



County of San Luis Obispo



2023 State Legislative/Regulatory Platform

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INTRODUCTION

To reflect the priorities of the County, the 2023 Legislative Platform is divided in four sections:

- **DIABLO CANYON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT** – Closure-related issues that remain of a high priority to the Board. In addition, with the recent passage of SB 846, the extended operations of the plant is now being pursued.
- **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITIES** – Items of specific concern to members of the Board.
- **COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO SPECIFIC ISSUES** – Issues the County will actively pursue that directly affect the County.
- **SHARED LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES** – Issues the County will actively pursue that directly affect the County as well as other jurisdictions; divided in the Platform by each of the four functional areas of county government: Community Resources and Infrastructure, General Government, Health and Human Services, and Law and Justice, then sorted by priority.



LEGISLATIVE GOALS

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

The primary goal of County of San Luis Obispo's Board of Supervisors and its employees is to serve and support the well-being of its residents; County of San Luis Obispo government is dedicated to enhancing the economic, environmental, and social quality of life in the County. To this end, in 2023, the County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors supports the general principles set forth below. County staff, including the County's legislative advocates, will apply these general principles to evaluate legislation, as well as executive and regulatory directives, and take those actions necessary for their implementation.

1. Preserve County of San Luis Obispo and other local revenues and funding sources from further reductions, especially those that directly impacts the County's ability to serve its residents; support legislative and policy initiatives that maintain funding levels.
2. Oppose legislation that constrains county contracting ability to contract for services. Such constraints would require the expenditure of valuable local resources to do analyses that would likely be flawed due to the prohibition on incorporating certain data points but are critical to fiscal management decisions every county must make. Support legislation that upholds the principle of the subsidiary relationship between the State and counties.
3. Support increased appropriations to the County for mandated programs, including capital acquisition costs. Oppose mandates without revenue and/or unnecessary State mandates. Support legislation that allows flexibility to local governments to effectively and efficiently administer state-mandated programs and provide local government additional protection from state mandates that are not supportive of local control. Oppose the transfer of additional state programs to the County, unless adequate, secure, and ongoing revenues are provided by the State. Where State funding is not available, support legislation that authorizes locally developed, functionally equivalent programs in place of subjecting municipalities to state laws/regulations (e.g., Williamson Act).
4. Support legislation that allows maximum flexibility to local governments to effectively and efficiently administer state-mandated programs and provides local government additional protection from state mandates that attempt to micromanage local affairs.



5. Encourage, seek and support continued legislative efforts to streamline, improve and modernize state land use regulations and/or policies such as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), California Coastal Act, Subdivision Map Act, etc., without compromising or undermining the original intent and tenets of these laws.
6. Encourage and seek legislation that protects, promotes, and preserves the County's quality of life, its diverse natural resources, its economic base, and the character and history of the County, including legislation that would provide funding to local agencies to develop programs, policies, and projects.
7. Encourage, seek, and support legislation that facilitates orderly economic expansion and diversification and increases the opportunity for discretionary revenues and programmatic and financial flexibility for the County.
8. Support legislative initiatives that provide funding sources or financing tools for programs or projects that enable infrastructure, energy, and economic development projects including but not limited to development of adequate infrastructure; increased energy efficiency; development of renewable energy and energy storage systems; all zero net energy buildings; and, access to energy consumption data to support infrastructure and resiliency planning.
9. Support the County's authority to assure mutually acceptable tax sharing agreements for annexation and incorporation that protect or enhance the County's ability to provide services to its residents.
10. Support legislation that: 1) encourages cooperation between the County and its cities, special districts, and other local agencies as well as neighboring jurisdictions in efforts to develop regional plans, programs, and initiatives, and 2) facilitates regional cooperation on issues of community-wide and regional concerns, including regional economic development and the development and provision of adequate infrastructure which includes water, roads, and technology.
11. Support the principles adopted by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), where they are consistent with the principles and priorities identified by the County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors.
12. Support the preservation, protection, and enhancement of the California coastline through proper planning. The County of San Luis Obispo is committed to preserve and provide access to the coast and support where appropriate beach activities, boating activities, and other recreational uses in developing and implementing precise coastal plans and appropriate zoning. Statewide efforts related to the California coastline must respect local land use authority. Support



collaborative and cooperative work with the state, other counties, and cities to ensure decisions do not erode local control and decision-making. Encourage, seek, and support efforts to streamline, improve and modernize coastal development permit and local coastal planning processes, without compromising or undermining the original intent and tenets of these laws.

