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January 4, 2005

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF THE 2005-06 SESSION (ALL AFFECTED DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

This letter recommends policies and proposals for the first year of the 2005-06 State Legislative Session. This package, together with other positions adopted by your Board, will guide our State advocacy efforts. They have been developed in coordination with County Departments, the Legislative Strategist, and our Sacramento advocates.

THEREFORE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve the updated policies and proposals contained in this letter and attachments, which seek to minimize the adverse impact of State actions on the County, achieve greater flexibility over the use of State funds, secure State assistance whenever possible, especially from non-General Fund sources, and promote the growth of the State and local economy.

2. Instruct the Chief Administrative Officer, affected departments, the Legislative Strategist, and our Sacramento advocates to work with the County delegation, other counties and local governments, and interest groups to pursue these policies and proposals.

INTRODUCTION

For the fourth consecutive year the State is facing a major budget deficit in the next budget year that the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) estimates will be $6.7 billion. While revenue collections for the current and previous years are likely to be $2.4 billion above estimates, expenditures are up as well and most of the net gain is arguably

obligated to K-12 education because of Proposition 98. According to the LAO, unless real, ongoing actions are taken to reduce the deficit, it will increase to almost $10 billion in FY 2006-07.

While some $3.5 billion of the $15 billion deficit bond authority remains unused, the LAO recommends that they not be sold in FY 2005-06 so that "real and ongoing solutions to close the budget gap..." will be adopted. With local government discretionary revenues essentially off-limits as a result of Proposition 1A's passage, State policy makers are likely to focus on State-funded programs and services, especially since the Governor and Republican Legislative leaders have promised not to raise taxes. Counties, which are heavily dependent on State funding for their budgets, especially for health and social service programs, have reason to be concerned. Some 53 percent of the County's funding comes from either State funding or Federal funding that is often contingent on State matching funds. Clearly, the County continues to have a great deal at stake in State budget deliberations.

IMPACT OF RECENT STATE BUDGET ACTIONS

Over the past four years Los Angeles County, like all counties, has been called upon to make major contributions toward State budget solutions. While direct cuts to programs have been limited, and services to the public have been minimally affected, this has been accomplished in many cases by the County using one-time reserves and administrative savings to absorb a greater share of costs for these programs. **The cumulative loss to the County over the four years starting with the FY 2001-02 State Budget is well over $1 billion, including almost $160 million this year. In addition, since the first ERAF shift of property taxes in FY 1992-93, Los Angeles County has contributed over $11 billion to reduce the State's cost of funding public schools.** This year the County is shifting over $720 million in property taxes to schools while receiving a partial replacement of $541 million of earmarked sales tax revenue from Proposition 172.

A brief review of the impact of prior State budget actions indicates the reasons why it is likely that additional State imposed cuts will result in reductions in personnel and public services.

Deferral of State-Mandated Payments

Beginning in FY 2002-03, the State stopped reimbursing local governments for most State-mandated services, including amounts owed from prior years. Those payments have been deferred until FY 2006-07, at which time the State committed to begin paying the accumulated debt over five years. **Los Angeles County's share of this interest-free loan will reach approximately $272 million at the end of the current budget year.** In the interval, the County has been using discretionary revenue to maintain these State-mandated services.

In addition, because of the delay in triggering the VLF increase last year, counties were forced to go without $1.2 billion in VLF revenues in FY 2003-04. **While the State is obligated by law to repay this foregone revenue in August 2006, for the time being, the County has lost the use of almost $205 million in discretionary revenue, bringing its total on-going "loan" to the State to $477 million.**

No Cost of Doing Business Adjustments

Since June 2001, the State has not granted counties cost of doing business adjustments for the cost of delivering most State/Federal human services programs. As a result, increased costs for salaries, health benefits, workers compensation, leases, and utilities have been shifted to counties. **Though not technically a budget cut, this action has saved the State approximately $1.7 billion over four years and has shifted an estimated $400 million to $500 million in largely unavoidable costs to the County.**

Direct Program Reductions

FY 2002-03 $ 91 million
FY 2003-04 $ 66 million
FY 2004-05 $ 5 million

As is evident from these numbers, State policy makers have sought to preserve core services and programs when making expenditure reductions in prior year budgets. With the exception of library services and some small social services programs such as Children's System of Care, few of the State's program-related budget reductions have had a significant impact on service levels. But that may not be the case this year since most of the non-program budget solutions have already been adopted.

OVERALL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

As the local administrative arm of State government, counties are likely to be a target of State budget reductions. However, it is important to note that the capacity of counties generally, including Los Angeles County, to absorb major reductions in State programs is extremely limited because so much of counties' discretionary revenue is already committed to backfilling the cost of previous State budget solutions such as unpaid State mandates, the VLF gap loan, and un-reimbursed administrative cost increases.

Stabilizing Funding for the County's Health Care System

Under State law, counties are the provider of last resort for health care. With more than 2 million residents without health insurance, including an estimated 276,000 children, the County health system is a primary source of health care for the uninsured as well as for many Medi-Cal and Healthy Families beneficiaries. In addition, the health system is

responsible for protecting all residents through the delivery of public health services such as communicable disease control and food inspections. The County's four acute care hospitals are the backbone of the region's emergency and trauma care system.

In January 2002, the County projected a shortfall of over $700 million in its health care system by FY 2005-06, an estimate that has been confirmed by the State Auditor. The shortfall, a result of steep increases in health care costs and declining or expiring Medicaid revenues, will occur despite the County's best efforts to streamline operations and increase the use of cost-effective outpatient care, as well as County voters' willingness to tax themselves to preserve the health system.

In June 2002, the Board of Supervisors adopted a plan to reform the County health care system to achieve $357.5 million in cost reductions. In November 2002, the voters overwhelmingly approved a property tax increase which provides about $175 million annually to improve trauma care and bioterrorism preparedness. In addition, County, State and Federal governments have worked collaboratively to provide $250 million in *one-time* assistance. **While these actions have helped to narrow the budget gap, an underlying structural imbalance remains between the increasing cost of health care and declining Federal revenue.**

In January 2004, the Schwarzenegger Administration announced plans to redesign the $30 billion Medi-Cal program which provides health care to more than six million low-income, medically needy Californians. In addition to proposing to expand the use of managed care, the Administration seeks to fundamentally change the basis upon which safety-net hospitals like the County's are reimbursed for providing care to low-income and uninsured Californians. The County has been working with the State Department of Health Services to ensure that these changes help to stabilize financing for the County's health care system. However, the Administration has yet to release the details of its proposal. Consequently, the County and other safety net providers continue to be concerned about whether the proposed approach will provide financial stability for safety net hospitals, or increase California's inadequate share of Federal Medicaid payments.

The new hospital financing system would be included in a new five-year federal waiver that the Administration is requesting from the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). **While the financing system is contingent upon CMS approval, numerous statutory changes must be adopted by the Legislature before it can be implemented. Prior to approving these statutory changes, the County requests that the Legislature hold comprehensive hearings to assure the future of safety net hospitals.**

Continued Funding For Juvenile Probation

Last year the Administration proposed in its January budget to save $134 million by eliminating Federal TANF funding for juvenile probation services provided by counties. The County would have lost $55 million in the budget year and $83 million annually. A cut of that magnitude would have required the closure of 18 County probation camps, resulting in over 1,000 annual commitments to the California Youth Authority and 1,000 additional group home placements. Similar consequences were projected for other counties that operate camps, resulting in increased costs to the State that would have exceeded the projected savings. Eventually, the Legislature and the Administration agreed to restore funding for juvenile probation with State funds rather than TANF monies. **It is critically important that such funding be continued in the FY 2005-06 budget or the County will again be forced to consider closures, as well as the elimination of key support services such as Pre-trial Services, the Work Crew Program, the Intensive Gang Program, DISARM, the Operation Read Program, and the Community Camp Transition Program.**

Preserving and Improving Child Support Services

For historic reasons that reflect spending patterns when the child support program was restructured in 1999, the method of allocating State and Federal funds has resulted in huge disparities in funding, with the highest county receiving five times as much per case as the lowest county. Not surprisingly, counties with the lowest per case allocation tend to perform below the statewide average on the Federal government's five performance measures. And to make matters worse, five of the six counties with the largest child support caseloads – among them Los Angeles – receive significantly less than the statewide average per case allocation. The current allocation system does not adequately reflect differences between counties in their caseload or underlying demand for services. **Unless future funding is allocated to those counties where it can have the greatest impact in improving performance, California will continue to forfeit millions of dollars in Federal incentive funds and the State will not maximize the benefit from the reduction in welfare grants that would result from increasing child support collections.**

In the current State budget environment, it may not be possible to address this problem immediately with new funds. However, it is possible to revise the allocation method in such a way that when funding is increased in the future no county would lose funds, but a larger share of the increase would be directed to counties with below-average funding if they commit to make realistic and measurable improvements in collections. Over time, the inequities of the current allocation system would be reduced, child support collections would be improved in the largest counties where the opportunity for improvement is the greatest, and the State would realize net long-term savings.

There is another potential problem facing the child support program. In its FY 2004-05 January Budget proposal, the Administration sought to shift to counties 25 percent of the Federal penalty levied on the State for its failure to have a single statewide automated child support system, as required by Federal law. This assessment would have cost the County $11 million. The Administration later dropped the proposal after it concluded that the penalty would be waived by the Federal government. However, they recently learned that the $203.8 million penalty will not be waived in the current year and could be levied again next year unless the State meets certain Federal requirements.

We would strongly oppose proposals to reassess counties for the State's continuing failure to meet Federal requirements in a timely fashion. If counties were required to share the burden of the State's penalty, it would almost certainly weaken child support programs and collections in counties like Los Angeles which would be forced to use county funds in the local agency budget to pay their penalty assessment.

State-County Program Realignment

In 1991, the State enacted a major realignment of services and funding between the State and counties utilizing funding from a half-cent increase in the sales tax and a dedicated portion of the Vehicle License Fee. Despite occasional problems, particularly in economic downturns when the sales tax revenue tends to lag behind the increase in demand for the health and social services it funds, the 1991 realignment is considered a success. Nevertheless, despite periodic calls for additional realignment of state-county programs, including a major proposal by Governor Davis in FY 2003-04, realignment has not been expanded.

It is very likely that the Administration will recommend a new realignment proposal in the 2005-06 Session. The California Performance Review's report to the Governor recommended a cost-neutral swap of four state and county programs totaling about $2 billion. In addition, the Administration established a task force including stake holders to consider these and other programs for possible inclusion in a proposal that would be part of the May Revision to the Budget. If done correctly, realignment could be to everyone's advantage including the State, counties, program recipients, and taxpayers. As in previous realignment efforts, the County is willing to discuss which programs are appropriate. **For realignment to succeed, it must be mutually beneficial and must include adequate and ongoing revenue to cover program costs in the first year and for the foreseeable future.**

Therefore, it is recommended that protection of funding for State-funded County-administered services and programs should be the County's main priority for the FY 2005-06 Legislative Session, in particular, continued funding for the County's health care system and juvenile probation. In addition, the County should

oppose the transfer of the Federal penalty on the State for its failure to implement a statewide automated child support system, and be involved in discussions over program realignment in the event such a proposal emerges.

SPECIFIC POLICIES ON STATE ISSUES OF COUNTY INTEREST

Attachment I contains recommended State legislative policies addressing issues of major County interest, Attachment II contains County-sponsored program-specific legislative proposals, and Attachment III includes County priority water quality, recreation, and beach improvement projects.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The proposed policies and proposals in this State Legislative Agenda are consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goals, specifically, Organizational Effectiveness and Fiscal Responsibility. Adoption of the proposed Agenda will allow the CAO and the County's Sacramento advocates to respond quickly to proposals that significantly affect the County, such as cuts in program funding or new mandates on county government. In addition, adoption will allow pursuit of legislation and support of specific proposals that improve the efficiency and effectiveness of County services.

