtained illegal prescriptions said it was either "easy" or "very easy" to obtain them. Every day, nationwide, 2,500 youth ages 12-17 abuse prescription drugs for the first time. Youth reporting illegal prescription drug use were more likely to have tried other illicit substances. Prescription drugs—pain relievers, tranquilizers, sedatives and stimulants—are the drugs most often abused by teens, after marijuana, and abuse increase as they grow older, according to the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). It is imperative that San Diego prevents prescription drug abuse from becoming the "new meth."

The use of various types of synthetic drugs such as bath salts, spice and synthetic marijuana is an emerging drug problem in San Diego County. These products are readily obtained in local retail outlets and youth report they are almost as easy to get as tobacco. They are also difficult to detect by routine drug testing making them attractive to youth and the military. Although labeled "not for human consumption," they are ingested for their affects causing significant health problems. There were three known deaths in San Diego County attributed to bath salts by the medical examiner in 2011.

Marijuana is the drug of choice by youth in San Diego County. According to the California Health Kids Survey results for 2011, 21 percent of 11th graders reported smoking marijuana in the last 30 days and 18 percent of youth in non-traditional schools report daily use. According to SANDAG's study of juveniles arrested in 2011, half stated that marijuana was the first substance they ever tried. Additionally, the Office of Traffic Safety found in their first ever roadside survey of impaired drivers conducted in 2011, that 7.4 percent of all drivers were positive for marijuana, slightly more than those found positive for alcohol (7.3 percent) in the same survey.

Addressing these problems continues to be a challenge due to a chronic shortage of treatment capacity resulting in an average wait time of up to six weeks for residential treatment, now

complicated by state budget shortfalls that have created additional waiting lists for non-residential treatment. Successful intervention and treatment has also been hampered by a lack of specific treatment options. However, there are successful County programs that could be expanded to better respond to the methamphetamine and prescription drug abuse problems, including:

- Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Program – A multi-jurisdictional effort between law enforcement and health and human service programs to protect children victimized by the manufacture of methamphetamine and/or living in drug infested environments.
- Methamphetamine and prescription specific drug-treatment and detox (including culturally and linguistically appropriate services).
- Speed Into Recovery Program – A targeted prevention campaign to educate specific high risk communities and sectors of the dangers of methamphetamine and the availability of treatment resources.

State and Federal Action Needed:

- Support legislation that would maintain funding for social work staff in the DEC Program to support children victimized by the manufacture of methamphetamine.
- Support legislation that would expand capacity to offer culturally competent and linguistically appropriate, methamphetamine and prescription specific drug treatment and detox services.
- Support legislation to fully fund methamphetamine and prescription specific drug treatment and prevention programs.
- Oppose legislation that attempts to make further cuts to alcohol and drug treatment funding.
- Support legislation that provides funding for counties to install secure and locked drop off boxes where unused medications can be safely disposed of.
- Support legislation that would reclassify hydrocodone from a schedule III to a schedule II drug.
- Support legislation that seeks to strengthen prescription drug monitoring programs and fraud prevention.
- Support legislation that makes the possession of synthetic drugs often described as bath salts, spice and synthetic marijuana, among others, illegal.
- Support legislation that would increase penalties for use and possession and aid law enforcement in identifying the compounds of synthetic drugs such as but not limited to bath salts and spice.
- Oppose legislation that allows for the recreational use of marijuana.

Older Americans Act Reauthorization

Support the reauthorization and continuing funding for Older Americans Act (OAA) programs to adequately support the aging programs authorized within this Act. Key programs funded by this Act for San Diego County include:

- Long-Term Care Ombudsman and Elder Abuse Prevention
- Elderly Nutrition Program, which provides both congregate and home-delivered meals
- Social Service programs, including Home and Community-Based Care, Adult Day Programs and other services
- Evidence based Health Promotion/Disease Prevention
- Family Caregiver Support
- Senior Employment

- Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs)

State and Federal Action Needed:

- Support legislation to provide adequate funding for programs authorized under the Older Americans Act, with consideration given to caseload growth, cost-of-living adjustments and equitable distribution of funds to those areas with large senior populations, to adequately serve increasing senior populations based on up-to-date census data.
- Restore and enhance funding to levels prior to the federal sequestration of 2013.
- Support legislation to restore and enhance State Title III General Fund allocations to FY 2011 levels for the matching funds and Ombudsman Special Funds that support OAA programs.

3. FIRE PREVENTION

California suffers from a wildfire crisis. Roughly 50 percent of the wildfires over 100,000 acres in size have occurred in the past 10 years. The San Diego region has been devastated by two major wildfires, in October 2003 and again in October 2007, in addition to other smaller scale fires that have occurred. Addressing the threat of wildfire to public safety is an ongoing and high priority for fire agencies at all levels; particularly in populated areas.

In the wake of the devastating wildfires in 2003 and 2007, the County of San Diego has continued to look at minimizing the risk of wildfires by finding new ways to improve local policies and codes that improve public safety. A systems approach to fire protection is employed by the County and includes areas of focus such as fire suppression (expanding coverage and purchasing equipment), fire and building codes, defensible space, land use planning, education/outreach and damage assessment.

In April 2009, the Board commissioned an experienced fire planning consultant to develop a deployment study to address the delivery of fire and emergency medical services in the region. In May 2010, the results of the Fire Deployment Study were presented to the Board and in September 2010 the Board implemented numerous recommendations made by the study to improve fire protection and public safety and to mitigate the potential impacts resulting from a wildfire event.

While the County has made significant investments in improving fire protection and resources for the public over the past decade, catastrophic wildfires continue to be a threat to residents, businesses and the environment. Catastrophic wildfires typically have an ignition that occurs when weather, terrain and vegetation conditions align that exceed the fire protection's ability to control. Of these factors, ignition and vegetation are the two common components where public efforts can mitigate the risk of wildfires.