13. Support and encourage a cooperative approach between state and local agencies for the maintenance, improvement and development of transportation infrastructure and public transportation systems.
14. Oppose any legislation or initiative that proposes to modify Proposition 13. Specifically, oppose any proposal that would weaken the homeowner protections of fortified Proposition 13 by increasing or eliminating the 2% cap on annual property tax increases for homeowners. Oppose any legislation or proposal that would establish a so-called "Split Roll" for property tax, which would thereby reduce protections for commercial property owners.
15. Support the proposed transfer of the California Youth Authority property, located within the city limits of Paso Robles, at the least cost to the City of Paso Robles and the community.
16. Encourage, seek, and support legislation that results in State funding, collected from the cannabis industry, being provided to local jurisdictions where impacts from the newly legalized and regulated cannabis industry are being encountered. Specifically, pursue any legislation or proposal that provides funding for cannabis education or illegal cannabis cultivation eradication and its resultant impacts.
17. Support legislation that expands use of alternative project delivery methods for local agencies. These include Design-Build and Construction manager at Risk procedures in the current Public Contracts Code. Seek enhancements that streamline the process, reduce administrative costs, update, and remove monetary limits and logically assigns risk of overall project costs.
18. Support legislation that recognizes hydroelectricity and nuclear power as renewable energy sources.
19. Support legislation related to implementing required and optional aspects of the Federal 2019 Flexibility Efficiency and Modernization Rule.
20. Support legislation that creates greater access to justice for program participants and creating a mandatory duty to record all Title IV-D Court proceedings.
21. Oppose any legislation or initiative which proposes a reduction in child support program funding, limits or eliminates data collection tools and methods, and limits or eliminates the child support program as a safety net program.



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



SECTION 1: DIABLO CANYON

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

Senate Bill 846 (Dodd, 2022), co-authored by Assemblymember Cunningham, was signed into law by Governor Newsom on September 2, 2022. The legislation provides a pathway for PG&E to receive a loan of up to \$1.4 billion from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the purposes of extending operations at the Diablo Canyon Power Plant through 2030. The law enables PG&E to seek federal funding from the United State Department of Energy's (USDOE) Civil Nuclear Credit Program and pursue approval from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to continue operations of the nuclear facility beyond its current license termination dates (October 2024 for Unit 1 and August 2025 for Unit 2).

SB 846 includes several potential "off-ramps" that authorize applicable agencies to determine if the costs associated with continued operations would exceed the DWR loan amount plus any funding provided by the DOE.

In addition, no later than March 2023, the California Energy Commission (CEC), in consultation with the CPUC and the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) must determine if the power from the Diablo Canyon Power Plant is necessary for grid reliability beyond its expected closure date (2024-2025). Further, PG&E must prove that it has received DOE funding no later than March 2023. Additionally, the CPUC and CEC are directed to continue evaluating the need for power from the plant on an annual basis and could determine in any year that adequate renewable energy or battery storage has been installed to provide grid reliability and direct the closure of Diablo Canyon Power Plant prior to 2030. For this reason, the County will continue evaluating the path of Diablo Canyon decommissioning while also monitoring the information developed pursuant to SB 846 regarding its continued operations.

SB 846 specifies that investments made in the plant using grant or loan funds will not be added to the operator's rate base. It is not, however, clear in the bill language how components of these additional investments in the plant will be treated for purposes of determining assessed values subject to unitary tax. Given the uncertain impacts, the County wants assurance that the state will treat any additional investments made under SB 846 consistently with its existing practices for determining assessed values subject to unitary tax, such that the County and local agencies are assured to realize the same additional unitary taxes for investments made under SB 846 they would receive for equivalent investments made outside the scope of SB 846.



Resolution:

1. Safe operation of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant in compliance with all existing federal and state laws, state and local permit requirements, and all local emergency preparedness protocols, must be adhered to always.
2. All the emergency preparedness and response infrastructure and associated funding, including those funded by PG&E for on-site response, must remain in effect. The infrastructure and emergency response personnel must comply with ever-evolving standards and regulations throughout the operating life of the plant and for as long as spent fuel is located within the County.
3. Once plant operations cease, spent fuel will remain on site. It is estimated that spent fuel will remain in the spent fuel pool for approximately four years after closure. Once the spent fuel has cooled to appropriate levels, it will be transferred to dry cask storage, along with radioactive waste, referred to as Greater than Class C (GTCC) waste for which a separate waste storage facility would be built as part of plant decommissioning. If spent fuel and GTCC waste remains in our county, it will continue to pose a potential significant threat to the public health and safety of our community. As noted above, it will be critical that appropriate emergency preparedness infrastructure and funding remain in effect. Additional consideration should be given regarding how to compensate the community for this continued threat.
4. PG&E's current estimate is that decommissioning will cost \$3.9 billion and that work will be ongoing for decades. This will include a plan to be approved by the CPUC, which is itself in a transformative stage. In no event shall any iteration of the decommissioning or public process at the CPUC change in such a way as to prevent the County and its constituents from being able to participate in the process.
5. In response to the severe drought, the County has sought to have access to the unutilized or underutilized capacity of Diablo Canyon's desalination plant to provide critically needed water to the South County. At a minimum, it was estimated the plant could convey 1,300 acre-feet annually, which would provide a much-needed increase in local water supplies to help offset the public health threats associated with the current drought. Since announcing the planned closure, PG&E has ceased discussion with the County on this issue. The San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Flood Control District) will evaluate this facility as a potential long-term regional resource as part of its DESAL Plan work effort.
6. The County will encourage, seek, and support legislation that will allow it to further its economic development goals and community well-being, including pursuit of assets made available by PG&E or Eureka Energy through the closure of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant.