CONCLUSION

The recommended policies contained in this letter and in Attachments I, II, and III are submitted for your Board's consideration as the guiding principles for our advocacy efforts in Sacramento during the 2005-06 Legislative Session. The policies and proposals contained in this package are in addition to, and are not intended to be exclusive of, other positions your Board may adopt. As in the past, the Legislative Agenda will be updated to reflect subsequent Board actions.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

DEJ:GK
MAL:JR:ib

Attachments

c: County Counsel

ATTACHMENT I

RECOMMENDED STATE LEGISLATIVE POLICIES ADDRESSING ISSUES OF MAJOR COUNTY INTEREST

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1. Children and Families

1.1 Child Welfare Services

1. Support increased funding for family preservation programs.

2. Support legislation to maintain the full Child Welfare Services allocation independent of actual caseload for up to five years to cover the increased costs of implementing new programs to improve outcomes for children by allowing them to remain safely at home, shorten their length of stay in care and reduce re-abuse.

3. Support proposals to ensure full funding for the Child Welfare Services program, including increased funding to cover all mandated services pursuant to the SB 2030 Workload Study and the fully loaded costs of a social worker.

4. Oppose proposals that would reduce protections for child welfare workers in the legitimate exercise of their discretion in the performance of their duties, thereby increasing liability to the county.

5. Oppose unfunded mandates that do not enhance child safety or expedited permanence.

6. Support proposals to enhance adoptions by increasing funding for adoption activities and post-adoption services, and expanding to out-of-state private adoption agencies the payments currently authorized to California private adoption agencies for the unreimbursed costs of placing children for adoption.

7. Support funding of forensic medical examinations in child abuse cases.

8. Support funding for parenting programs aimed at teens.

9. Support legislation that increases funding for the use of family group conferencing and team decision-making to develop an individualized plan for the care of each child.

10. Support legislation to clarify that agencies providing services to a family may share case information.

11. Support legislation to streamline Dependency Court procedures while ensuring the safety and best interests of children.

12. Support proposals that simplify the Welfare and Institutions Code statutes regarding notice of dependency hearings.

13. Support proposals that enhance collaboration between child welfare and law enforcement agencies.

14. Support proposals to clarify and provide for social workers' access to dependent children's medical and counseling records.

15. Support proposals to fund Child Welfare Services outcome improvements and action steps included in the County's Self-Improvement Plan (SIP) and the State's Program Improvement Plan (PIP) in response to the Federal Children and Family Services Review (CFSR).

1.2 Child Welfare Services – Foster Care

1. Support continued eligibility of immigrant foster children for Medi-Cal and Foster Care funds.

2. Support proposals to increase appropriate foster care resources by funding targeted recruitment, review of existing foster care payment rates to ensure equity and appropriateness, and professionalizing foster parenting.

3. Support State reimbursement for the placement of dependent children who are eligible for regional center services, in for-profit group homes, when an appropriate not-for-profit facility is unavailable.

4. Support proposals that would allow counties to secure increased Federal funds for foster care and other services provided to abused and neglected children at no increased net cost to the State General Fund.

5. Support legislation and funding to allow the State Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division to make unannounced visits to Foster Family Agency (FFA) certified homes.

6. Support efforts which enhance legal permanency for children in foster care by promoting kinship adoption, enhancing KinGAP and supporting subsidized legal guardianship without requiring the full array of ongoing court and Child Welfare Services.

7. Support legislation and funding to facilitate successful emancipation, promote self-sufficiency and improve opportunities for youth aging out of foster care.

8. Support proposals which allow the sharing of information concerning family homes certified by foster family agencies to prevent the licensure, approval and/or re-certification of previously de-certified homes.

9. Support proposals to simplify foster care program eligibility requirements.

10. Support proposals to enhance permanency for children by streamlining and consolidating the separate studies and criminal clearances that must be administered to a caregiver for licensure, approval, and adoption.

11. Support proposals and funding to ensure that the educational system appropriately meets the educational needs of children in foster care, including improved monitoring of non-public schools.

12. Support proposals that provide and fund substance abuse treatment services for children in the Child Welfare Services system.

13. Support proposals to shorten the timeframes to achieve permanence including expanding the court's authority to expedite permanency by limiting reunification services on all children if the parent has failed to participate regularly and make substantive progress in the case plan.

14. Support proposals which allow flexibility in the use of funds to provide services to families and caregivers to strengthen their parenting abilities and prevent the need for placement, shorten the length of stay and reduce re-abuse.

1.3 Child Care and Child Development

1. Support efforts to develop a master plan for quality early care and education that sets high standards for all such services, and addresses the needs of all children, from birth through age 13, including those with special needs.

2. Support efforts to ensure the health and safety of all children cared for in licensed early care and education facilities by increasing monitoring and visitation activities from the Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division, increasing providers' education, training, and access to health insurance, and basing program design on strong and rigorous research evidence.

3. Support efforts to increase funding to provide all children, including those with special needs, universal access to sustainable, high-quality early care and education services, and effectively integrate new resources into the existing early care and education infrastructure.

4. Support efforts to increase access to integrated, high-quality early care and education services that are simple for families to utilize, efficient for agencies to administer, and reduce the risk of abuse and neglect. Such efforts encompass facility development and renovation; affordable family fees that do not exceed eight percent of gross family income; cultural and linguistic diversity; and recognition of disabilities and other special needs.

5. Support efforts to expand and improve early care and education services by including such services in all city and County planning processes for land use and zoning; transportation; housing; and economic, workforce, and community development.

6. Support efforts to ensure that California Work, Opportunity, and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) clients have access to consistent, uninterrupted early care

and education services, including Stage 3 Child Care, in order to comply with their weekly work requirements. Also, support efforts to ensure that these services are available, regardless of Federal welfare time limits.

7. Support local flexibility and efforts to simplify the administration of CalWORKs Child Care and enable early care and education providers to secure multi-year funding contracts with the California Department of Education.

2. Environment, Natural Resources and Recreation

2.1 Air Quality

1. Support funding to assist local government to convert vehicle fleets to alternative fuels to improve air quality.

2. Support funding to assist local government compliance with existing and pending regulations to reduce emissions from both mobile and fixed sources.

3. Support measures to develop and increase the availability of alternative fuel refueling infrastructure.

4. Oppose cuts in assistance to local government fuel emission reduction programs.

5. Support measures that promote the feasible development of cleaner burning fuels and other technologies that help meet Federal and State air quality standards.

6. Support measures that allow for innovation and local flexibility in developing, maintaining, and expanding cost-effective programs that increase vehicle ridership.

7. Support legislation that will dedicate 30 percent of the Carl Moyer and AB 2766 funding to the reduction of particulate matter emissions from on-road diesel vehicles, independent of Nitrous Oxide emissions.

2.2 Beaches

1. Support measures that provide funding for beach erosion and accretion monitoring and for beach sand replenishment, including full funding of the Public Beach Restoration Act of 1999 (AB 64).

2. Support funding to maintain clean beaches and improve the water quality of coastal waters, estuaries, bays and near shore waters.

3. Support funding for construction of restrooms, parking lots, accessways, lifeguard and maintenance facilities, landscaping and other infrastructure on public beaches.

4. Support the inclusion of beaches in the definition of parks for the purpose of qualifying for park funding programs, if the beaches are in densely populated urban areas and are used by large numbers of residents as if they were an urban park.

5. Oppose legislation to provide the Coastal Commission additional discretion in approving permits for construction of seawalls, revetments, breakwaters, groins, harbor channels, or similar structures.

6. Oppose legislation to extend beyond January 1, 2004 the prohibition against appropriating certain Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act funds for grants to local governments through the Coastal Resources and Energy Assistance Program.

2.3 Environmental Protection and Open Space

1. Support increased funding for environmental protection programs and capital projects, including resource, open space, and shoreline protection, as well as Santa Monica Bay and beach restoration.

2. Support establishment of a Statewide endowment fund to protect, restore and maintain natural resource areas, greenways, riparian corridors, and trails.

3. Support funding for the removal and eradication of invasive species that are currently impacting natural landscape and open space areas.

4. Support legislation to promote environmentally friendly programs that address reasonable protection of resources such as pesticide use, care of trees, ecological systems and open space, and gray and reclaimed water use.

5. Support measures which, consistent with Board-adopted policies, promote the preservation and restoration of Los Angeles County mountain, bay, watershed, river and wetland areas.

6. Support legislation that provides property tax credit for the recording of open space and conservation easements on property.

2.4 Parks

1. Support funding for acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of parks and recreation facilities and open space.

2. Support ongoing funding of local agencies for the operation and maintenance of parks and open space areas, such as Castaic Lake.

3. Support funding and partnering opportunities with social service agencies for youth programs, services, and facilities that incorporate positive recreation alternatives and that provide employment opportunities for youth.

4. Support legislation that promotes innovative programs that provide alternatives to gang activity and encourage the employment of at-risk youth.

5. Support funding or partnering opportunities with social service agencies to promote healthy activities and exercise programs in parks for youth and adults.

6. Support funding for after-school programs in park facilities and schools operated by parks and recreation agencies.

7. Support funding or partnering opportunities with social service agencies that recognize the importance of parks and recreation programs as elements of the State's preventive health initiatives.

8. Support funding for the urban reforestation programs of the California Division of Forestry.

9. Support funding of State mandated fingerprinting of all park staff and volunteers responsible for supervision of minors.

10. Support legislation that restores the prohibition on hiring persons convicted of certain criminal offenses in specified settings involving children and youth services or programs.

11. Oppose legislation that would increase exposure to, or reduce immunities from, governmental liability related to the ownership, construction, operation or maintenance of recreational facilities.

2.5 Watershed Management and Flood Control

1. Support funding for demonstration grants for projects that link watershed management, environmental restoration, recreation, open space and beach improvements. (See Attachment III for additional information on specific County projects.)

2. Support proposals which promote environmentally-friendly flood control improvements and projects, and do not diminish the performance of flood control systems.

3. Oppose legislation that would grant cities the authority to set waste discharge standards for separate municipal sewer systems.

4. Support legislation to allow counties and other public agencies to adopt stormwater fees, upon voter approval, to adequately fund clean water programs.

5. Support proposals that provide public agencies and special districts with immunities from liability to encourage development of multi-use watershed

management, environmental restoration, open space, and recreation projects within flood protection and water conservation facilities.

6. Support proposals that incorporate the principles of the "Safe Harbor Program," as established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, into the State Department of Fish and Game's Streambed Alteration Agreement for the development of watershed management and water quality enhancement projects.

7. Support funding for river and stream education and interpretive facilities, such as the Discovery Center at Whittier Narrows Regional Park.

8. Support legislation which would re-establish a shared funding formula to pay for implementation of Total Maximum Daily Load requirements that includes State and Federal funding.

9. Support legislation funding the operation and maintenance of watershed or multi-use projects.

2.6 Water Supply

1. Support funding for counties and other local agencies to treat groundwater for the removal of arsenic to meet United States Environmental Protection Agency and California Department of Health Services standards.

2. Support funding to implement the most aggressive level of carcinogen removal from Los Angeles County Water Works District drinking water.

3. Support legislation to improve the reliability of water imported into Los Angeles County.

4. Support legislation to encourage water conservation and increase the efficiency of water use.

5. Oppose legislation that would create unrealistic requirements that impede the construction of water facilities in improved and developed areas.