Ignition management focuses on efforts to prevent the spark from occurring, or minimizing the spark's chance of starting a fire. Both the State and the County have bolstered efforts to vastly improve the fire and building codes that target ignition management. Public education efforts, ongoing by all fire agencies, focus on reducing ignitions.

In terms of wildland fire environment, while drought exceeds our ability to manage, the effects of drought can be managed, especially those effects related to dry and highly flammable vegetation conditions. Pest outbreaks, such as bark beetle and golden spotted oak borer, add episodic hazardous fuel conditions to the wildfire. These outbreaks have resulted in

widespread infestation levels throughout San Diego County. Conifer and oak tree mortality from these pests have been as high as 80 percent with small isolated stands experiencing 100 percent. Managing and/or mitigating these hazardous fuels to minimize ignitions, especially before hot, dry and windy weather conditions, is paramount for the fire service.

Strategic vegetation management activities can improve public safety especially in evacuation corridors and in/near populated areas. In some locations, strategic vegetation management at the landscape level focuses on mitigating wildfires that may negatively impact environmental resources such as watersheds, threatened/endangered species, or cultural resources. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is currently in the process of updating their Vegetation Treatment Program Environmental Impact Report (VTPEIR). This statewide document intends to lower the risk of catastrophic wildfires on nonfederal lands by reducing hazardous fuels. It also provides opportunities for local governments to tier their strategic vegetation objectives and activities as long as they are consistent with the VTPEIR. For this reason it is crucial that the VTPEIR accurately addresses the needs and concerns of the San Diego region.

It is important to note that the aim of treating hazardous fuels is to reduce the flame heights, rates of spread or the amount of energy released from the fire that allows firefighting troops to take prompt and effective action to stop the spread of a wildfire. Given that the wildland fire environment, especially the vegetation conditions, is continuing to grow, dry out and change, there will always be a need for further state and federal action to allow for coordination and management of hazardous fuels and for increasing fire protection for public safety.

Strategic Initiatives:

- Safe Communities
- Sustainable Environments

State Action Needed:

- Support legislation that amends the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to update provisions with the science of forestry.
- Support legislation to establish a year-round fire season, including adequate year-round staffing.
- Support increased funding and additional staffing for CAL FIRE's vegetation management program.
- Support the inclusion of necessary vegetation management, including chaparral, into the state's VTPEIR.
- Oppose the exclusion of strategies necessary to the San Diego region in the state's VTPEIR.
- Support legislation to continue the Governor's Executive Order annually until permanent funding for a year-round fire season is established that includes supplemental helicopter staffing and additional firefighter staffing budgeted in the CAL FIRE San Diego budget.
- Support legislation to provide jurisdictions impacted by the 2007 fires with up to 100 percent reimbursement for the state share of eligible costs for the state-declared emergency.
- Support legislation to reapportion a share of the school districts' property tax dollars – by no more than 3 cents – to be allocated to a newly formed regional fire agency; exempting basic aid school districts and community college districts; and requiring revenue neutrality for revenue limit school districts.
- Oppose legislation that imposes any additional state fees or taxes on property and structures in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) for fire prevention or protection.

- Support legislation that would increase the stump diameter of trees exempted from timber harvest plans that landowners may harvest near legally permitted structures to reduce the threat of wildfire.

Federal Action Needed:

- Support legislation to continue the waiver of a local match to receive funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the United States Forest Service (USFS) to remove dead, dying or diseased trees.
- Support legislation or regulations to exempt activities to remove dead, dying or diseased trees caused by insects or drought from compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Timber Harvest Plan requirements, when a corresponding state exemption has been ordered by the Governor.

State and Federal Action Needed:

- Support legislation that provides funding for enhanced fire prevention activities, including vegetation management and removal of dead, dying or diseased trees.
- Support legislation that provides for expedited environmental regulations relating to the management of vegetation through strategic treatment on both public and private lands.
- Support legislation that authorizes controlled burning on public lands, and improved access roads in remote areas to include an exemption from environmental laws and regulations while taking steps to protect public health and minimize adverse environmental impacts.
- Support programs or funding that increase fire prevention or fire suppression activities on state or federal lands.
- Support legislation that would continue grant funding directed to local fire agencies for equipment and infrastructure purposes.

4. WATER QUALITY PERMITS AND UNFUNDED MANDATE REQUIREMENTS

Federal and state regulations require that municipalities obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and apply for renewal every five years. Under this permit each municipality must develop a stormwater management program to control the discharge of pollutants into and from the storm drain system to protect local waters. A San Diego Municipal Stormwater Permit (Permit) has been in place for over 20 years, during which it has become increasingly stringent. The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) issued a new Permit in 2013. The 21 Copermittees, which include the County, the 18 incorporated cities in the San Diego region, the San Diego Unified Port District and the Regional Airport Authority, currently spend over \$100 million annually to maintain compliance with Permit requirements. Costs to local businesses are also significant, but have not been reliably quantified. The 2013 Permit includes new requirements that will increase costs significantly, development may be constrained and municipalities will be vulnerable to regulatory fines and third-party lawsuits.