7. The County will work to ensure that appropriate staff and financial resources are available to fully support decommissioning activities, extension of operations, and land conservation and regional economic development planning in alignment with the new timeline under SB 846.
8. The County will continue to play a role in determining potential reuse of the Diablo Canyon lands, including pursuit of assets. SB 846 enables PG&E and Eureka Energy to disburse lands outside of its site boundaries, which could allow for sale of land before the plant's operations cease, so long as the sale conforms with Public Utilities Code 851. It also requires that a Land Conservation and Economic Development plan be developed "that supports environmental enhancements and access of Diablo Canyon powerplant lands and local economic development in a manner that is consistent with existing decommissioning efforts." The County seeks to participate in the development of the Land Conservation and Economic Development plan, building on the planning and community visioning work that has already taken place, and seeks funding to support its involvement and to further regional economic development planning efforts. The County also supports the inclusion of the first \$10 million in the FY 2023-24 state budget and supports the future inclusion of \$150 million in the FY 2024-25 state budget to support the Land Conservation and Economic Development Plan, as described in SB 846.
9. The County will work to ensure that Diablo Canyon Power Plant's continued operations do not interfere with any efforts to pursue alternative resources that could utilize the existing transmission infrastructure, such as potential large-scale offshore wind and long-duration storage installations.
10. The County seeks to reserve the right to evaluate the application of investments made under SB 846 to assessed values subject to unitary tax, and recoup any unitary taxes determined to have been accrued to the County and local agencies at levels below those which would have accrued to the County and local agencies for equivalent investments made outside the scope of SB 846.



SECTION 2: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITIES

A. **Problem:** Homelessness. On average, each year since 2018, homeless system of care inflow has exceeded outflow by 196 people. In 2020, among communities categorized as “largely suburban” nation-wide, the County of San Luis Obispo had the 3rd largest percentage of unsheltered homelessness nationwide—82.4% of the homeless population was unsheltered. San Luis Obispo also made the top five list for unsheltered youth, unsheltered veterans and unsheltered individuals

Resolution: Support legislative and budget proposals to ensure ongoing and stable state funding for homeless programs and services.

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

Resolution: Support legislative and budget proposals to ensure that program delivery for families with children under five continue to thrive and provide

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

Resolution: Seek and support legislative action and financial and Administrative support from Governor Newsom to bolster funding and training opportunities for first responders to avail themselves of crisis intervention training in order to further resource California’s communities in combatting the homelessness and mental health crisis that grows every day. Ensure ongoing stable funding for behavioral health outreach and ongoing care. Seek and support legislative action and financial support to expand crises response teams with added personnel who specialize in mental health crises treatment.

D. **Problem:** The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) established requirements for the management of groundwater basins in California to ensure their long-term viability. There are



many stakeholders that must be considered in any proposed way to manage a groundwater basin and included to maximize the use of the water and the basin for the benefit of the community. Private or exclusive efforts to manage basins or bank groundwater have been proposed, raising concerns from the larger community.

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

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

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

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

Resolution: Support Statewide offshore wind development programs and initiatives, as well as funding for Central Coast-specific offshore wind development, including studies aimed at infrastructure, workforce training and development, economic benefits, supply chain development, environmental analyses, permitting, and more. Support initiatives that improve coordination between local, state, and federal agencies as well as with other communities preparing for offshore wind development.

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

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



SECTION 3: COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO SPECIFIC ISSUES

Groundwater, Transportation, Public Works, Planning, and Agriculture

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

Resolution: If the dam was retrofitted, it could be modified to install spillway gates which could create additional new water storage and have significant benefits to downstream users. Seek and support grant funding opportunities to make capacity improvements and other retrofit improvements to Salinas Dam. Seek and support opportunities or legislative solutions to retrofit the dam and transfer to County of San Luis Obispo and/or Flood Control District ownership in order to secure water for local needs.

- B. **Problem:** Effective January 1, 2016 new State law - known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) – required the management of the County's high and medium groundwater basins identified as such by the Department of Water Resources. SGMA requires each basin to achieve sustainability by 2040 or 2042. Significant work efforts over the next few years will strain County resources in implementing the sustainability plans developed for each basin.