3. General Government

3.1 Retirement, Compensation and Benefits, and Workers' Compensation

1. Sponsor or support local option legislation to implement employee compensation or benefit changes, as directed by the Board of Supervisors.

2. Oppose legislation that mandates or authorizes compensation or benefit changes without approval of the Board of Supervisors.

3. Oppose legislation which would remove the Board of Supervisors' control over benefit increases or decreases in the Los Angeles County Retirement System that increase the County's cost.

4. Support balanced reform of the State workers' compensation system, including a reconsideration or temporary suspension of the benefit improvements enacted in 2002.

5. Support workers' compensation reform proposals that align public sector workers' compensation benefits with private sector benefits to the greatest extent practical.

6. Oppose legislation that mandates eligibility of additional employees for safety workers' compensation benefits or safety retirement benefit provisions.

7. Oppose legislation that expands existing or creates new presumptions by mandating that certain injuries, illnesses, diseases, or physical conditions an employee may develop are job-related for workers' compensation or service-connected disability retirement.

8. Oppose legislation that eliminates current requirements that employees demonstrate on-the-job exposure in order to qualify for workers' compensation or service-connected disability retirement benefits.

9. Support proposals to clarify the rights and responsibilities of the County to pay Advanced Disability Pension Benefits to safety members to ensure that all appropriate County costs are reimbursed.

10. Support legislation that funds the Public Interest Attorney Loan Repayment Bill (AB 935) which assists in the recruitment of public defenders.

3.2 Land Use Planning

1. Oppose legislation that infringes upon county board of supervisors' local land use decision-making authority.

2. Support the imposition of liens on non owner-occupied properties to recover costs associated with code compliance enforcement.

3.3 Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures

1. Support increases in State and industry funding for pest exclusion, including eradication of the red imported fire ant, the Preventive (sterile) Release Program for Medfly, and inspection of nursery plants and products.

2. Support an increase in State and industry funding to improve the program to inspect and certify farmers' markets.

3. Support increased funding for the management of established pests, including invasive weeds, insects and vertebrates; and research to develop resistant varieties for established diseases such as Pierce's Disease and Sudden Oak Death.

4. Support increased funding to regulate economic poisons (pesticides) to protect food and fiber crops, and ornamental landscape without jeopardizing the safety of workers and the public, or the quality of the environment.

5. Support proposals which strengthen the compliance of the structural fumigation industry in the safe handling of registered fumigants.

6. Support proposals which promote the safe use and handling of pesticides among workers and the general public.

3.4 Consumer Protection

1. Support legislation to protect consumers through more and better information so that value comparisons can be made in anything sold by weight, measure or count.

2. Support legislation to exempt weights and measures regulatory vehicles from hazardous materials regulations, provided such vehicles do not enter public roadways when carrying such materials.

3. Support legislation to prohibit products recalled or banned by the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission from being resold in thrift shops and/or used in child care facilities.

4. Support proposals which allow for the County's full recovery of costs related to enforcement of laws governing commercial weighing and measuring device accuracy.

5. Support proposals to extend, or eliminate, the sunset date for the existing authority of the County Sealer to file administrative civil penalties against persons who violate Division 5, pertaining to Weights and Measures, of the Business and Professions Code.

6. Support proposals that provide funding to the County Sealer for inspections of recycling centers to ensure citizens receive full value for their redeemed beverage containers.

3.5 Animal Care and Control

1. Support legislation to reimburse local governments for the cost of complying with State regulations regarding the impoundment, treatment, care and housing of all stray and owner-surrendered domestic animals at public animal shelters.

3.6 Child Support Administration

1. Support legislation to allow counties to relinquish all responsibility for the local child support program to the State.

2. Support full funding of county child support collection program costs.

3. Counties should be held harmless for any error or omission on the part of the State, including failure to meet collection standards.

4. Oppose proposals to hold counties responsible for paying Federal penalties.

5. Support the use of the County's automated system Statewide or as part of an alternative system that would more quickly meet Federal requirements.

6. Support counties' participation in the development of performance standards for child support enforcement.

3.7 County Investment Practices

1. Support measures which propose reasonable changes to local investment practices to protect public funds, and oppose measures which unnecessarily restrict the ability of local agencies to invest prudently and optimize investment returns.

2. Oppose measures which repeal the authority of counties to issue bond financing or other debt when viable and feasible, or which limit counties' ability to issue debt to refund outstanding bonds to reduce the cost of borrowing.

3.8 Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)

1. Support legislation that ensures the revenue neutrality of local reorganizations provided that it:

   Does not change statutes covering LAFCO proceedings regarding special reorganizations filed before January 1, 2000.

   Is not retroactive to incorporations that took place before the effective date of the legislation enacting the change.

   Ensures that one element of the cost of services to be assumed by the incorporating entity shall be the cost of those services provided within the area by the State of California which will, subsequent to incorporation, be provided by the incorporating entity.

   Ensures that the State of California will maintain revenue neutrality by transferring to the incorporating entity ongoing State revenue equal to the State's prior cost of providing those services.

Does not increase the duties and responsibilities of LAFCOs or dictate expenditures for services without providing reimbursement through fees or from State sources.

Provides that in calculating the cost of service responsibilities being transferred in a reorganization, the LAFCO shall not consider those services funded from sources that were voter-approved or that, if re-enacted, would be subject to the provisions of Articles XIII C and D of the State Constitution.

Does not increase the fiscal liability of the County in annexations and incorporations.

3.9 Historic Preservation

1. Support legislation for the funding and development of the El Pueblo Cultural and Performing Arts Center on the County-owned properties known as the Antique Block.

2. Support funding for the protection, preservation, and enhancement of historical areas under County ownership or control, such as the Queen Anne's Cottage, the Bodie House, and the William S. Hart House.

3.10 Human Relations

1. Support legislation that addresses and combats discrimination based on age, disability, gender identity, language, immigration status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or other protected characteristics.

2. Support legislation to reduce hate crimes, increase human relations education and training, and increase communities' capacity to address intergroup relations issues in a positive way.

3.11 Library Services

1. Support budget actions which would fully fund the Public Library Foundation (PLF) Program as provided in existing law; and oppose reductions in the current PLF funding level.

2. Support actions to restore library district property taxes.

3. Support proposals that provide State bond financing for public library construction and renovation.

4. Support maintenance of funding for the Transaction Based Reimbursement (TBR) program administered by the California State Library to implement universal borrowing in California, and oppose actions which would reduce the current TBR funding level.

5. Support legislation that would dedicate one-half of 1% of Proposition 98 monies to public libraries.

6. Support maintenance of the California Teleconnect Fund (CTF) and oppose measures that link CTF discounts to participation in the Federal E-rate discount program.

7. Support continuation of the county library exemption from the negotiated local government tax shift in 2005, and oppose actions that would negate the exemption.

3.12 Museums and Performing Arts

1. Support measures which provide increased State funding for the arts and museums, including construction/renovation of regional cultural facilities.

2. Support funding for the Grand Avenue realignment project.

3.13 Education

1. Support funding for school crossing guards provided by counties.

2. Support legislation to require school districts to establish a process in which the parent or guardian of a student commits in a written agreement or compact to assist and cooperate in the education of that student.

3. Support funding for the California Department of Education's Arts Work Grant Program.

4. Support funding for the California Subject Matter Projects, which includes the California Arts Projects.

5. Support proposals which would expand the role of arts education in public schools through the inclusion of arts as a core subject, the development of arts textbooks, and an increase in arts educators.

3.14 Public Records

1. Oppose legislation that imposes unreasonable burdens or creates unfunded mandates to provide access to records, information managed and maintained by County agencies.

2. Support legislation that makes the economic disclosure and conflict of interest provisions of the Political Reform Act more efficient and less burdensome to administer, while furthering the purposes of the Act.

3.15 Redevelopment

1. Support legislation which continues or extends the redevelopment law reforms accomplished in AB 1290, and oppose any redevelopment legislation which would cause the County to lose revenues or which would limit or repeal the provisions of AB 1290.

2. Support measures to strengthen the blight findings requirement to prevent redevelopment abuse.

3. Support proposals to increase the statutory pass-through for taxing entities to make redevelopment more self-financing, or alternatively, provide counties with the authority to negotiate pass-through agreements with cities and redevelopment agencies on new (AB 1290) projects.

4. Support extension of review periods to allow counties and other affected parties adequate time to analyze the validity and impact of proposed redevelopment projects.

5. Support measures to close loopholes that allow agencies to extend the life of projects beyond the statutory time frames established in AB 1290.

6. Support legislation that will provide State funding for rehabilitation of "main street" business districts.

7. Support legislation that will preserve and expand the State Enterprise Zone program for urban areas and will protect the County's fiscal base and revenues.

8. Support legislation that will preserve or expand the State Enterprise Zone program for urban areas as long as the County's fiscal base and revenues are protected.

3.16 Elections and Voting

1. Support funding to replace the County's card-punch voting system with a more advanced system that yields accurate and expeditious election results and ensure that County funding does not preclude State or Federal Funding.

2. Support legislation to provide counties greater flexibility in determining precinct sizes.

3. Support legislation to require disclosure of the payer for telephone campaign messages.

4. Health

4.1 Financing of the Safety Net

1. Support, through a coalition with other counties and providers, a dependable, long-term funding source for the health care safety net.

2. Support additional reductions in, or elimination of, the Disproportionate Share Hospital Administrative fee.

3. Support legislation that promotes the fair and equitable distribution of Disproportionate Share Hospital dollars between public and private hospitals.

4. Support proposals to phase-in a State match to fund intergovernmental transfers (IGTs) for the SB 855 and SB 1255 programs.

5. Encourage the State to use its share of Proposition 10 funds or other sources to backfill any losses to the Tobacco Tax's Proposition 99 California Healthcare for Indigents Program (CHIP) fund.

6. Support legislative or administrative changes to allow the Department of Health Services access to financial information records of patients (e.g., State Franchise Tax Board, Department of Motor Vehicles, etc.) which would facilitate identification and verification of patient financial resources.

7. Support legislation to permit counties to assert and collect on liens for health care costs of patients who receive a monetary award from a lawsuit settlement or compromise rather than from a judgment.

8. Support proposals to expand the use of intergovernmental transfers, health provider fees, and other allowable methods to increase net Federal Medicaid and SCHIP matching payments to California and health providers like the County at no cost to the State General Fund.

9. Support the use of State capital improvement funds, currently limited to hospitals, for the construction of clinics and other public health facilities.

10. Support assistance to hospitals to meet the SB 1953 seismic safety requirements.

11. Support funding to promote/market the availability of County health care services.

12. Support funding for technology infrastructure in public hospitals and health systems.

13. Support proposals to improve the Medi-Cal Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) process including but not limited to the sufficient staffing and automation

of TAR field office operations, the expansion of cases that do not require a TAR, and use of statistical sampling in lieu of individual TARs.

4.2 Emergency and Trauma Care

1. Reaffirm the County's commitment to the trauma care system in Los Angeles County and continue to work with the Statewide coalition to seek a continuation of State funding for trauma centers.

2. Support proposals to provide permanent, stable funding for the County's public and private emergency and trauma care system, including fees on alcohol consumption.

3. Support the continuation of the State's Emergency Medical Services Agency as an independent entity, and oppose efforts to consolidate the Agency with other State departments.

4. Support proposals that improve the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency and trauma care services through the diversion of low acuity patients to more appropriate settings of care.

5. Support proposals that would allow fire departments that provide advanced life support services to restock drug supplies directly from private pharmacies.

4.3 Medi-Cal and Healthy Families

1. Support proposals that reduce the number of uninsured persons, and expand Medi-Cal and Healthy Families coverage to low-income persons such as IHSS workers and juveniles within county probation systems.