It is necessary for program goals and requirements to be science-based and proven, or there is a risk that public funds will be spent on program related projects that yield little actual benefit. For example, a far reaching Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirement went into effect in April 2011 for waters in San Diego and Orange Counties. The TMDL establishes a very aggressive 10-year timeline to restore water quality to pristine, pre-development levels in eight highly urbanized San Diego watersheds, and imposes unattainable limits on the amount of bacteria allowed at beaches and creeks. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires states to develop and implement plans to achieve the numeric effluent

limitations in TMDLs. The stated purpose of the TMDL is to protect public health, as elevated bacteria levels have been shown to increase the risk of water-related illness in surfers and swimmers. However, the TMDL targets are unattainable and unrealistic. In order to comply with this TMDL, water quality must be restored to a “reference” condition that is equivalent to conditions that existed prior to urbanization. Studies show that current technology is not capable of removing bacteria to levels that would meet these standards during rain events. The TMDL also underestimates the amount of bacteria from uncontrollable natural sources such as wildlife, birds and natural decomposition. Some bacteria come from highly pathogenic human sources, but others come from more benign, plant-based environmental sources. The illness risk to swimmers from non-human bacteria sources is not well understood, yet the TMDL treats all bacteria the same. The Bacteria TMDL imposes an enormous new cost on taxpayers. Despite this cost, it is unclear whether any amount of investment would ensure the return of beaches and creeks to conditions that existed prior to development in the region.

The San Diego Permit imposes the Bacteria TMDL requirements on the Copermitees, and it is estimated that the cost to attempt to comply with the currently unattainable Bacteria TMDL requirements could be up to \$5.1 billion over a 20-year compliance period in the six watersheds for which the County shares water quality responsibility. Efforts to meet the Bacteria TMDL requirements will be in addition to the existing compliance costs. Federal and state regulatory agencies have moved forward to require the implementation of TMDLs without providing or identifying funding for these mandates. Consistent with the direction of the EPA, the Regional Board has made TMDLs enforceable by including them in the new 2013 Municipal Stormwater Permit. The Clean Water Act (CWA) includes a standard that requires municipal storm-sewer discharges “to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable” (MEP), and the County is concerned that the TMDL requirements may exceed this standard.

On September 26, 2012, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved Board Agenda Item 14, which contended that strategies and implementation under the Permit should focus on achieving maximum results for taxpayer dollars spent. The Board reaffirmed that it shares the common goal of clean water, but would like to see collaboration between the Regional Board and those that will be impacted that promotes reasonable water quality solutions that do not result in disproportionately higher costs to taxpayers and negative impacts on the economy. The County contends that recent permits adopted by state regional boards contain requirements that constitute unfunded mandates and may improperly apply the MEP standard.

The County assembled a coalition of regional agencies responsible for stormwater management in seven Southern California counties, business leaders and supporting technical experts to address the increasing cost and complexity of stormwater permits in California. The coalition visited Sacramento and Washington D.C. to meet with policy and lawmakers to discuss how to work in partnership with state and federal regulators, as well as other stakeholders, to develop sustainable stormwater pollution goals and flexible permitting programs that focus on the most important stormwater issues. The County and many other stakeholders, including elected officials from San Diego’s state and federal legislative delegations, communicated concerns about the Permit to the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the State Water Resources Control Board and the Federal EPA in Washington D.C. and at their regional office in Los Angeles.

Despite this outreach, the Regional Board adopted the San Diego Permit at its May 8, 2013 meeting. The adopted permit includes the numeric requirements in the Bacteria TMDL in addition to other concerning provisions that will increase the County’s liability. The County is

currently appealing the permit, however appeals take time. For example, the County's appeal of the 2007 permit is still pending. The adopted Permit includes a "reopener" provision, which allows the adopted Permit to be modified if the Regional Board is presented with evidence demonstrating the need to do so. The reopener is expected in 2016. The County will continue to work with the coalition of concerned stakeholders and seek modifications to the permit requirements that would make them science based and consistent with the MEP standard. Copermittees have funded studies that are underway to demonstrate to the Regional Board that the bacteria TMDL is too far reaching and not founded on sound science.

Strategic Initiatives:

- Sustainable Environments
- Healthy Families

State and Federal Action Needed:

- Support federal and state efforts to align the State Water Code with the federal Clean Water Act, and support legislation that seeks to define limits for further regulatory requirements imposed beyond the maximum extent practicable (MEP) standard.
- Support efforts to modify receiving water limitation language included in permits so that compliance is controlled by regulatory agencies and not third party lawsuits.
- Oppose any stormwater effluent standards or limitations more stringent than the provisions of the federal statute.
- Support federal and state efforts to require science-based justification and a cost-benefit analysis to be completed before approval of rulemaking or regulatory requirements.
- Support federal and state efforts to require and strengthen local participation and input for water quality goals and regulatory programs.
- Oppose federal and state efforts that would restrict or dilute local control and accountability.
- Support legislation and amendments to federal and state regulations that would improve the regulation of water quality at the state and regional level by increasing the pool of qualified candidates who can serve on boards that issue water quality permits.
- Support federal and state efforts to reaffirm that only Congress and the State Legislature have the authority for Clean Water Act related rulemaking legislation and oppose federal and state actions that allow federal and state agencies to make changes to Clean Water Act related statute or promulgate rulemaking through internal guidance or processes.
- Support federal efforts to further the implementation of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) of 1995, and state amendments to the California Constitution to more clearly specify what qualifies as an unfunded mandate.
- Support federal and state efforts that would codify and standardize the procedure to account for the true costs of federal and state mandates.
- Support federal and state efforts that would provide funding for NPDES and TMDL compliance and implementation efforts.
- Support federal and state legislation that would require that funding be included with federal and state water quality mandates.

5. WATER RELATED PROJECTS

There is a need in the unincorporated area of the San Diego region for additional funding for water related projects that ensure water quality, improve wastewater infrastructure, conserve,

recycle, and reuse water and mitigate the potential impacts in a flood event. There is also a need to secure funding for the testing of water quality at beaches and bays in San Diego County.