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

- C. **Problem:** Senate Bill (SB) 552 requires Counties to form a standing drought task force and to develop a plan that "includes potential drought and water shortage risk and proposed interim and long-term solutions for state small water systems and domestic wells within the county's jurisdiction". The County is able to comply with the requirements because of the flexibility to use an alternative process for a task force (e.g., the Water Resources Advisory Committee) and an



existing plan. Because County authority and funding are limited with respect to imposing requirements and/or implementing solutions on behalf of the small systems and well owners, SB 552 appropriately requires only consideration of drought mitigation actions. However, there is the possibility of changes to this legislation that would limit this flexibility and introduce mandates for plan implementation.

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

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

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

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

Resolution: Support increased funding for planning, design, and construction of freeway conversion of these three segments of Route 101. Initiate Caltrans corridor plans to define access improvements and phased construction. Support funding from inter-regional funds under the State Transportation Improvement program. Oppose legislative or Administrative action that would redirect funding away from these critical projects in favor of projects in more urban areas.

- F. **Problem:** Land in agricultural production along the Arroyo Grande Creek levees is an important local resource. In 2023 and in 2001, a levee breach flooded agricultural land, and it is reasonable to assume a major flood event could cause a levee breach and flood agriculture again. The levee system was deemed to be past its useful life in 2009 and does not provide the original flood protection it was designed for. A levee breach would have significant economic impacts to the



local community. Crop insurance does not fully recover losses, and in many instances, it is unavailable or not provided for certain crops. The County of San Luis Obispo desires to have the farmers and property owners within the agricultural region protected, via insurance, to the highest extent possible should a breach occur. Farmers and property owners in the area have expressed it is costly, difficult, and sometimes impossible to obtain adequate insurance coverage.

Resolution: Sponsor and support legislative changes to ag-related insurance programs to cover more crops and cover more losses. Encourage Congress to make changes to the National Flood Insurance Program that would establish flood zones for agriculturally based communities and allow for certain ag-related development. Encourage Congress to allow for adjusted rates based on actuarial risk, thereby lowering base rates in areas of lower risk. Support funding or other resources from the State and Federal government to assist in implementing projects identified in the 2006 [Arroyo Grande Creek Erosion, Sedimentation and Flooding Alternatives Study](#). Support programs or legislation that enhances the ability to conduct flood control channel management.

- G. **Problem:** Residential neighborhoods and public facilities adjacent to State owned property (Oceano Dunes SVRA) are subject to periodic inundation due to the application of CA State Park policies that emphasize allowing “natural” processes to develop and evolve on park lands, particularly related to sandbars. These policies have also resulted in alterations to a significant flood control channel located within a local easement on State Park land.

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

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

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



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

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

Health and Human Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

- D. **Problem:** Reproductive health services, including family planning and diagnosis and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), are typically less available to persons of lower income and access to care issues. To prevent unwanted pregnancies, teen births and transmissions of



STIs, legislation that enhances access to care and affordability will help all members of the local community in the long run.

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

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

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

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

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

- G. **Problem:** The Child Support Program needs adequate funding to expand capacity to sufficiently address local needs. Strengthening the child safety net, reducing barriers, and increasing access to justice is imperative because Child Support is the third largest Safety Net program by children served behind SNAP and before TANF. Child Support Director's Association support increased funding to the entire local child support program. This will help by increasing outreach efforts to unserved communities, particularly communities of color who are disproportionately impacted by child poverty issues. It will also help by increasing use of technology to encourage easy access to program services, as well as provide additional staffing to meet increased caseload.



Resolution: Support legislation that will provide adequate funding for the program, as part of the social safety net, to reach unserved families and grow the program

- H. **Problem:** Legislation can create or deny pathways to services. Local families need better access to Local Child Support Agencies (LCSAs) for the needed services from child support. These laws can have an impact not only on the support that is provided to families but create barriers for LCSA's to pass through to do their job. This will help by implementing:
- Universal applications; simplified forms; using technology for ease of access
 - Ease of access encourages participation
 - Family-centric
 - Minimizes inequity between customers seeking services
 - Increases program efficiencies

Resolution: Support legislation that removes barriers to access the child support program, increases or eases access to justice, and/or eases operational/administrative burdens. –AND– Oppose legislation that creates barriers to access the child support program and/or access to justice.

- I. **Problem:** LCSAs need to maintain the freedom to tailor their services to the special needs of their local community. LCSAs better understand the needs of their region than others who are not locally connected. Shifting work to the state could worsen services and slow response times. This will be helpful by aligning the local program to guidelines of Flexibility, Efficiency, and Modernization in Child Support Enforcement (FEM) Final Rule, allowing flexibility to manage cases based upon individual customer circumstances and local/regional socio-demographics

Resolution: Support legislation that would preserve the ability of local agencies to manage the program under local control.