2. Support proposals to simplify and align Medi-Cal and Healthy Families eligibility rules and application processes to increase and expedite the enrollment of uninsured families, including presumptive eligibility, and elimination of financial barriers.

3. Support increased funding of Medi-Cal and Healthy Families outreach, enrollment, and retention activities.

4. Support proposals to allow counties and school districts to provide the State matching component and exercise the Federal waiver option to: 1) purchase family coverage, and/or 2) establish a cost-effective alternative using a community-based health delivery system.

5. Support proposals to allow counties to use Healthy Families funds to provide a continuum of mental health and public health nursing services for children in the public's care.

6. Support the State's pursuit of a Healthy Families waiver for family coverage where it is cost-effective and does not "crowd out" other health insurance coverage.

7. Support continued State funding for prenatal services to undocumented women.

8. Support expansion of the substance abuse benefit for children and parents.

9. Support pursuit of sufficient State matching funds, the expansion of eligibility and/or increased provider payment rates so that the State will use its entire SCHIP allotment which, under Federal law, must be expended within three years.

10. Support legislation to simplify and expand eligibility for Medi-Cal such as eliminating the asset tests for the 1931(b) Medi-Cal Program, increasing the income eligibility level to 133% of the federal poverty level for all children through the age of eighteen and their parents; and providing twelve months of continuous Medi-Cal coverage to include parents.

11. Support proposals to reform Medicaid, including the State DSH and Section 1115 Waiver components, to increase public hospital and health care system flexibility in redirecting Medicaid funds to priority emphasis areas, such as primary and preventive health care, without reducing total available Medicaid funding levels.

12. Support proposals to increase the Medi-Cal Maintenance Need Income Level to 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and require the State to annually adjust the Medi-Cal Maintenance Need Income Level when the FPL is adjusted.

13. Support continuation of 100% cost-based reimbursement for Federally Qualified Health Centers.

14. Support assistance to local programs that combat Medi-Cal fraud.

4.4 Health Insurance and Coverage

1. Support proposals to require public and private insurers to offer full coverage for all health services including prenatal care, contraceptives, and screening for diabetes, hypertension, cervical and breast cancer, HIV/AIDS, STDs, substance abuse and mental health.

2. Support proposals to provide incentives for small businesses to offer quality health coverage for employees and their dependents, such as allowing small businesses to use both public and private purchasing pools on a regional or county level.

3. Support increased funding to develop demonstration projects within small businesses to increase enrollment in existing health insurance coverage programs.

4. Support enhanced access to prescription drugs for low-income uninsured persons.

4.5 HIV/AIDS

1. Support the restoration of funding to the HIV Therapeutic Monitoring Program (formerly the HIV Diagnostic Assay Program) to guarantee the proper utilization of antiretroviral therapy, promote efficient clinical monitoring, maintain effective clinical effectiveness of the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), and support a consistent standard of care in California.

2. Support proposals to provide data collected under the HIV Diagnostic Assay Program to assist in local planning and prevention efforts.

3. Support continuation and review of the AIDS Drug Assistance Program to ensure the provision of an uninterrupted supply of medications in view of the growing costs of drugs and anticipated increases in utilization.

4. Support proposals that promote the inclusion of HIV counseling and prevention education as a part of routine medical care.

5. Support increased funding for HIV surveillance to ensure the ability to identify emerging areas of need and craft programmatic responses.

6. Support legislation for the provision of comprehensive HIV education, counseling and testing, and the promotion of anonymous and confidential testing.

4.6 Public Health

1. Support measures that provide funding to strengthen the ability of the public health system to respond to chemical, biological, and other forms of terrorism.

2. Support proposals which ensure a stable supply of medications, medical supplies, and blood products.

3. Support increased funding for public health activities including: immunizations, tuberculosis, maternal and child health, family planning, sexually transmitted disease, childhood lead poisoning prevention, injury and violence prevention, food safety, and chronic disease programs.

4. Support legislation to require school districts and public park agencies to inspect their facilities on a regular basis for lead paint, report their findings to County health offices, and comply with requirements set by State and County childhood lead abatement programs.

5. Support legislation to protect and improve drinking water supplies, recreational waters and fish and game ecosystems by utilizing evidence-based approaches.

6. Support legislation to provide for the safe disposal of all waste materials, especially low-level radioactive waste, by utilizing evidence-based approaches.

7. Support legislation that enhances food safety programs and regulations.

8. Support legislation that preserves and enhances housing stock including measures that support safe home environments free from lead, mold and other indoor environmental hazards.

9. Support proposals to increase funding for alcohol and drug services that provide local flexibility and discretion based on the local planning process.

10. Support proposals for funding to enhance the alcohol and drug services system of care for adolescents to address the growing problems associated with adolescent alcohol and drug use.

11. Support measures which establish, enhance, or fund policies, programs, research, standards, education curriculum, and public awareness campaigns that encourage physical activity, healthy eating, breast feeding and availability of nutritious and safe foods, and reduce the prevalence of smoking and obesity.

12. Support measures that expand, provide additional funding for, reduce barriers to and increase enrollment in food assistance programs and Head Start, including increasing income guidelines and benefits for Federal Food Assistance Programs.

13. Support increased funding of Medi-Cal and Healthy Families services to include obesity screening, prevention, and treatment for children at or above the 85th percentile of the sex-specific body mass index growth charts.

14. Support the implementation and enforcement of state and county cultural and linguistic competence standards for all health service programs in order to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate care.

4.7 Health Education and Training

1. Support an amendment to the Education Code to permit the Los Angeles County College of Nursing and Allied Health to receive State funding like nursing programs in community colleges, or alternatively seek an appropriation in the State budget.

2. Support enhanced funding for nursing education and training slots at public universities and teaching hospitals, as well as recruitment and retention of nurses and recruitment of physicians into medically under served areas.

3. Support proposals which would facilitate the recruitment of experienced pharmacists to work in California, including replacement of the existing State pharmacist licensing examination with the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination and a California law examination.

4. Support proposals that provide funding for the education and training of students interested in the laboratory field, including but not limited to the Los Angeles County College of Nursing and Allied Health.

5. Support proposals that facilitate the recruitment of nationally licensed laboratory personnel to work in California, including acceptance of the American Society for Clinical Pathology licensure examinations.

4.8 Women's Health

1 Support proposals to fund the development and delivery of child care and transportation services to enable all women to obtain timely and adequate health services.

2. Support proposals that expand access to prevention and treatment services for all women by removing barriers to access, expanding payors, and improving outreach and education.

3. Support measures to increase the availability of prevention and treatment services for women affected by cardiovascular, cancer, and orthopedic diseases.

5. Housing and Community Development

1. Support proposals that provide incentives to local government and/or developers to increase affordable housing.

2. Support proposals that increase home ownership opportunities for low and moderate-income families, and employees in vital occupations.

3. Support proposals that increase housing and supportive services for special needs populations.

4. Support measures that end predatory lending practices.

5. Support measures that promote economic incentives as a means of attracting or retaining business in the County, and jobs in high poverty and unemployment areas.

6. Support proposals which would stimulate the local economy by accelerating or increasing spending on public works and infrastructure projects, especially those which would improve public health and public safety, mitigate hazards, reduce energy usage, or improve transportation.

7. Oppose legislation that would redirect redevelopment agency property tax increment from local redevelopment agencies to the State.

8. Oppose proposals to permanently prohibit the issuance of redevelopment tax allocation bonds.

9. Support legislation to enhance workforce development for high tech industries.

10. Oppose legislation that would jeopardize the transfer of the City of Industry Tax Increment Housing Set-Aside funds to the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles.

11. Support direct allocation of Proposition 46 housing, community and economic development program funds to local governments rather than requiring the fund and programs to be administered through the State.

12. Support legislation to distribute State housing funds to local jurisdictions based upon population and poverty levels.

13. Support an amendment to the prevailing wage provision of SB 975 so that it does not negatively impact affordable housing production.

14. Support legislation to provide Public Housing Authorities expanded access to criminal records for prevention of fraud and other criminal activity.

15. Support more flexible income limitations in the Residential Housing Construction Program similar to Federal Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing Program guidelines.

16. Support legislation to encourage telemedicine or establish grants for the operation of new and existing urban telemedicine programs in medically underserved and urban areas.

17. Oppose changes to landlord/tenant laws that would involve public housing authorities in the legal process between tenants and their landlords.

18. Support proposals to address affordable housing needs on a multi-jurisdictional basis.

19. Support legislation that increases resources to clean-up and redevelop Brownfields.

20. Oppose legislation that limits a local public housing authority or conflicts with federal law governing admission, eviction, and public safety in public housing.

6. Justice and Public Safety

6.1 General

1. Support reimbursement of County costs for the prosecution and defense of new crimes.

2. Support increased State funding for multi-agency collaborative justice programs.

3. Support funding to expand video conferencing by law enforcement agencies.

4. Support full funding of the Community Law Enforcement and Recovery (CLEAR) Program.

5. Support legislation to provide funding for crime prevention/intervention and enforcement in public housing.

6. Support legislation to broaden the scope of information about sex offenders that can be provided over the internet and strengthen reporting requirements under Megan's Law.

7. Support legislation to continue the current model of traffic violator school monitoring as described in the California Vehicle Code.

8. Support legislation to add the Sheriff to the Real Estate Fraud Trust Fund Committee.

9. Support legislation to add any chemical used to make illegal drugs to the list of essential chemicals considered necessary for the manufacture of illegal drugs.

10. Support proposals to restore State funding for probation and sheriff personnel for training under the Standards and Training for Corrections Program.

6.2 Proposition 36

1. Support additional State funding, without supplantation of existing resources, to ensure full access to adequate and meaningful Proposition 36 services, including drug testing.

2. Support additional funding to cover any increased Proposition 36 workload staffing ratios for probation departments and increased county costs for the administration of contracts with qualified treatment providers.

3. Support continued State funding for Proposition 36 as long as the mandate remains in effect.

4. Support the prohibition against using Proposition 36 funding for drug treatment programs offered in a prison or jail facility, excluding those drug treatment

services provided to defendants who are a part of an electronic monitoring system program.

5. Support relaxation of the Proposition 36 restrictions on jail-based treatment if such programs are part of an overall system of graduated, short-term, therapeutic sanctions supervised by the Courts and provided in a dedicated treatment unit of a county jail.

6. Oppose legislation that expands eligibility for Proposition 36 unless additional funding is provided to fully cover the increased program costs.

6.3 Trial Court Funding

1. Support measures which would increase the State's participation in trial court funding through the assumption of responsibility for financing court facility construction and maintenance.

2. Support measures which would require the State to fully fund any additional court costs incurred in implementing Proposition 36.

3. Support increased State funding for drug courts with expansion to pre-plea drug court programs.

4. Support legislation that would permit the use of public funds for electronic court reporting.

5. Support measures that promote the efficiency and fiscal neutrality of the transfer of trial court facilities to the State.

6.4 Crime Lab

1. Support funding for the construction, renovation and operation of forensic crime laboratories.

2. Support funding to contract out work needed to reduce the DNA testing backlog.

6.5 Emergency Management and Operations

1. Support the establishment of Statewide standards for implementation and governance of 3-1-1 programs (non-emergency reporting and general government services) and 2-1-1 programs (community information and referral services).

2. Support financial assistance to local agencies for the acquisition of thermal imaging equipment that enables emergency response agencies to identify and locate targets in limited visibility environments.

6.6 Fire

1. Support financial assistance to local governments for the acquisition of fire apparatus, including rotary and fixed-wing aircraft.

2. Support legislation mandating and/or funding the installation of fire protection systems in new commercial, educational and institutional facilities.