Strategic Initiative:

- Sustainable Environments

State and Federal Action Needed:

- Support state and federal funding for wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal projects.
- Support state and federal funding for water infrastructure projects.
- Support state and federal funding for drainage improvement and flood control projects.
- Support state and federal funding for the testing of beach water quality and corresponding public health notification at San Diego County beaches and bays.
- Support state and federal funding for water recycling and reuse projects.
- Support state and federal funding for digital mapping and public projects to ensure the public is protected from flooding through mitigation measures and adequate insurance coverage.

6. HOMELAND SECURITY/ANTI-TERRORISM/DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

The devastating fires of 2003 and 2007 in San Diego County, other natural and manmade disasters and our nation's ongoing war on terrorism continue to make protecting our region a high priority. Local governments are integral components in homeland security and emergency management, and the federal government must provide significant resources to local governments so that they can prevent and respond to terrorist attacks, as well as mitigate and respond to disasters.

Public Safety

The San Diego region has received over \$192 million in Homeland Security funds to date from five major Homeland Security grant programs. These funds have been used to improve our region's ability to respond to both natural and manmade disasters. Previous key projects and accomplishments include upgrades to our communication infrastructure, development of a regional terrorism threat assessment center, implementation of our mass notification system, Alert San Diego, and providing critical equipment and training for first responders.

San Diego's Unified Disaster Council has established a set of four priorities in its strategic plan which establishes a clear focus for our region in the upcoming years. These four priorities are:

1. Expand the culture of preparedness.
2. Strengthen the Operational Area's Catastrophic Response Capabilities and capacities at all levels of government.
3. Prepare for advanced recovery.
4. Incorporate accessible and functional needs in all preparedness response and recovery efforts.

Funding for communications remains a critical need. The importance of having seamless communication interoperability in San Diego and Imperial counties cannot be overstated. In San Diego, a forward thinking and regional approach has been in place for more than a dozen years, and has resulted in the San Diego/Imperial Counties Regional Communication System (RCS), a locally funded highly interoperable communications system providing service to more

than 19,000 users from more than 200 state and local agencies in the two-county area. The RCS has been recognized by the Department of Homeland Security as being one of the best in the nation. However, the RCS life cycle is nearing the end (anticipated vendor support ends in 2013). The conclusion of the existing product life cycle increases the importance of planning for the phased upgrade and replacement of the current radio system infrastructure.

The region has conducted fairly extensive risk analysis, and understands our most critical gaps in relation to our greatest risks. If grant funding decreases over time, a corresponding increase in flexibility in how funds are spent would help mitigate some of the impact.

Due to the unique safety and security risks we face in San Diego, a significant reduction in grant funding will impede our region's ability to sustain the valuable investments we have made in order to protect lives, property and the environment.

Health and Human Services

Prompted by the 2001 national anthrax incident, increased federal funding has fortified public health infrastructure. Funding has supported the County of San Diego to make significant enhancements and partnerships to strengthen the public health infrastructure. Since 2002, annually, over \$4 million of federal emergency preparedness funding has been utilized to strengthen the healthcare system to implement a comprehensive strategy to protect local residents against the threat of terrorist attacks. In collaboration with our committed community partners, important strides have been accomplished to help assure the readiness of the local healthcare system.

Since 2002, the County has received Public Health Emergency Preparedness funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), for Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP), Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP), Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS), and Pandemic Influenza Planning grants. These funds are received through a cooperative agreement with the state and continue to be used to build upon and strengthen the County's public health infrastructure including preparation of hospitals and community clinics to address surge capacity issues and development of public risk communication plans. Additionally, emergency equipment/supplies and medications have been procured and are cached to be used in the event of an emergency. However, the grant funding amounts have steadily decreased and have also included the loss of federal funding for Pandemic Influenza preparedness and response.

Strategic Initiatives:

- Safe Communities
- Healthy Families

State Action Needed:

- Support additional funding for services including, but not limited to, public safety, fire, hazardous materials, public health, office of emergency services, hospitals, emergency medical services, laboratories, mental health and environmental health.
- Support efforts that ensure the maximum amount of federal funding coming to California for homeland security programs are sub-allocated to local governments.
- Support legislation that seeks greater coordination and alignment between the California Emergency Management Agency and the California Department of Public Health.
- Support efforts to allow increased local flexibility in the use of funding for building and maintaining county public health preparedness and infrastructure.

Federal Action Needed:

- Support additional funding for emergency communications equipment.
- Appropriate sufficient funds dedicated to building and maintaining county and state public health preparedness and infrastructure.
- Support efforts to continue to provide Homeland Security grants to local jurisdictions without the requirement for a local funding match.
- Support legislation that seeks closer coordination and joint planning efforts between local, state and federal agencies.
- Support efforts to allow greater flexibility within the Homeland Security grants to fund all hazards, both natural and man-made.
- Support federal efforts in response to Executive Order 13407 to develop and implement an effective and reliable alert and warning system. In particular, support efforts to implement a cell broadcast system that will allow for large-scale emergency notification to cell phones.
- Appropriate additional grant funding from the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), Office of Preparedness and Emergency Operations (OPEO), and the Division of National Healthcare Preparedness Programs (DNHPP) to offset County costs for administering, planning and implementing grant activities.
- Appropriate sufficient funding for disaster medical surge planning and response including Pandemic Influenza.
- Support efforts to allow increased local flexibility in the use of funding for building and maintaining county public health preparedness and infrastructure.
- Support efforts to allow increased local flexibility in the use of funding to allow funds to be spent on personnel, training or other preparedness needs determined locally.
- Support efforts to allow increased local flexibility in the use of Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) or other homeland security grant funding.
- Oppose legislation that proposes to exclude the San Diego region from the UASI Tier I 11 highest risk areas.

7. HOUSING

The San Diego region needs more affordable housing. The demand for new housing is greater than the number of units developed, and available housing is beyond the reach of many families to buy or rent. Recent reports show that housing in San Diego County is among the most expensive in the nation and current economic conditions have significantly impacted those that are most in need of affordable housing solutions.