- J. **Problem:** Local families need to be allowed financial freedom while their needs are being met. Financial stability gives way to other forms of stability within families and allows the basic needs for families to be met as well as options for recreation. Allowing this freedom will help reduce family reliance on public assistance programs and create stable environments for children to grow.

Resolution: Support legislation that will help create family financial stability.

- K. **Problem:** Information sharing between LCSAs is imperative to help provide better child support services. Networks of information need to be created and strengthened to maximize services and collaboration to shared customers.



Resolution: Expand sharing of information and data between agencies to improve services to families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- O. **Problem:** Housing funds to address the challenges of homelessness have increased. Building and capital improvement funds do not cover the ongoing and increasing need for behavioral health treatment, intervention, and case management to ensure successful transition from unhoused to housed, or for maintaining housing stability.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

S. **Problem:** Traffic safety has become a serious public health concern in California. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2019 over 3,600 people died in traffic crashes in California and one in four people who died was a pedestrian or bicyclist. In 2020, 26% of bicyclist and other cyclist fatalities occurred at intersections, which are extremely hazardous for bicyclists and present a high risk for crashes where bicyclists cross paths with motorists (NHTSA, 2022). The California Office of Traffic Safety reported that San Luis Obispo County was among other counties who ranked highest for bicycle serious injuries per capita. Cal Trans data shows that in 2021, the San Luis Obispo County bicycle involved collision rate was 31.2 compared to the California statewide rate of 19.4. Bicycling has increased in popularity and people in low-income, marginalized communities and communities of color often rely on biking as their primary mode of transportation.

The U.S. Department of Transportation introduced the Safe System Approach to traffic safety which aims to eliminate fatal and serious injuries for all road users. It promotes a transportation system design and operation that incorporates a combination of safe road users, safe vehicles, safe speeds, safe roads, and post-crash care. This holistic approach to the road system is designed to accommodate human mistakes and provide multiple layers of protection against injuries. Safety is an ethical imperative of the designers and owners of the transportation system (FHWA-SA).

Resolution: Support legislation initiatives and funding that support the Safe System Approach to reduce traffic collisions and fatalities and improve safety for all road users including pedestrians and cyclists.



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

The 3 x 3 Developmental Screening Partnership project, conducted by First 5 San Luis Obispo and funded by a County of San Luis Obispo Mental Health Services Act innovation grant, took place over the period July 2019 through June 2022. The goal of the project was to test for optimal screening methods for developmental screening of children ages 0-3 using a standardized questionnaire and to use lessons learned to advance the aim of universal pediatric developmental screening. During the course of the project it came to light that a significant obstacle to full implementation of screening across the range of pediatric practices in the county is the divergent reimbursement rates received for Medi-Cal patients compared to those insured by private third-party payors. Ironically and atypically, the Medi-Cal reimbursement rate is as much as 500% higher than that of private insurers.

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

- U. **Problem:** Farmworkers and their families who were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are underserved by government agencies and face multiple barriers in accessing services from community organizations. They cannot easily obtain information and access to services related to housing, education, immigration, labor and employment rights and health and human services.

Resolution: Support and expand the grant program for counties to establish Farmworker Resource Centers which was created by AB 941. This program is being administered by the Department of Community Services and Development within the California Health and Human Services Agency. These resource centers meet the needs of migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families.

- V. **Problem:** San Luis Obispo County is experiencing significant growth in the older adult population, growing at a rate higher than the California average. Alzheimer's Disease was SLO County's fourth leading cause of death according to the California Department of Public Health, County Health Status Profiles 2019. The profile also reported that the number of individuals with Alzheimer's disease in SLO County is expected to increase 63% by 2030. SLO County's Alzheimer's disease death rate is among the worst in California with an age-adjusted death rate per 100,000 population of 41.1, compared to the statewide average of 35.7. The CA State 2022 Budget Act (Assembly Bill 179, Chapter 249, Statutes of 2022) provides funding to local jurisdictions to support



the Healthy Brain Initiative projects. However, the funding is only available for 12 local health jurisdictions through a competitive grant process to conduct pilot projects over the next two years.

Resolution: Support legislation that ensures stable, sufficient funding for all local health jurisdictions to offer healthy aging services to address the increasing rates of Alzheimer's Disease, and funding to support the implementation of the State of California's Master Planning on Aging process.

- W. **Problem:** Tobacco control programs have strived to affect policy, systems and environments to enable people to live, work and play in smokefree environments, reducing their exposure to cancer-causing secondhand. However, in the State's effort to implement Proposition 64, which legalized the production, sales and use of recreational cannabis, some pro-cannabis legislation, such as allowance of in-door consumption, violates secondhand smoke protections. Additionally, there is overlap in definition between tobacco products and cannabis accessories that may create conflict during enforcement.