3. Support funding for the Office of State Fire Marshal for training, education, and code enforcement.

4. Oppose legislation that would require local fire agencies to assume responsibility for the disposal of illegal fireworks.

5. Support legislation that would require or encourage the use of fire-resistant building materials.

6. Support legislation that would provide funding for a standardized fire service training program.

6.7 Juvenile Justice

1. Support proposals to ensure that each county receives annual Federal TANF block grant funding for emergency assistance for juvenile probation services in an amount at least equal to that received by counties in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 1995.

2. Support increased State funding for transitional housing programs for delinquent youth.

3. Support measures that expand truancy programs.

4. Support increased funding for programs for delinquent and/or emotionally disturbed minors who require intensive case management services or for alternatives to camp placement, including public/private partnerships.

5. Support measures that provide funding for the construction, renovation, rehabilitation and operation of juvenile justice facilities.

6. Support funding for prevention and intervention programs for youth at risk of becoming involved or who are currently involved in the juvenile justice system.

7. Support funding for programs, services and facilities that provide a continuum of mental health services to detained minors, including mental health screenings, assessments and treatment services.

8. Support funding for information technology initiatives that assist juvenile justice agencies to integrate, upgrade and maintain justice systems.

9. Support increased funding for the High-Risk Youth Education and Safety Plan which funds services to youths in transition from juvenile camps and ranches.

10. Support full funding of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Program.

6.8 Probation

1. Support funding for the Developing Increased Safety through Arms Recovery Management (DISARM) Program.

2. Support State funding of local assistance to cities and counties for correctional officer training programs.

3. Oppose reductions in probation funding below the level established in the FY 2004-05 State Budget.

4. Support legislation to assist probation departments in verifying that sex offenders and arsonists register with local law enforcement agencies, as required, by ensuring that probation departments are notified of violators who report directly to court.

5. Oppose measures that impose a reduction in probation officer caseloads without adequate funding.

6. Support measures to hold convicted persons accountable for the costs of probation services based on their ability to pay.

7. Support legislation to authorize increased caseload sizes for probation officers that supervise juvenile probationers using an electronic surveillance program based on a global positioning system.

8. Support legislation to allow probation departments to register narcotics offenders when the Chief Probation Officer determines there is a need to perform this task and when the resources are available.

9. Support legislation to restore the ability of the Board of Supervisors to order the distribution of court ordered installment payments.

10. Support legislation to broaden the circumstances under which probation officers can access school records.

6.9 Anti-Terrorism

1. Support funding of local efforts to prevent and prepare for acts of terrorism while minimizing duplication of responsibilities. Support legislation to facilitate prosecution of terrorist threats, and establish reasonable punishments.

2. Support the pass-through of Federal homeland security funds to counties based on threat levels, population, and relative need.

3. Support funding to develop a coordinated public information program to communicate health risks and disseminate health information in preparation for and in response to a terrorist attack.

4. Support funding for decontamination capabilities at all hospitals.

5. Support funding to establish regional disaster response field hospitals to respond to medical needs during a disaster or terrorism incident.

6. Support funding to ensure an adequate and stable supply of vaccine, antidotes, medications, medical supplies, and blood products, and the development of a plan to distribute them in an emergency.

7. Support funding to enhance preparedness of the public health system and Emergency Medical Service providers to respond to chemical, biological, and other forms of terrorism.

8. Support funding of security improvements and equipment for critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, dams, flood control, water supply, mass transit facilities, hospitals, and other public structures.

9. Support development and funding of a coordinated mental health response in the event of a terrorist attack.

10. Support legislation to fund the creation and dissemination of emergency, health or criminal history information.

11. Support legislation to fund staffing, training and the purchase of rapid response emergency equipment for first-responder teams including police/sheriff, firefighters, health, coroner, hospital emergency staff, and other medical professionals.

7. Maintenance of Effort/Mandate Relief

1. Support legislation to set a date certain for the payment of deferred SB 90 reimbursements so that local governments will be able to borrow against them.

2. Seek SB 90 reimbursement for special education-mental health mandates from increased Federal IDEA funds received by the State or under Proposition 98.

3. Support proposals to amend the California Government Code to eliminate the exclusion of SB 90 mandated reimbursements from any order by the State Water Resources Control Board or by any Regional Water Quality Control Board.

4. Support limiting State administrative fees to the State's actual costs for mandated administration.

5. Support streamlining or elimination of administrative mandates to focus limited resources on services.

6. Oppose new unfunded mandates unless they promote a higher priority.

7. Oppose any increase in the County's Trial Court Funding maintenance of effort above the agreement reached in AB 233 (Escutia) and subsequent actions providing MOE relief.

8. Oppose any measure to earmark or otherwise encumber the discretionary revenues available to counties as a result of AB 233 (Escutia) and subsequent actions providing MOE relief.

9. Support proposals to allow counties to apply for maintenance-of-effort relief when facility costs are included in the MOE base and remain an ongoing County responsibility.

8. Mental Health

1. Support legislation to provide mental health benefits coverage comparable to that provided for physical illnesses.

2. Support reform of the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act and related laws that assist and protect the mentally ill.

3. Support development and implementation of State technical assistance and training programs to achieve an appropriate reduction in the use of seclusion and behavioral restraints in mental health facilities.

4. Support fully funded outpatient treatment and services for individuals who may be involuntarily committed.

5. Support legislation to fund mental health services for children including children's systems of care, multi-disciplinary approaches and training, Community Treatment Facilities, treatment for juvenile offenders, coordination of transitional youth services, and school based mental health services.

6. Support legislation to fund mental health services for adults and older adults including adult and homeless systems of care, Adult Protective Services, substance abuse treatment, Institutions for Mental Diseases reform, joint law enforcement and mental health teams, and expansion of the Healthy Families Program to include parents.

7. Increase the Healthy Families Program mental health benefit to meet State standards for provision of mental health services by a public agency.

8. Support legislation to fund mental health services to CalWORKs recipients, multi-agency training and coordination for suicide prevention, emergency services for disaster relief response, and recruitment, training and retention of mental health professionals.

9. Support increased funding for specialized mental health training to law enforcement personnel and probation officers.

10. Support increased funding for prevention, diversion, and intervention services for mentally ill adults, and delinquent and/or emotionally disturbed minors to divert them from the criminal justice system.

11. Support proposals that require managed care plans to contract with, and/or reimburse, counties for crisis mental health services provided to managed care beneficiaries

12. Support full and timely funding of Federally-mandated mental health services for special education students under the AB 3632 Program, and support restructuring of the program to transfer responsibility from counties to school districts.

13. Support adequate funding of County-operated Medi-Cal managed mental care plans, and support the establishment of regulations that effectively support the provision and monitoring of high-quality mental health services.

8.1 Residential Facility Safety

1. Support legislation to establish adequate and equitable care and supervision payment rates for private, residential care facilities that serve persons with psychiatric disabilities.

2. Support legislation to authorize appropriate access for County Patients' Rights Advocates to facilities that are not licensed, and alleged to be in violation of licensing law or regulation, in order to monitor conditions and make a determination regarding appropriate placement and safety of facility residents.

3. Support legislation to expand sanctions to enforce the citation of a community care facility determined to be unlicensed, including: 1) granting County Health Officers authority to close an unlicensed facility, 2) establishing clear criteria for such a closure, and 3) allowing the District Attorney the flexibility to determine if the matter will be adjudicated as a misdemeanor or a felony.

9. Revenue and Taxation

1. Support full State funding of the schools' share of the cost of property tax administration.

2. Support legislation to provide the County with greater flexibility to increase the local sales tax in light of the 1.5 percent local sales tax cap.

3. Support proposals to provide for a fee on alcohol consumption to be used to fund trauma and emergency care.

4. Support legislation to distribute the growth in sales tax revenue within counties on a per-capita or other basis that reflects the service responsibilities of counties.

5. Support proposals to mitigate County exposure to property tax refunds on State-assessed properties, including the establishment of a rebuttable presumption for values established within a defined range of "fair market value."

6. Support legislation to establish a procedure for notifying new property owners of any outstanding tax obligations following a property sale, and providing that penalties and interest will apply only if the new owner then fails to pay on time, provided that sufficient time is allowed counties to process notices and counties are reimbursed for costs.

7. Support legislation to clarify that, prospectively, interest on property tax refunds shall be computed from the date of payment of each installment.

8. Support legislation to clarify that property tax refund issues are not subject to class action law suits.

9. Oppose legislation that interferes with the County's ability to quickly resolve requests for changes in assessment or restricts the assessment appeals board's ability to deal with a sudden, large increase in the number of appeals.

10. Support an extension or elimination of the sunset in Section 401.15 of the Revenue and Taxation Code relating to the valuation of commercial aircraft.

11. Support legislation and regulation to uniformly apply tax and fees on utilities and similarly situated companies competing in California.

12. Support legislation to protect counties from refund claims based upon the application of Proposition 62 to taxes imposed in reliance upon applicable case law regarding the unconstitutionality of Proposition 62.

13. Support proposals to expand the type of debt that can be referred to the California Franchise Tax Board (FTB) intercept program to include debts owed to the County Probation Department and the Department of Health Services, and enable counties to access FTB tax return information for collection purposes.

14. Support legislation to require the Board of Equalization to identify the fiscal impact of any new or revised rule, regulation or instruction.

15. Support proposals to allow local governments to negotiate compensation for the use of rights-or-way by telecommunication companies.

16. Support legislation to clarify that the State Board of Equalization has sole responsibility for determining whether or not an organization may qualify for property tax welfare exemptions and that counties have sole responsibility for verifying that the uses of individual properties qualify for welfare exemptions.

17. Support legislation to clarify that, in addition to the right to inspect an assessee's records for purposes of assessment, an assessor has the right to copy those records.

18. Oppose legislation to require a trial de novo for property tax appeals.

19. Support legislation to require marina or storage facility operators to report vessels at their location to the county assessor for the purpose of assessment.

20. Support legislation to require manufactured home park operators to report the names, mailing addresses, park space number and description of resident homes to county assessors.

21. Oppose legislation that shifts the responsibility for the assessment of personal property owned by commercial air operators from the County Assessor to the State Board of Equalization.

22. Support legislation to codify the County Assessor's Centralized Aircraft Calculation Program which was implemented statewide by assessors.

23. Support legislation that terminates property tax exemptions (other than Homeowners) upon the sale or transfer of the property to an ineligible person or entity.

24. Support legislation which excludes fully exempt entities from mandatory audits.

10. Social Services

10.1 Reforming the Safety Net and Promoting Self-Sufficiency

1. Support proposals for State and local governments to work together as partners to balance resources, eligibility and benefits, and forge new partnerships with business, nonprofit, and religious organizations to promote individual self-sufficiency.

2. Oppose proposals what would reduce available Federal matching funds for health and human service programs by capping State General Fund contributions.

3. Support proposals to allocate block grant funds based on actual costs and caseloads for various functions such as assistance grants and employment services.

4. Support a single integrated safety net which pools Federal, State, and county resources.

5. Support the maintenance of a Statewide safety net because counties cannot afford to aid persons who are ineligible for Federal benefits under welfare reform.

6. Support a Statewide safety net that covers legal immigrants while holding sponsors, when available and able to pay, financially liable for sponsored immigrants.

7. Support the use of savings from welfare reform to finance safety net services, especially for vulnerable persons losing Federal eligibility who otherwise would be a County responsibility under Section 17000 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

8. Support increased funding for the provision of services to non-custodial parents to help them meet their responsibilities to their children, including services aimed at increasing their income, payment of child support, parenting skills, and positive relationships with their children.

9. Support efforts to lift the cap on State Food Stamp Employment and Training funding and require the State to fully fund the non-Federal match.