The County of San Diego and cities in the region operate a number of programs to provide and develop affordable housing. These programs offer rental assistance and affordable housing for renters and assistance for first-time homebuyers. Funding for these programs comes from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and other sources.

Strategic Initiatives:

- Safe Communities
- Healthy Families
- Sustainable Environments

State and Federal Action Needed:

Housing Element Law

- Support greater linkage of transportation and housing policy and funding, while providing adequate funding to maintain and improve existing infrastructure.
- Oppose legislation that would fine local governments, or cause state funds to be withheld, when State Housing and Community Development (HCD) determines that a local government's housing element does not comply with state law.
- Oppose legislation that would place the burden of providing compliance with housing element law on local jurisdictions rather than requiring State HCD to prove non-compliance.
- Support legislation that would impose reasonable reporting/oversight provisions on local government so they will approve housing elements that comply with the law.
- Support legislation that recognizes the development limitations within the unincorporated county, in particular the rural areas where existing infrastructure and public services are minimal.
- Support legislation that exempts rural areas with limited infrastructure and ground water from requirements, programs, or incentives that increase density beyond the density designated by the jurisdiction's general plan.
- Support legislation that recognizes place-based planning and requirements rather than a "one size fits all" approach.
- Support legislation that reduces the statutory default density for potential lower-income housing sites from 30 units per acre to 20 units per acre in unincorporated counties.

Affordable Housing

- Support legislation to provide incentives to encourage development of affordable housing.
- Support state and federal funding to develop or rehabilitate affordable housing.
- Support legislation that rewards local governments for local actions to increase the supply of affordable housing.
- Support legislation that would encourage permanent affordable housing whenever feasible.
- Support efforts to enact Housing Choice Voucher Section 8 program reforms that would strengthen and simplify this program through regulatory and administrative revisions.
- Support legislation that increases the financing options available to public housing agencies seeking to address the capital needs of their properties, such as the Capital Fund Financing Program (CFFP), Public Housing Demolition/Disposition and Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD).
- Support legislation that would provide adequate funding for Housing Assistance Payment contract renewals and ongoing administrative fees, while opposing legislation that requires Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) to deplete Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) reserves due to sequestration.
- Oppose legislation that would reduce Housing Choice Voucher program funding for Housing Assistance Payment contract renewals and ongoing administrative fees.
- Support legislation that funds the Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnerships programs equal to or greater than the FY 2010-11 levels, providing at least \$5,076,476 for the Community Development Block Grant program and \$4,252,789 for the HOME Investment Partnership program.

- Oppose legislation that would impose an offset against Public Housing operating reserves, effectively creating a disincentive for public housing agencies to administer their program efficiently.
- Support legislation that fully funds the Public Housing Capital Fund at a level which allows PHAs to fully maintain their housing stock.
- Support legislation that would uncouple and revise the Continuum of Care (CoC) formula allocation from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula using structural determinants of homelessness, specifically: availability of affordable housing, rental and housing costs, vacancy rates, number of available shelter beds, and number of homeless persons.
- Support legislation that provides increased funding for affordable housing opportunities, homeless prevention or rapid rehousing.

8. INDIAN GAMING

The County is now home to 19 Reservations and 18 Tribal Governments, 14 of which have compacts that allow gaming, and 10 existing Tribal casinos, which is the greatest number of Reservations and greatest number of Indian gaming facilities of any county in the nation. The growth of Indian gaming in San Diego County has created positive and negative impacts in this region.

Gambling on Indian lands is regulated by the 1988 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA). IGRA defines gambling under three classes: Class I gambling, which includes social games and traditional or ceremonial games and may be offered with no restriction, Class II gambling, which includes bingo and certain card games while specifically excluding all banked card games and may be offered if permitted elsewhere in the state, and Class III gambling, which includes all other forms of gambling (such as banked card games, video or electronic games, slot machines, horse race wagering, most forms of lotteries and craps) and may operate only if the tribe and the state have reached agreement on a compact, which the federal government must approve before it is valid. Most IGRA-related issues fall under the responsibility of the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) in the Department of the Interior (DOI), while issues involving Tribal recognition, sovereignty and lands fall under the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), also part of DOI. The Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) of 1934, Title 25 U.S.C.465, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire lands, water rights, or surface rights to lands, within or without existing reservations, including trust or otherwise restricted allotments, whether the allottee is living or deceased, for the purpose of providing land for Indians. The determination that the acquisition of the land is necessary may be discretionary or stated to facilitate tribal self-determination, economic development or Indian housing. One of the most contentious issues is whether gaming should be permitted on new lands taken into trust for Indian tribes by BIA, including both contiguous and non-contiguous lands.

On the state level, Proposition 1A was approved by voters in March 2000, which amended the state constitution to permit Indian tribes to conduct and operate Class III gaming on Indian land if a tribal-state compact is approved. California gaming compacts include a provision that classifies tribes with fewer than 350 machines as non-gaming. This allows them to collect the same funds from a revenue-sharing pool as those with no casinos. Through the compact, Tribes may pay for licenses for additional machines, but generally may not operate more than 2,000 machines. Proposition 1A required that tribes with compacts make quarterly payments to a Revenue Sharing Trust Fund based on the number of licensed slot machines they operate. The funds were to be used to provide annual payments to non-compact tribes and those tribes operating fewer than 350 machines. Pre-1999 compact tribes were required to make quarterly

payments into the state Special Distribution Fund (SDF) based on the number of machines they were operating as of September 1, 1999. The SDF was specified to be used for statewide purposes, including grants for programs to address gambling addiction, grants to the state and local governments affected by tribal gaming, reimbursements of state regulatory costs, payment of shortfalls in the Revenue Sharing Trust Fund and other purposes specified by the Legislature.