Resolution: Seek and support legislation that:

1. Increases funding to local jurisdictions enhance public education about the health risks, especially for youth and young adults, of cannabis use [the Prop 64 grant opportunity is limited only to jurisdictions with store fronts; but cannabis use is statewide]
2. Requires that the Department of Cannabis Control and California Department of Public Health jointly review existing and proposed legislation to remove inter-department inconsistencies in policies and regulations regarding secondhand smoke in public spaces and sales of accessories and paraphernalia.

General Government

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- F. **Problem:** To reduce greenhouse gases, the State has passed ambitious transportation electrification, decarbonization, and resiliency targets. Local governments are key stakeholders in helping the State achieve its targets. Some of the associated technologies are in nascent stages and need incentives to bring the cost down and to encourage wider adoption.

Resolution: Support state policy, funding support, tariff preservation and program designs that help advance state transportation electrification, decarbonization, and resiliency goals to support



County compliance. Support programs that enable low-income, multifamily, and residential access to energy programs.

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

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

- H. **Problem:** Recent efforts to amend the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act (MMBA) to include more requirements for public employers have failed. These imposed additional requirements not only erode fundamental management rights, but also frequently require the County to increase administrative processes with employee organizations, which increase costs and impact efficiencies of our operations.

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

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

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



SECTION 4: SHARED LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Transportation, Public Works, Planning and Agriculture

A. **Problem:** The United States Environmental Protection Agency has mandated minimum measures for the control of urban storm water, pursuant to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System developed as part of the Federal Clean Water Act. To comply with the Federal mandate, the State Water Resources Control Board has developed Statewide General Permits for both municipalities and new construction. The requirements contained in these permits exceed the federal mandate in numerous areas. In addition, Regional Water Quality Control Boards are given leeway to modify (increase) the statewide requirements with no oversight. In all cases, and despite the Federal mandate to consider the costs of implementation, neither the State Board nor Regional Boards provide additional funding or include realistic limits on the costs of compliance to local agencies.

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

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

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

C. **Problem:** Caltrans interchange capacities are not currently defined as a state route concern (i.e., not a local development issue).

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



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

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

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

Resolution:

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

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

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

- G. **Problem:** A major source of funding for County Agricultural Commissioner’s Pesticide Use Enforcement programs is the pesticide mill fee imposed on the registrant at the first point of sale of a pesticide in California. To maintain the integrity and quality of the pesticide regulatory system, it is critical we support methods to maintain or increase funding through the mill fee assessment.

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

- H. **Problem:** The Direct Marketing program is intended to provide a viable channel for California farmers to market their agricultural products directly to consumers, individuals, organizations, or entities at the point of production or at Certified Farmers Markets (CFMs), providing exemptions



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

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

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

Resolution: Support legislation that:

1. Protects existing revenue sources and enhances state and federal funding of Pest Prevention Program activities. Provides full cost recovery from state and federal sources for new programs.
2. Maintains or enhances funding for current programs.
3. Supports all reasonable efforts by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, County Agricultural Commissioners, and the agricultural industry to acquire funding and to prevent the introduction and potential spread of invasive pests in California.
4. Provides for effective pest management and eradication activities
5. Provides local flexibility to enhance the abilities of Agricultural Commissioners to respond to pest emergencies and high priority local pest exclusion pathways.
6. Support budgetary efforts to restore funding for agricultural border stations.
7. Supports research on invasive species pathways as well as funding mechanisms to close potential pathways.

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



Unfortunately, weed management funding has been eliminated and the State's role in weed management has been significantly reduced or eliminated.

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

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

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

Health and Human Services

- A. **Problem:** Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a contagious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). Cases of COVID-19 in San Luis Obispo County began being detected in early 2020. The following is a brief timeline of significant events:

On March 13, 2020, the County Emergency Services Director issued a proclamation of local emergency in San Luis Obispo County due to the existence of conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons within the entire area of the county caused by an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the likely introduction of COVID-19 within the region and to ensure the County can properly respond to COVID-19. Specifically, the proclamation noted that the CDC has stated that COVID-19 is a serious public health threat. The proclamation also stated that the number of reported COVID-19 cases had escalated dramatically over a short period of time and that this escalation is likely to continue into the near future, as evidenced by the statistics indicating the rapid spread of the virus set forth in the proclamation. On the same day as the proclamation of local emergency, the County Health Officer, declared a local public health emergency, pursuant to Section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code. On March 17, 2020, the Board of Supervisors approved the proclamation.

On March 18, 2020, the Emergency Services Director issued a Shelter-at-Home Order effective March 19, 2020.

On December 6, 2020, under the State of California's regional approach, brought the County of San Luis Obispo back to a Shelter-at-Home order in an effort to protect public health and to not overwhelm the state's hospital system.