10. Support efforts to maximize Federal funding for Medicaid, Food Stamps, child welfare services, child support, and child care.

11. Support options to simplify the administration of public assistance programs such as CalWORKs, Medi-Cal and Food Stamps, including seeking any necessary Federal waivers.

12. Oppose efforts to make counties responsible for any Federal penalties resulting from circumstances beyond their control including inadequate Federal and State administrative funding as well as unclear Federal and State program instructions.

13. Support adequate funding to cover new Federal mandates for data collection, verification, reporting, and fraud detection systems, while maintaining priority for previously approved automated systems such as the County's LEADER project.

14. Support funding to modify the County's automated systems in any legislation containing policy changes that impact those systems.

15. Oppose proposals to repeal State law that allows the first $50 of child support payments to be passed on to CalWORKs participants.

16. Support funding for ongoing procurement, development and maintenance activities for the County's LEADER system.

10.2 CalWORKs

1. Support measures that promote economic self-sufficiency through partnerships with public, private, nonprofit, and religious organizations to hire CalWORKs participants and provide limited community service and work experience opportunities.

2. Support measures that enable counties to develop coordinated systems, which include, but are not limited to, Employment Development Department and Department of Social Services programs that assess CalWORKs participants, and identify and develop the employment, training, or community work experience activities to which CalWORKs participants can be referred.

3. Support an equitable allocation of CalWORKs funds to counties based on relative need.

4. Support legislation to exempt the full value of one vehicle per household and/or a greater portion of a vehicle's value from the CalWORKs vehicle asset limit to ensure that clients have dependable transportation.

5. Support the full funding of CalWORKs Performance Incentives.

6. Support a Statewide safety net to cover hardship cases, such as families with abused or neglected children, the disabled, emancipated foster youth at risk of homelessness, children, or parents who are not readily employable beyond the five-year limit on Federal TANF benefits, and adults who have complied with the work requirements but are unable to find employment through no fault of their own.

7. Support expansion of the State's financial commitment to local welfare-to-work programs that promote self-sufficiency among welfare recipients/applicants, non-custodial parents of children receiving TANF benefits, and Food Stamp applicants/recipients.

8. Support the use of TANF funds to provide employment-related and support services to non-custodial parents of children receiving TANF benefits, as permitted under Federal law.

9. Support a Statewide safety net for families in which a member may be disqualified from receiving TANF and Food Stamp benefits due to drug-related convictions, if that family member has successfully completed a qualified drug

rehabilitation program and remains drug free, as demonstrated through periodic drug testing.

10. Support efforts to fund and maintain the Statewide Fingerprint Imaging System (SFIS) for the CalWORKs and General Relief programs,

10.3 Welfare-to-Work Program

1. Support State matching funds sufficient to maximize the availability of Federal funding.

2. Support the pass-through of all Welfare-to-Work formula grant funds to workforce investment boards that administer the program at the local level.

3. Support the equitable allocation of Welfare-to-Work funds to local workforce investment boards, targeting at least two-thirds of available funds to local workforce investment areas which serve areas with high concentrations of poor people, based upon current poverty data.

4. Support proposals to ensure local flexibility and oppose additional requirements on the use of Welfare-to-Work funds.

10.4 Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

1. Support the equitable pass-through of the maximum amount of Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds to workforce investment boards that administer the program at the local level, without additional requirements on the use of funds.

2. Support consultation with local officials during revision of the Federal-mandated five-year strategic plan, especially with respect to local performance measures.

3. Support establishment of performance levels for all target populations (adult, dislocated workers and youth) that are reasonable and do not penalize local areas with high unemployment rates and disproportionate numbers of hard-to-employ persons, or which target employment and training services at the hard-to-employ.

4. Support the use of all of the Governor's WIA set-aside dollars (15 percent discretionary funds) to provide workforce investment services in the State of California.

10.5 Citizenship and Legalization Assistance

1. Support increased funding for citizenship assistance with priority for services given to immigrants who have lost Federal benefits and to immigrants with special needs, such as the elderly and disabled, with allocations to counties based upon their share of the total number of legal immigrants statewide.

2. Support funding to assist in the legalization of immigrants covered under the Legal Immigration and Family Equity Act.

10.6 Domestic Violence

1. Support increased funding for services to domestic violence victims and their children, including increased funding for outreach and the identification of domestic violence victims and their families in unserved or under-served populations.

2. Support proposals to create a separate State allocation for domestic violence services to CalWORKs recipients.

3. Support efforts to promote education and training regarding domestic violence.

4. Support legislation to foster coordination and collaboration between the various agencies providing domestic violence services.

5. Support legislation to provide funding to create transitional shelters for victims of domestic violence.

10.7 In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

1. Support legislation to reestablish an 80 percent funding formula for State participation in IHSS wages and benefits above the minimum wage or develop an alternative way to increase State participation in IHSS wages and benefits above the minimum wage.

10.8 Senior and Adult Services

1. Support increased funding for adult protective services to enable counties to ensure the safety and protection of abused and neglected elders and dependent adults.

2. Support measures to ensure that counties have priority for adult protective services funding over agencies which do not have State-mandated responsibilities.

3. Support increased IHSS funding with emphasis on respite care and the establishment of community-based, long-term care programs.

4. Support proposals that promote the use of less costly home and community-based care alternatives to the institutionalization of disabled persons, including by allowing funding to follow persons to home and community-based care services, such as IHSS.

5. Support legislation or budgetary actions to provide a tax credit to individuals who provide in-home care for elderly parents or other family members.

6. Support legislation to provide State funding for emergency IHSS providers to allow recipients to continue to receive IHSS services when the regular provider becomes ill or is otherwise unavailable to provide care.

7. Support reestablishment and full funding for the Special Circumstances Program to provide assistance to eligible, low-income aged, blind and disabled persons.

8. Support increased funding for aging programs such as Linkages, Multipurpose Senior Services Program, Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Centers, and Home Delivered Meals.

9. Support funding for construction, renovation and/or acquisition of centers serving senior citizens.

10. Support State funding for elder abuse forensic examination programs.

11. Support proposals that would allow the pass-through of Federal funds appropriated for programs authorized under the Older Americans Act to the California Department of Aging and subsequently to the area agencies on aging in the absence of an enacted State budget.

12. Support proposals that promote the coordination of services such as Older Americans Act Programs, In-Home Supportive Services, Adult Day Health Care Services, Caregiver Resource Centers, and Adult Protective Services into an integrated long term care system.

13. Support proposals to facilitate the State's implementation of its Olmstead Plan, which prohibits the unnecessary institutionalization of individuals with disabilities, through the inclusion of appropriate access to community-based services and placement options.

14. Support proposals that would increase the types of professions required to report suspected cases of elder abuse.

10.9 Community Services Block Grant Funding

1. Support the equitable allocation of Federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding based on the 2000 Census, or a need-based formula, and oppose the use of CSBG grant funds to supplant existing funding of local programs.

10.10 Veterans

1. Support increased efforts to reduce homelessness for veterans and their families, increase affordable housing, mental health services, training, placement and employment opportunities, and provide other essential assistance to those who have honorably served in our armed forces.

10.11 Service Delivery

1. Oppose efforts to privatize and/or centralize eligibility processing for Medi-Cal, CalWORKs, and/or Food Stamps at the State level.

11. State-County Relationship

1. Oppose any further erosion of the County's property tax, sales tax, locally-imposed tax or fee, or Vehicle License Fee revenue base.

2. Oppose any legislation or regulation that would transfer to Los Angeles County or its residents any costs or revenue losses incurred by another jurisdiction.

3. Support or sponsor a constitutional amendment to reallocate to local school districts the property tax revenue derived from State-assessed properties in exchange for reallocation of non-ERAF property tax revenues derived from the local roll.

4. Support proposals to restructure State and local service responsibilities if they: create a nexus between authority, responsibility, accountability, and revenues; promote program effectiveness and cost containment; and recognize the limited fiscal capacity of counties by transferring sufficient revenue in the first and subsequent years.

5. Oppose the shift of programs unless control over those programs is also shifted and State funding is guaranteed.

6. Support all reasonable proposals to secure return of the property taxes lost under ERAF.

7. Support proposals to cap ERAF growth as an interim measure pending full return of the property tax.

8. Oppose legislation to change the definition of revenue neutrality in special cases, unless other entities are protected from unintended legal precedents by language narrowly justifying the need for special legislation.

9. Support a constitutional amendment to provide that the State budget and related bills can be approved by a majority vote.

12. Transportation

1. Support legislation to increase the fines for rail transit rights-of-way violations to make them comparable to fines for running a red-light or illegally driving in an HOV lane.

2. Support funding for the 1989 Retrofit Sound Wall and the post-1989 Sound Wall lists.

3. Support funding for pedestrian projects such as crosswalks, lighting, and traffic control.

4. Support dedicated funding for transportation required by the Welfare-to-Work Program.

5. Support an increase in grade separation funds if regional transit programs are not harmed and the funding received by the Department of Public Works from the California Department of Transportation or from gas tax revenues is not reduced.

6. Support reinstatement of State funding of the local 20 percent match for the Bridge Seismic Retrofit Program.

7. Support the direct allocation of funds to local governments for the preservation of local streets and roads, without reducing other transportation funds or impacting other agencies.

8. Support the protection of Transportation Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) funds, and oppose the diversion of TCRP funds from critical transportation projects.

9. Support the redirection of Federal minimum guarantee funds from the State Transportation Improvement Program to the Regional Surface Transportation Program.

10. Support legislation to reduce the vote requirement for enacting a county-wide sales or gas tax transportation measure.

11. Oppose legislation to relinquish State highways to local agencies without the State first restoring them to good repair.

12. Oppose legislation that would reduce the ability of local and regional transportation agencies to prioritize transportation projects with the State.

13. Support legislation allowing the use of automated enforcement systems to enforce speed limits on local streets and school zones.

13. Utilities and Infrastructure

13.1 Energy

1. Support the expansion of electric generation and supply in California, including a waiver of air quality emission standards when electricity supply is critically low.

2. Support an exemption to allow public agencies to extend the use of emergency generators when electrical blackouts are imminent.

3. Support increased funding to public agencies to encourage reduced consumption, develop alternative energy sources, and shift usage to non-peak hours.

4. Support funding for a grant program to encourage electric retrofitting of public buildings.

5. Support legislation to permit municipal utilities to enter into agreements with neighboring public agencies currently served by an investor owned utility for the provision of electricity.

6. Support authority for local governments that produce power to serve their own facilities utilizing the transmission lines of public or investor-owned utilities.

7. Support "direct access" legislation that would provide customers, such as the County, with a choice of retail electricity suppliers.

8. Support legislation that allows local government to purchase or generate and deliver electricity for its facilities independent of community choice aggregation plans.

9. Support funding to encourage local governments to install traffic signals with an independent power source.

10. Support proposals to assist low-income and elderly households with energy assistance, such as payment subsidies, conservation education, weatherization, and energy efficiency improvements.

11. Support proposals that would increase access to funding under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program in Los Angeles County.

12. Support proposals which ensure that local government is offered fair and economical pricing of energy by public generators.

13.2 Waste Management

1. Support increased flexibility for local agencies to meet the waste reduction goals of the State Integrated Waste Management Act.

2. Support proposals to correct deficiencies in State waste disposal reporting requirements, which may unreasonably cause a local agency to fail to achieve the State's fifty percent waste reduction mandate.

3. Support legislation to promote or provide incentives for the development of alternatives to landfills and incineration, including conversion technologies, and provide diversion credit for these alternatives.