Compacts negotiated by Governor Davis in 1999 contained very limited provisions to mitigate the environmental and public safety impacts associated with Indian gaming activities. More recently, compacts negotiated by both Governor Davis (2003) and Governor Schwarzenegger (2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007) contain provisions requiring the Tribes to consult with the County of San Diego and to enter into agreements, with binding arbitration if negotiations reach impasse, to develop site or project specific terms and conditions. These terms and conditions address the implementation of feasible mitigation measures and feasible project alternatives concerning significant off-reservation environmental effects stemming from the gaming facility, and compensation for public services and programs to address gambling addiction. Negotiations are ongoing with the current state administration, under Governor Brown, for Indian gaming compacts, and the state has entered into compacts with tribes in northern California. However, litigation may drive changes to tribal-state compacts. In June 2011, the Rincon San Luiseño Band of Mission Indians prevailed when the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a ruling by the 9th Circuit Court that then-Governor Schwarzenegger negotiated in bad faith, that gaming funds used in the general fund were considered an illegal tax, and that tribes have been shorted on the allowable number of slot machines. The U.S. Supreme Court ordered the State and Rincon Band to renegotiate a compact. The Rincon Band has engaged the County to draft a proposal to distribute shared benefit funds for local impacts.

In 2009, the U.S. Supreme Court also issued a decision in a landmark Indian affairs matter, *Carcieri v. Salazar* (2009; No. 07-526). The Court held that the authority of the Secretary of Interior to take land into trust for tribes under the IRA extends only to those tribes under federal jurisdiction when the law was passed in 1934. In response to this decision, a number of bills have been introduced in Congress to provide the Secretary of the Interior with the statutory authority to take land into trust for Indian tribes, regardless of when they were recognized by the federal government. While there are concerns with the proposed legislation expanding the statutory authority of the Secretary of the Interior, this may provide an opportunity for Congress to reform the fee-to-trust process.

In 2013, the Bureau of Indian Affairs proposed regulatory changes related to the fee-to-trust process and the tribal recognition process. The BIA's proposed rule to adjust the fee-to-trust process was brought forward due to the *Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomí Indians v. Patchak* Supreme Court decision, which opened land into trust decisions to challenge after the United States government has taken possession of the title for the land. Prior to this legal decision it was thought that any challenges must be brought forward before the title is transferred. The tribal recognition draft proposed rule was brought forward by the BIA with the stated goal of streamlining the tribal recognition process from 1934 to the present. The draft proposed rule does not specifically address Indian gaming, but does state that Tribal acknowledgement under the rule would confer all rights and responsibilities afforded to other Tribes. There is some discussion that this may be the BIA's own regulatory work-around of the *Carcieri* Supreme Court decision, but only the preliminary notification of a rule has been released.

Federal legislation was proposed in 2011, 2012 and 2013 seeking to overturn the Carcieri ruling by amending the IRA to give authority to the Secretary of Interior to take land into trust for all Indian tribes regardless of when recognized. Carcieri fix legislation is expected to be proposed once again in 2014.

Strategic Initiatives:

- Safe Communities
- Sustainable Environments

State Action Needed:

- Urge the Governor to continue amending Indian gaming compacts to require agreements between local governments and Tribes to mitigate fiscal impacts on local governments, significant off-Reservation environmental and public safety impacts caused by gaming-related improvements or operations and prevention and treatment of gambling addiction.
- Urge the Governor to encourage Tribes from remote or sensitive areas to co-locate their gaming facilities with existing Indian gaming facilities to diminish impacts to the unincorporated areas and local governments, while allowing those tribes to generate revenue for their members.
- Oppose legislation that expands Indian gaming without requiring an Intergovernmental Agreement to mitigate existing unmitigated gaming impacts and/or impacts from the expansion.
- Support legislation that would distribute funding from the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund for local mitigation of Indian gaming impacts, while continuing to advocate for a fair and proportional share.
- Support legislation that would assure the maximum allocation to assist counties in mitigating the environmental, behavioral and public safety impact of gaming activities.
- Support legislation that bases allocation of Special Distribution Fund moneys on the number of gaming devices in the jurisdiction.
- Support legislation that provides counties with the discretion to use mitigation funds as the County deems appropriate in order to ensure local jurisdictions have the flexibility to balance competing mitigation needs.
- Support legislation that provides if there are insufficient funds in the Special Distribution Fund to fund payments to eligible tribes from the Indian Gaming Revenue Sharing Trust Fund (GRSTF), funding to bridge such shortfalls shall be transferred to the GRSTF (in the amount of the deficiency) from payments made by the tribes to the state's general fund pursuant to any tribal-state gaming compact.

Federal Action Needed:

- Oppose transfers of land into trust on behalf of a tribe that has not entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement to mitigate adverse impacts from its casino and/or its gaming related facilities, or other large development projects.
- Support reform of the land to trust process to require appropriate notice and assessment of applications by local agencies to ensure that proposed and future impacts of the land taken into trust are mitigated.
- Support legislation that would require a full Environmental Impact Statement whenever a non-traditional use of land is proposed on an Indian reservation that likely would negatively impact surrounding communities.
- Support amendments to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) that require a tribe, during negotiations for a tribal-state gaming compact, to negotiate and sign an

Intergovernmental Agreement with the local county government to address mitigation of the impacts of gaming activities on local infrastructure and services.

- Support amendments to the IGRA and regulations that allow a tribe to co-locate its casino on another willing tribe's reservation in order to diminish impacts to the unincorporated areas and local governments.
- Support amendments to the IGRA and regulations that require as a provision of the tribal-state compact that a tribe must enter into a binding intergovernmental agreement with local government to mitigate economic, social, environmental, health, safety, infrastructure and other impacts.

9. LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO

A County that is Healthy, Safe and Thriving is the vision that guides the County of San Diego. The Live Well San Diego initiative is the County's blueprint for improving community health and quality of life over the next decade. The initiative is made up of three components – Building Better Health, Living Safely, and Thriving – that include four strategies: Building a Better System, Supporting Safe and Healthy Choices, Pursuing Policy Changes for a Safe and Healthy Environment, and Improving the Culture From Within.

Building Better Health

The *New England Journal of Medicine* reported that, for the first time in history, children in the United States may have shorter life expectancies than their parents. Throughout the nation and locally three behaviors - poor nutrition, lack of physical activity, and tobacco use/substance abuse - contribute to four diseases: heart disease/stroke, Type 2 diabetes, cancer, and respiratory conditions, such as asthma. These diseases result in over 50 percent of deaths in San Diego County. Improving our health habits will lead to improved quality of life and result in significant savings to taxpayers. The Board of Supervisors adopted the Live Well San Diego initiative with Building Better Health as the first component in July 2010.

Obesity is a growing epidemic with significant health, social and economic implications for adults as well as children. The number of overweight Americans has increased almost 50 percent during the past 15 years. These individuals are at risk of a wide array of health complications, including cardiovascular, orthopedic, diabetic and pulmonary ailments.

The success of Live Well San Diego largely depends on how well the most complex problems facing our region, such as obesity, are addressed. The social determinants of health are key drivers of health outcomes and health inequities.

The World Health Organization identifies one critical social determinant of health as how we shape our built environment, including our transportation system.

Childhood Weight Issues

Childhood obesity is an epidemic affecting 18 percent of the nation's children in 2009-10. While obesity represents the most extreme result, 38 percent of California children and 34.5 percent of San Diego County children are either overweight or obese (2010). The number of overweight children has nearly doubled and the number of overweight teens has tripled over the past two decades.

The health implications for children are quite serious with growing documentation of high blood pressure, high cholesterol levels, and even Type 2 diabetes, which in the past was only a

condition of older adults. Today, Type 2 diabetes is the fastest growing childhood disease in the United States due to childhood weight issues.

Numerous studies have shown that children who participate in outdoor activities are healthier, do better in school, have a better self-image, and lead more fulfilled lives. Recreation programs that become available through funding opportunities such as *The National Environmental Education Act* provide outdoor experiences to at-risk and underserved youth, through formal school programs and community organizations, giving youth the opportunity to learn appreciation for nature while exercising and reducing their risk of obesity.

The problem of weight is complex, with many causes. While it is known that a child's diet and amount of physical activity are important factors, other aspects of everyday environment also influence a child's weight. These may include a lack of physical education programs in schools, a lack of recreation facilities, unsafe communities, lack of access to low cost fresh fruits and vegetables, popular sedentary games, food advertisements, grocery store marketing, and hidden fat and sugar in popular foods. Identification of risk factors that can be changed will assist in development of strategies that would aid in addressing the problem of overweight and obesity in children.

Additionally, low birth weight is an increasing health concern because it is associated with long term disabilities such as cerebral palsy, autism and other developmental disabilities.

Living Safely

The Living Safely strategy addresses both the community's perception of overall safety in San Diego, as well as the actual incidence of crime and injury. This first in the nation approach is a unique partnership between government agencies, the business community, community organizations, and individuals to make our region the safest in the nation.

In order to achieve our goal, the Living Safely Strategy is focused on three specific outcomes: a San Diego region where residents are protected from crime or abuse; neighborhoods are safe to work, live and play; and communities are resilient to disasters and emergencies.

Compared to the rest of the country, San Diego is one of the safest places to call home. Crime rates have decreased across the region for the last two decades—reaching a new 30-year low in 2011. Our recent successes are the result of close collaboration between criminal justice stakeholders—County, cities, state and federal. Regional task forces targeting gang members, human trafficking, and drugs are providing our residents with safer communities utilizing evidence-based practices. Proactive messaging and educational programs have given our residents the tools to feel empowered and take action to improve their neighborhoods.

Crime rates are about more than reducing the numbers of offenders and criminal incidents that occur. The goal of reducing victimization is at the heart of reducing crime rates and recidivism. Victim assistance programs are a key element of our Strategy. Studies show that people who suffer repeated trauma (six or more adverse childhood experiences) die as much as 20 years younger than expected, on average, than peers who were not abused or traumatized. The County is committed to expanding its trauma-informed knowledge workers to better identify victims and connect them to appropriate services.

To keep our communities safe, county law enforcement agencies are guided by a balanced-approach model; incarcerate the incorrigible criminals who prey upon our population but be proactive in treatment services for those who need and will benefit from assistance. Substance

abuse, mental health, and vocational programs for those coming out of jail and prison remain top priorities. To reduce the number of future probationers and decrease the jail population, we will focus on at-risk youth. Timely identification of substance abuse and gang activity will provide local educators, law enforcement, and treatment providers the opportunities to intervene early.

The County recognizes the special obligation it has to protect vulnerable populations from abuse and neglect, including children, older adults, and victims of domestic violence. Economic and demographic trends underscore the continuing importance of these efforts. Families are experiencing financial stress and the growing population of seniors is vulnerable, not only to physical neglect and abuse, but also financial abuse. This strategy reflects a commitment to strengthen our prevention and enforcement strategies to protect against abuse and neglect. County departments work collaboratively with the community to proactively identify and address harmful situations. Stronger coordination between County services and partners will enhance responses to these events and ensure support services promote recovery.