The COVID-19 pandemic has created both a public health crisis and an economic crisis in the United States and had very significant impacts in San Luis Obispo County.

Resolution: Seek and support legislation that:

1. Allocates any additional funding equitably amongst local jurisdictions.
2. Allows local governments to have local control and autonomy in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic including addressing and mitigating long term impacts to community well-being.
3. Provides local governments adequate funding for continued pandemic response, to include testing, vaccination, outbreak control, and health care system response.
4. Oppose legislation that seeks to establish or create COVID-19 passports documentations that is required for access to services or entrance into any place.

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

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

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

Resolution: Support legislation that:

1. Creates opportunities and incentives for collaboration between businesses, schools, government, and private, non-profit agencies for improved services for children, youth and families;
2. Increases the quality of childcare through annual visits by California State Department of Social Services (CDSS)/Community Care Licensing to subsidized, licensed exempt childcare providers, including support of national accreditation activities and retention incentives, such as stipends to childcare providers;
3. Creates opportunities for job mentoring for youth in businesses using tax incentives.
4. Advocate for health coverage for children.
5. Enhances the coverage of mental health and substance use disorders treatment by insurances, including Medicare.
6. Addresses administrative and privacy requirements for substance use disorder information sharing regulations.
7. Address disparity of Medicaid (Medi-Cal) coverage for individuals requiring inpatient mental health treatment by eliminating the 16-bed rule for Institutions for Mental Disorders (IMD's).



8. Support the State DHCS to engage in additional CMS waivers, which would allow for a broadening of Medi-Cal reimbursable services, including housing supports.
9. Emphasizes development of child and youth centered programs including psychiatric youth facilities and expanding access and funding for intensive care that can be provided in the family's home.

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

Resolution: Support legislation that:

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



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

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

E. **Problem:** Homelessness continues as a growing problem in San Luis Obispo County and across the State. San Luis Obispo County's 2022 Homeless Point-in-Time Census counted 1,448 homeless individuals within the County, of which 80% were unsheltered. Furthermore, the Census and Survey identified that 88% of homeless veterans were unsheltered. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress indicated that California has the highest rate of unsheltered homeless people (70.4%) in the nation, yet San Luis Obispo County's rate of unsheltered is still well above that rate. Increased, steady, and predictable funding, to directly address the concurrent challenges many face of being mentally ill and homeless would greatly improve our ability to reduce homelessness in San Luis Obispo County.

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

F. **Problem:** Access for low-income families and Medicare beneficiaries to primary medical care and specialty care services in the County is impaired as a result of inadequate reimbursement rates from Medicare and Medi-Cal.

Resolution: Support/sponsor legislation which:

1. Increases in the rates of reimbursement for Medi-Cal, consistent with rates available in other jurisdictions and costs experienced by efficient providers.
2. Extends "disproportionate share" subsidies (presently available to inpatient care providers) to providers who serve a disproportionate share of lower-income patients on an outpatient basis.
3. Provides reasonable reimbursement for acquisition of medications, such as chemotherapy agents, which are administered in physician offices.
4. Provides reasonable reimbursement rates for mental health and dental services for all age groups (children, adolescents, and adults).
5. Adjust the 2011 Realignment allocation to address the responsibilities of counties to provide mandated mental health and substance use programs.



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

G. **Problem:** Obesity among the County's residents is a significant and increasing health problem with complex causes. Two key causes are (1) lack of physical activity and (2) unhealthy eating. Prevention efforts should address individual practices and environmental factors that limit our ability to make healthful choices. Modifying behaviors and environmental factors is challenging, but crucial. Establishing healthy lifestyles will translate into fewer cases of diabetes, stroke, heart attack, and obesity among children and adults, as well as reduced health care costs for chronic illnesses associated with being medically overweight or obese.

Resolution: Support funding and policy changes that:

1. Reduce the prevalence of obesity and increase opportunities for physical activity and healthful eating.
2. Increase food security of County residents by ensuring food purchased, provided, or made available is healthy. Includes policy, system and/or environmental work that increases access to fresh, healthy, locally sourced fruit and vegetables, as well as other healthy products.
3. Increase CalFresh participation of eligible County residents by creating a specialized unit to conduct a thorough review of current business processes and develop opportunities and efficiencies for improvements towards increased enrollment, retention, and reporting."