4. Support funding to local governments for the environmentally safe management of electronic waste.

5. Support legislation to expand markets for diverted materials including funds for Recycling Market Development Zones.

6. Support the elimination of overlapping authority between the Department of Conservation's Division of Recycling and all CAL- EPA agencies/departments.

7. Support legislation to place greater emphasis on waste diversion program implementation, rather than relying primarily on quantity management, for the purpose of determining a local government's compliance with mandates established in the California Integrated Waste Management Act.

8. Support legislation to provide increased local government representation on the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

9. Oppose legislation to eliminate diversion credits for the use of green waste as a landfill cover.

10. Support legislation that would encourage the use of asphalt containing crumb rubber on highway construction and repair projects constructed by governmental agencies and industry.

11. Support legislation requiring the Waste Board to take the lead role of coordinating and funding research and development of markets for diverting materials and formulating source reduction strategies.

13.3 Telephone Services

1. Support efforts to establish technology-specific area codes in order to reduce the proliferation of area codes for regular telephone customers.

ATTACHMENT II

COUNTY-SPONSORED PROGRAM-SPECIFIC PROPOSALS
(Board Actions and Department Requests)

1. Clarification of Documentary Transfer Tax Application

As a result of the deregulation of the electric industry, investor-owned utilities were required to sell off much of their generation capacity. Southern California Edison (Edison) sold off four generating plants in Los Angeles County to companies outside of California. Documentary Transfer Tax payments were required on these sales. Edison paid the documentary transfer tax on only that portion of the sale price that was equal to the "net book value" last shown by the State Board of Equalization which resulted in Edison paying tax on only 50 percent of the actual sales price. Recent litigation failed to effectively resolve this issue; however, legislative clarification would ensure that it does not happen again in other large sales. **Therefore, the County will pursue legislation to clarify that documentary transfer taxes are applicable to the full sale price of real property.**

2. Names-Based HIV Reporting

Since 2002, California has had a code-based HIV reporting system. This approach has been somewhat beneficial in identifying new cases of HIV, but has not been fully effective and may lead to a loss of future Federal Ryan White CARE Act due to Congressionally-adopted changes in funding formulas. On October 12, 2004 the Board approved the County's Commission on HIV Health Services' report urging the adoption of name-based HIV reporting to significantly improve the surveillance and understanding of HIV infection in the County, and avert potential Federal funding losses. **Therefore, the County will sponsor or support legislation to implement names-based HIV reporting in California.**

3. Secure SB 1732 Funding for the LAC+USC Medical Center Replacement Project

Current law imposes restrictions on the County's ability to access SB 1732 funding which allows for State reimbursement of a portion of the cost of hospital capital projects that meet State criteria and Federal Medicaid requirements for disproportionate share hospitals. On December 3, 2002, the Board of Supervisors directed that the County seek amendments to SB 1732 to maximize the availability of funding for the Medical Center Replacement Project, while preserving the option to expand its scope at the Board's discretion. **Therefore, the County will seek amendments to SB 1732 to achieve these objectives.**

4. Local Alcohol Tax Authority

Under current law, local government does not have the authority to levy an alcohol tax. The weakened condition of the California economy has increased the demand for local governmental services beyond what current revenues can finance. This places essential services such as emergency and trauma care, where the need for these services is often linked to alcohol consumption, at risk. **Therefore, the County will seek legislation that would authorize counties to impose a local tax of no more than 5% on the sale of alcoholic beverages in order to continue to provide essential public services, including emergency and trauma care.**

5. Expand Participation in the Child Care Retention Program

The County's Office of Child Care, under contract with the California Department of Education (CDE), administers the Investing in Early Educators program which provides stipends to increase the education and retention of workers in licensed child care centers under contract with CDE. Since 2001, over 3,000 stipends have been awarded totaling $7.8 million, and no applicant has been denied due to lack of funds. Under current law, the stipends are restricted to only workers in CDE-funded child care programs. However, research in the County has demonstrated that teachers working in CDE-funded child care centers are relatively better compensated and have better benefits than their colleagues working in centers operated under different auspices. **Therefore, as a strategy to improve child care quality through improved worker education and retention, we will sponsor legislation to expand eligibility for participation in the County's Investing in Early Educators stipend program to include persons working in licensed family child care homes and child care centers that do not hold CDE contracts.**

6. State Education Funding for Los Angeles County College of Nursing

The Los Angeles County College of Nursing and Allied Health, located at the LAC+USC Medical Center, is not part of a community college district and is ineligible for State funding under the Education Code. **Therefore, it is recommended that the County seek legislation amending the Education Code to permit the Los Angeles County College of Nursing and Allied Health to receive State funding as do nursing programs in community colleges, or alternatively seek funding for the College in the State budget. DHS**

7. State-County Property Tax Administration Program (PTAP)

The State-County Property Tax Administration Program will sunset after the 2006-07 fiscal year. Also, the amount received from the PTAP has not changed since its inception in 1995 despite higher operational costs incurred by the County. **Therefore, in order to ensure that this critical program is continued and that funding is increased, the County will sponsor or support legislation to eliminate the sunset date for the PTAP; increase the grant amount received in recognition of higher operational costs, and index future PTAP funds by an inflationary factor.**

ATTACHMENT III

2005-06 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

WATER QUALITY, RECREATION AND BEACH IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

To meet anticipated State funding criteria, which would require or favor projects that are "multipurpose," the Departments of Beaches and Harbors, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and the Chief Administrative Office collaborated in developing the following list of projects. The list demonstrates the County's recognition of the important linkage between watershed management, environmental restoration, recreation, open space, and beach improvements. The list integrates the projects to maximize the County's immediate opportunities for State funding from Propositions 40 and 50, and represents a portion of a larger group of projects that will have to be done over a period of years.

Geographically, the projects are spread from Santa Clarita and the San Gabriel foothills, along the County's major rivers and creeks, to Long Beach, Marina del Rey, and the County's beaches. While the projects have been grouped by Supervisorial District (with some of the projects having elements in more than one District), the list must be viewed in its totality. Combined, the projects create a multi-purpose plan for improving watersheds, habitats, beaches and parks, recreational opportunities, as well as public access and safety. Several of the projects have been taken from the Los Angeles River Master Plan. The remaining projects are consistent with watershed plans for the Arroyo Seco, Ballona Creek, Compton Creek, Malibu Creek, Rio Hondo, the San Gabriel River, Sun Valley, Topanga Creek, and the Tujunga Wash. These plans have been completed, or are being developed, by committees with representatives from all levels of government, environmental groups, other stakeholder groups, and interested citizens.

Pursuit of funding for the projects on this list will focus on the "Clean Beaches, Watershed Protection and Water Quality" section of Proposition 40, Proposition 40 funds earmarked for local conservancies and river parkway projects, and the "Clean Water and Water Quality," "Integrated Regional Water Management," and "Coastal Protection" sections of Proposition 50. This effort will be in addition to the County's pursuit of funding for local park, cultural and historic resource preservation, water supply and dam security, and beach facility improvement projects that will not qualify under these sections of Propositions 40 and 50, but may be eligible for grants under other programs.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

WATER QUALITY, RECREATION AND BEACH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT LIST

It is the County's intent to deliver a variety of multi-purpose projects to improve water quality and conservation, expand and enhance open space and recreational opportunities, restore native plant and animal habitats, and improve flood protection and public safety. When completed, these projects will meet multiple public needs, efficiently utilizing public funding to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Los Angeles County.

FIRST DISTRICT

1. Arroyo Seco Restoration **$ 15,000,000**
(Also in the Fifth District)

This is an estimate of the First District portion of a $50 million pilot project involving concrete removal and habitat restoration. It is the first phase of a larger project that will lead to reduced storm-water pollution, improved groundwater supplies, and the aesthetic, environmental, and recreational benefits of a naturally functioning stream.

- County Responsibility: Public Works
- Potential Partners: Cities of Los Angeles, Pasadena, South Pasadena, and La Canada Flintridge, Corps of Engineers, State Agencies, Environmental Groups, Homeowner Groups

2. Los Angeles River Master Plan Implementation **$ 29,250,000**
(Also in the Second, Third and Fourth Districts)

This is an estimate for the projects in the First District that are part of the nearly $74 million in L.A. River projects included in this list. The Los Angeles River is a 51-mile concrete flood control channel constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Master Plan multi-use projects involve landscaping and beautification, habitat restoration, expanded recreational opportunities, water quality improvement, and flood mitigation. Some of the projects have already been funded and built. The remaining overall plan includes 47 individual projects, totaling about $200 million, including the Tujunga Wash Restoration and Dominguez Gap Wetlands Development Projects, which are shown separately in this list.

- County Responsibility: Public Works/Parks and Recreation
- Potential Partners: Army Corps of Engineers, Cities, State Agencies, Environmental Groups, Homeowners Groups, Businesses

3. San Gabriel River Water Management and Conservation **$ 4,450,000**

Construction of two inflatable rubber dams, temporarily capturing the river water, to recharge groundwater supplies, prevent water loss to the ocean, and reduce the transport of trash to the ocean. The project was recently awarded a Proposition 13 grant for $2,150,000, which will partially fund the project.

- County Responsibility: Public Works
- Potential Partners: Corps of Engineers, State Agencies, Environmental Groups, Water Replenishment District of Southern California

4. Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area Improvements **$ 10,000,000**

Development of 40 acres of undeveloped land within an Army Corps of Engineers' flood control facility, to provide improved storm water management and groundwater recharge, and up to 10 soccer fields.

- County Responsibility: Parks and Recreation/Public Works
- Potential Partners: Corps of Engineers, State Agencies, AYSO

5. Whittier Narrows Water Quality Improvements **$ 5,000,000**

Renovation of lakes and public recreation facilities, removal of failing septic system, and elimination of safety hazards at a 1,400 acre park built on an Army Corps of Engineers' flood control facility, which will reduce storm water and groundwater pollution, and improve recreation and public safety.

- County Responsibility: Parks and Recreation
- Potential Partners: Corps of Engineers, State Agencies, Environmental Groups

6. San Gabriel River Corridor Projects **$ 11,250,000**
(Also in the Fourth District)

The San Gabriel River is a 58-mile flood-control channel that is soft bottom for 48 miles and concrete lined for 10 miles. The San Gabriel River Master Plan proposes 134 multi-use projects that focus on recreation, habitat, natural area, water quality, water conservation, and flood mitigation enhancement opportunities. This is an estimate for an initial set of projects including: $2 million for construction of a park in a portion of the San Gabriel Canyon Spreading Grounds water conservation facility that will serve as a trail head to the regional San Gabriel River bike trail; $6 million for development of bike trail bridge linkages and enhancements to provide linkage between multi-use recreational trails and regional recreation/open space/ habitat opportunities; $250,000 for design related to the restoration of Lario Creek to naturalize a man-made conveyance channel to expand its capacity while incorporating passive recreational and educational opportunities, $500,000 for design and construction of a gateway at Valley Boulevard and the San Gabriel River that incorporates native landscaping while providing an entry way to the regional bike trail; $1 million for Paseo del Rio at San Gabriel Coastal Spreading Grounds, a multi-objective 128-acre project will provide a bike trail, new native and drought-tolerant landscaping, shade structures, and other park-like amenities to beautify open space surrounding the existing spreading grounds; and $1.5 million for design and construction of safe passage across the high-traffic Arrow Highway for bicyclists along the San Gabriel River Bike Trail.

- County Responsibility: Public Works
- Potential Partners: Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, National Forest Service, State Agencies, Cities, Environmental Groups, Homeowners Associations, Businesses

SECOND DISTRICT

7. Compton Creek Beautification — $ 47,000,000

This project will support a current collaborative effort to develop parks, bike and equestrian trails, and green/open space, as well as systems to trap trash, debris and pollutants, along the 8.6 miles of blighted flood control channel, located in a densely developed, but underserved urban area. The first phase of this work is estimated at between $5 million and $10 million.