Making San Diego communities safe means reducing accidents and improving the infrastructure in our neighborhoods. Unintentional injuries and deaths remain a detriment to our quality of life. Automobiles and the misuse of prescription drugs were the leading causes of accidental death in San Diego County in 2012; they remain at epidemic levels for our teenagers. Removing graffiti, filling potholes, and fixing streetlights will improve community character and give residents the confidence to walk and bike to businesses and recreational areas. Reducing unintentional injuries at workplaces will yield more productive companies and result in a stronger business climate.

Our region has experienced catastrophic disasters over the past few decades from wildfires. In addition, earthquakes and proximity of the busiest international Land Port of Entry in the world at San Ysidro create added challenges. The County has embarked upon a series of regional preparedness initiatives to better prepare government agencies, the business community, and families for disasters. Together with community partners, we are encouraging residents to be prepared with supplies to survive for 72 hours. The County is also placing a special emphasis on our most vulnerable populations. The elderly, very young, homeless, disabled, and limited English speakers face enormous challenges during disasters that must be incorporated in planning efforts.

Thriving

To realize a community that is not only healthy and safe, the third component of Live Well San Diego – Thriving – will be rolled out in 2014, with a goal of promoting a region in which residents can enjoy the highest quality of life.

Strategic Initiatives:

- Safe Communities
- Healthy Families
- Sustainable Environments

State and Federal Action Needed:

- Support efforts to reduce the number of infants born with low birth weight to prevent lifelong disabilities.
- Support funding to facilitate access for eligible individuals and families by improving internal business efficiencies in CalFresh offices.

- Support funding for outreach efforts to families and vulnerable seniors who are eligible for nutritional assistance programs, and require nutrition education as part of these outreach efforts.
- Support legislation that would provide incentives to families to purchase healthy foods like fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Support legislation that would combine nutrition education with efforts related to local food assistance programs, especially those that target families with obese children or children who are at risk of becoming obese.
- Support legislation to increase resources for outreach efforts and to improve business efficiency of locally administered food and nutrition assistance programs.
- Support legislation that would prohibit the use of public food benefits to purchase items that have a high sugar content and little nutritional value.
- Support a range of intervention strategies to decrease childhood obesity to “no more than 5 percent among children aged 6 to 19 years,” which is the goal stated in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Healthy People 2020.
- Support National Environmental Education Act grant or other grant funding for programs that provide outdoor education and recreational opportunities.
- Support legislation that increases access to healthy foods.
- Support legislation that encourages healthy communities by expanding options to healthy choices.
- Support legislation to provide funding that would maintain the County’s administrative capacity to address violence prevention such as technical assistance and training to community providers for program oversight and contract monitoring.
- Support legislation to provide funding for programs and services that would help prevent domestic violence incidents in high-risk families.
- Support legislation to provide funding for programs that help prevent and reduce the risk of exposure to violence and provide essential services for children and families.
- Support legislation to provide funding for programs and initiatives that target high-risk neighborhoods and communities to reduce the risk of family violence, community violence, youth violence and childhood exposure to violence.
- Support legislation that provides funding for programs that integrate health and safety through education and resources.
- Support legislation that expands the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement Fund.
- Support legislation that provides funding for safe and accessible routes for children to walk and bike to school.
- Support legislation that provides funding for and encourages transportation planners and engineers to design and enable safe access for all users, regardless of mode of transportation.
- Support legislation and funding that promotes land use patterns that improve health.
- Support legislation that establishes standards for nutrition and physical activity in early childhood education programs, infant care programs, and afterschool programs.

10. FUNDING FOR CITRUS PEST AND PLANT DISEASE MANAGEMENT

The Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) is a non-native agricultural pest that is known to spread Huanglongbing (HLB), a disease that is deadly to citrus trees. In recent years ACP has been detected in Southern California counties. While the County of San Diego Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures has been vigilant, as ACP spreads the risk of HLB increases. There have not been documented cases of HLB within the County yet, but Los Angeles County to our north and Mexico to our south both have the disease. The disease

threatens the County's \$117 million citrus industry, backyard citrus and the \$2 billion citrus industry in California. Further funding and attention are warranted for research and abatement efforts to minimize the impacts of the disease, as well as efforts regarding detection and eradication of its carrier, the Asian Citrus Psyllid.

Strategic Initiative:

- Sustainable Environments

State and Federal Action Needed:

- Support legislation that would fund the research and implementation of biocontrol agents for the control of Asian Citrus Psyllid.
- Support legislation that would provide funding for regulatory activities associated with the lethal citrus disease Huanglongbing to protect San Diego's \$117 million citrus industry as well as residential citrus.
- Support legislation that would provide funding for early detection surveys for Huanglongbing.
- Support legislation that would fund the research and implementation of new Huanglongbing detection tools and resistant citrus varieties.

11. INFORMATION SHARING

In order to better serve residents, the County of San Diego is developing and implementing an information exchange computer system. This will allow departments to share information more efficiently to better serve County customers. It will also reduce duplicate data entry. Staff will continue to use existing computer systems that are specifically tailored to the needs of their department, which the new system will pull information from into a central hub. To maintain privacy and security, staff will only be able to access information needed for the specific job. Management will be able to get reports about populations using County services, including statistics about people using multiple services. They can use this information to make business decisions to allocate resources where they are needed. Ultimately, the technology will enable customers to access their County service information from home, providing the convenience expected in today's electronic age.

Strategic Initiative:

- Safe Communities
- Sustainable Environments
- Healthy Families

State and Federal Action Needed:

- Support legislation that facilitates information sharing within and among County, State, and/or federal agencies.
- Support legislation that facilitates information sharing among government organizations and providers who serve shared customers.
- Support legislation to enable the sharing of client information across departments and divisions for legitimate business purposes.
- Support legislation that promotes information sharing among multi-disciplinary teams who are providing support, benefits, or services to a shared customer.