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

Now more than ever, dental offices in SLO County are struggling to keep up with the increased demand for dental care services due largely from delayed routine care and treatment during the pandemic. As the need for dental services has increased, dental practices continue to be short-staffed. Specifically, dental practices are struggling to hire and retain mid-level dental health staff such as Registered Dental Hygienists and Registered Dental Assistants. Additionally, many areas of our county lack Medi-Cal dental providers. The Health Resources and Services Administration



(HRSA) has designated SLO County as having some Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) and scores these areas of SLO County high in the priority list for assignment of dental clinicians. However, smaller communities are sometimes clustered together for the purposes of evaluation HPSA status, thus masking deficiencies in the availability of Medi-Cal providers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Resolution: Support legislation and budget actions that:

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

- N. **Problem:** Resulting from recent litigation involving the lack of State hospital beds and long wait times the Legislature enacted Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) section 4336 in AB133 which establishes an IST growth cap for each county (county baselines were established by using total felony IST determinations made in FY 2021-22 in each county). Beginning in FY 2023/24, each county will be assessed a steep penalty if a county exceeds its growth cap. Exceeding the "IST growth cap" results in a steep penalty of up to \$169,500 by FY 2026-27 for *each* referral over the IST Growth Cap.

Resolution: Seek legislative changes that would not penalize counties for how many individuals are arrested for committing a felony and subsequently are deemed incompetent to stand trial.



Remove the new liability that the State has transferred to local governments through AB133 and WIC 4336 and the IST Growth Cap Penalty Payments.

- O. **Problem:** Homeless encampments in creeks and other waterways result in tons of trash that clogs vital infrastructure. The trash, which often includes hazardous waste or products, washes into the ocean or causes flooding.

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

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

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

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

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



Promoting family-centric services, minimizing inequity between customers seeking services and increasing program efficiencies

- R. **Problem:** Preserve the ability of local agencies to maintain local control of the Child Support program. Maintaining the discretion to appropriately design and manage the delivery of child support program services at the local level allows LCSAs to tailor their services to the unique needs of their local community. Ensuring that the State consults with local agencies when considering program changes while minimizing program changes that negatively impact program services will enhance program effectiveness. Maintain LCSA independence in terms of no individual LCSA being compelled by the State to form a regional child support agency with another LCSA. The decision to regionalize should be left solely to the individual LCSAs who are considering doing so. Aligning the program to the guidelines of the FEM Final Rule and allow LCSAs the discretion to manage cases based upon individual customer circumstances and local/regional demographics to ensure the best results for families participating in the program. As California's program seeks greater flexibility in service delivery, maintaining LCSA control will ensure flexibility in service delivery, as well as ensuring that the needs of the local community are met. Need to expand sharing of information through local agency collaboration and automating data exchange between agencies to improve services to families.

Resolution: Create and strengthen networks and electronic interfaces to facilitate increased sharing of data between LCSAs and partnering agencies. Information sharing will promote improved service and increased effectiveness. How this will help: Collaboration and maximizing services to shared customers will result in improved outcomes.

- S. **Problem:** Families rely on child support payments to meet their basic needs and support their children. Ensuring LCSA's continue to have access to enforcement tools such as: IWO, driver's license suspension, intercepts, levies, etc. are effective and lead to increased collections and support for struggling families.

Resolution: Support legislation that creates, enhances, or preserves the child support program's ability to use effective collection tools and methods. Thereby facilitating the payment of support which helps families meet the basic needs of their children, supports the maintenance of the safety net for California families and promotes efforts to address child poverty in our state. Effective collection and distribution of funds is the greatest service provided by the child support program.



Law and Justice

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

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

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

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

- C. **Problem:** Proposition 47, the Criminal Sentences, Misdemeanor Penalties Initiative or Safe Neighborhood and Schools Act, was approved by the voters of the State of California in November 2014. The intent of Proposition 47 was to recategorize some nonviolent offenses to misdemeanors, rather than felonies. Offenses include shoplifting, grand theft, receiving stolen property, forgery, writing bad checks, or personal use of drugs, among others. The proposition affects future convictions and allows for currently incarcerated for crimes covered by the measure to petition for re-sentencing. This re-petitioning provision expires on November 4, 2022.

Resolution: Due to the harm caused by this proposition to the community, e.g., increased criminal activity without real consequence for perpetrators and/or chance for rehabilitation, support legislation that would modify or repeal all or part of Proposition 47.

Support 2024 Proposition 36: the Homelessness, Drug Addition, and Theft Reduction Act.

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



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

General Government

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

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

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

Resolution: Oppose legislation that would result in increased work-related illness presumptions.

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

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

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

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



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

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

- F. **Problem:** AB 885 (Irwin) was a California Assessors' Association sponsored bill for disaster relief. It would have provided "new construction" of replacement structures destroyed by natural disaster to receive up to 120% of size or value. This conforms Revenue and Taxation (RT) Code within existing provision that provides up to 120% for "replacement dwelling" on another site within the same county. The bill received no "no" votes in the entire process yet was vetoed by the Governor. The San Luis Obispo County Assessor's proposal for disaster relief (AB 885) from 2019, will be reintroduced by Assembly Member Irwin. The California Assessors' Association will sponsor the new legislation.

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