- County Responsibility: Public Works/Parks and Recreation
- Potential Partners: Corps of Engineers, City of Compton, State Agencies, Environmental Groups, Homeowner Groups

8. Los Angeles River Master Plan Implementation — $ 2,050,000

(Also in the First, Third and Fourth Districts)

This is an estimate for the projects in the Second District that are part of the nearly $74 million in L.A. River projects included in this list. The Los Angeles River is a 51-mile concrete flood control channel constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Master Plan multi-use projects involve landscaping and beautification, habitat restoration, expanded recreational opportunities, water quality improvement, and flood mitigation. Some of the projects have already been funded and built. The remaining overall plan includes 47 individual projects, totaling about $200 million, including the Tujunga Wash Restoration and Dominguez Gap Wetlands Development Projects which are shown separately in this list.

- County Responsibility: Public Works/Parks and Recreation
- Potential Partners: Corps of Engineers, City of Compton, State Agencies, Environmental Groups, Homeowner Groups

THIRD DISTRICT

9. Beach and Marina Water Quality Improvements — $ 5,000,000

(Also in the Fourth District)

This is an estimate for the Third District portion of this project, which will install water quality improvement devices throughout the North Santa Monica Bay, including low-flow diversions and clarifiers and filters, in storm drains at all beach and Marina parking lots to clean water deposited on beaches or into the Marina and the Santa Monica Bay.

- County Responsibility: Beaches and Harbors/Public Works
- Potential Partners: State Agencies, Environmental Groups

10. Beach Septic System Improvements — $ 3,300,000

The project will reconstruct 19 beach restroom septic systems, along the Malibu and unincorporated County shoreline, to meet current water quality standards, improve restroom functioning, and to reduce the potential for beach and groundwater

contamination. Two beach septic system upgrades have been considered eligible for partial funding from the State Water Resources Control Board through the Clean Beaches Initiative (Proposition 40).

- County Responsibility: Beaches and Harbors/Public Works
- Potential Partners: State Agencies, Environmental Groups

11. Los Angeles River Master Plan Implementation **$ 14,400,000**
(Also in the First, Second and Fourth Districts)

This is an estimate for the projects in the Third District that are part of the nearly $74 million in L.A. River projects included in this list. The Los Angeles River is a 51-mile concrete flood control channel constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Master Plan multi-use projects involve landscaping and beautification, habitat restoration, expanded recreational opportunities, water quality improvement, and flood mitigation. Some of the projects have already been funded and built. The remaining overall plan includes 47 individual projects, totaling about $200 million, including the Tujunga Wash Restoration and Dominguez Gap Wetlands Development Projects, which are shown separately in this list.

- County Responsibility: Public Works/Parks and Recreation
- Potential Partners: Army Corps of Engineers, Cities, State Agencies, Environmental Groups, Homeowners Groups, Businesses

12. Sun Valley Watershed Management **$ 24,000,000**

This is the first phase of a $200 million project to improve the quality of life for citizens in a highly developed, residential and industrial urban area, using structural and non-structural watershed management techniques, which will provide improved groundwater retention, flood hazard mitigation, pollution reduction, recreational opportunities, and open space.

- County Responsibility: Public Works/Parks and Recreation
- Potential Partners: Corps of Engineers, State Agencies, City of Los Angeles, Cal Fed, Bureau of Reclamation, Environmental Groups, Homeowner Groups, Private Businesses, TreePeople

13. Tujunga Wash Restoration **$ 1,000,000**

Creation of an alternative naturalized stream course on the bank of an existing flood control channel, with native trees, shrubs and flowering plants, hiking and bike trails, and riparian habitat. This project will also enhance water quality through natural processes and provide open space opportunities in a highly urbanized area.

- County Responsibility: Public Works
- Potential Partners: Corps of Engineers, State Agencies, City of Los Angeles, Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority/Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Environmental Groups, Homeowner Groups

FOURTH DISTRICT

14. Ballona Creek Middle Jetty Beautification — $ 2,500,000

This project will support an ongoing collaborative (federal/state/local) effort to enhance Ballona Creek, the South Bay Bicycle trail, and adjacent open space, by providing habitat enhancement for migratory birds, as well as interpretive facilities for freshwater and saltwater environments, while improving public safety along a heavily used flood control channel in a densely developed, but underserved urban area.

- County Responsibility: Beaches and Harbors/Public Works
- Potential Partners: Corps of Engineers, City of Los Angeles, Culver City, Coastal Conservancy, Other State Agencies, Environmental Groups

15. Ballona Lagoon Tide Gate Improvements — $ 1,300,000

This project will replace an existing automatic tide gate that provides the primary water flow between the Venice canals and the Pacific Ocean; construct a new staging platform and bulkhead; and repair the existing flap and slide gates to enhance tidal flushing and improve water circulation.

- County Responsibility: Beaches and Harbors/Public Works
- Potential Partners: City of Los Angeles, Coastal Conservancy, Other State Agencies

16. Beach and Marina Water Quality Improvements — $ 5,000,000

(Also in the Third District)

This is an estimate of the Fourth District portion of this project, which will install water quality improvement devices throughout the South Santa Monica Bay, including low-flow diversions and clarifiers and filters, in storm drains at all beach and Marina parking lots to clean water deposited on beaches or into the Marina and the Santa Monica Bay.

- County Responsibility: Beaches and Harbors/Public Works
- Potential Partners: State Agencies, Environmental Groups

17. Dockweiler Bluffs Improvements — $ 4,000,000

This project will improve 3 miles of bluff, at a State-owned beach west of LAX, by providing a new sidewalk, storm drain/water quality improvements, new stairs and ADA access ramps, as well as erosion control through restoration of native plants and a retaining wall at the base of the bluff. The project will complement a County-funded $8.9 million refurbishment project, involving restrooms, concessions, and parking lots, which will be under construction in the near future.

- County Responsibility: Beaches and Harbors
- Potential Partners: City of Los Angeles, Coastal Conservancy, Environmental Groups

18. Dominguez Gap Wetlands Development **$ 500,000**

As one of the demonstration projects in the Los Angeles River Master Plan, this project involves the modification of two existing groundwater replenishment basins to create wetlands, greenspace, passive recreation facilities and educational features, while recharging groundwater and enhancing water quality.

- County Responsibility: Public Works/Parks and Recreation
- Potential Partners: Corps of Engineers, City of Long Beach, State Agencies, Environmental and Community Groups

19. Los Angeles River Master Plan Implementation **$ 28,300,000**
(Also in the First, Second and Third Districts)

This is an estimate for the projects in the Fourth District that are part of the nearly $74 million in L.A. River projects included in this list. The Los Angeles River is a 51-mile concrete flood control channel constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Master Plan multi-use projects involve landscaping and beautification, habitat restoration, expanded recreational opportunities, water quality improvement, and flood mitigation. Some of the projects have already been funded and built. The remaining overall plan includes 47 individual projects, totaling about $200 million, including the Tujunga Wash Restoration and Dominguez Gap Wetlands Development Projects, which are shown separately in this list.

- County Responsibility: Public Works/Parks and Recreation
- Potential Partners: Army Corps of Engineers, Cities, State Agencies, Environmental Groups, Homeowners Groups, Businesses

20. Marina del Rey Beach Water Quality Improvements **$ 1,125,000**

Additional funding is required to augment a $2 million grant from the State Clean Beaches Initiative (Prop 13) for construction of a water infusion system to eliminate health hazards caused by pollution, as well as installation of clarifiers in surrounding parking lots to capture pollutants, and replenishment of the beach with clean sand.

- County Responsibility: Beaches and Harbors/Public Works
- Potential Partners: County Health Department, State Agencies, Environmental Groups

21. Oxford Basin Habitat Restoration **$ 10,000,000**

This project will improve approximately 2,500 linear feet of pedestrian promenade around a flood retention basin that directly feeds into Marina del Rey, making it ADA-compliant; refurbishing fencing, landscaping and irrigation; and adding lighting, street furnishings, water quality enhancements, such as storm drain sewer diversions and cleaning out contaminated sediment, and habitat interpretive signage.

- County Responsibility: Beaches and Harbors/Public Works
- Potential Partners: City of Los Angeles, Coastal Conservancy, Other State Agencies, Environmental Groups

22. San Gabriel River Corridor Projects **$ 1,500,000**
(Also in the First District)

The San Gabriel River is a 58-mile flood-control channel that is soft bottom for 48 miles and concrete lined for 10 miles. The San Gabriel River Master Plan proposes 134 multi-use projects that focus on recreation, habitat, natural area, water quality, water conservation, and flood mitigation enhancement opportunities. This is an estimate for an initial set of projects ($500,000 each) for the design and construction of new gateways that incorporates native landscaping and will provide entry points where the San Gabriel River Bike Trail intersects with Whittier Boulevard, Carson Avenue, and Alondra Boulevard.

- County Responsibility: Public Works
- Potential Partners: Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, National Forest Service, State Agencies, Cities, Environmental Groups, Homeowners Associations, Businesses

23. Coyote and Carbon Creeks Watershed Feasibility Study **$ 3,300,000**

A Watershed Management Area Plan (WMAP) is being developed for the Coyote Creek Watershed. The WMAP will identify and prioritize enhancements including recreational facilities, habitat enhancement, water conservation, and flood protection. The Corps of Engineers will develop the WMAP with Orange County acting as the local lead partner.

The WMAP will facilitate development and implementation of a more comprehensive program to improve open space and recreational opportunities for conservation, restoration, and environmental enhancement of the Coyote Creek and Carbon Creek Watersheds. The completed WMAP will facilitate the ability of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District and other stakeholders to apply for Federal grants to fund projects that are identified and recommended within the plan.

- County Responsibility: Public Works
- Potential Partners: Orange County Flood Control District, Army Corps of Engineers, Conservancies, and local Cities.

FIFTH DISTRICT

24. Arroyo Seco Restoration **$ 35,000,000**
(Also in the First District)

This is an estimate of the Fifth District portion of a $50 million pilot project involving concrete removal and habitat restoration. It is the first phase of a larger project, leading to reduced storm water pollution, improved groundwater supplies, and the aesthetic, environmental, and recreational benefits of a naturally functioning stream.

- County Responsibility: Public Works
- Potential Partners: Cities of Los Angeles, Pasadena, South Pasadena, and La Canada Flintridge, Corps of Engineers, State Agencies, Environmental Groups, Homeowner Groups

25. Santa Clara River Park **$ 5,000,000**

One of a number of projects being planned to preserve/restore/improve the Santa Clara River watershed, from its headwaters to its outlet in Ventura, this project involves development of 13 acres as active and passive parkland along the River.

- County Responsibility: Parks and Recreation
- Potential Partners: City of Santa Clarita, Community Groups

26. Santa Clara River Watershed Feasibility Study **$ 8,200,000**

The Santa Clara River drains the largest watershed in Southern California, traveling approximately 84 miles from the headwaters above Acton to the Pacific Ocean. The watershed covers an area of 1,600 square miles, divided almost equally between the Counties of Los Angeles and Ventura. Los Angeles County portion is estimated to be $1.7 million.

The goal of the study is to identify flood protection and sedimentation problems and opportunities within the watershed. This will be accomplished by developing hydrologic, hydraulic, and sediment transport models of the entire watershed. The results will be quality mapped and integrated into a GIS database for analysis. Opportunities to improve water quality and riparian habitats will also be investigated.

- County Responsibility: Public Works
- Potential Partners: Ventura County Watershed Protection District, Army Corps of Engineers.