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January 10, 2006

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

Dear Supervisors:

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

This letter recommends policies and proposals for the second 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

Last year at this time, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) forecasted a budget deficit of $6.7 billion with the shortfall increasing to almost $10 billion at the end of FY 2006-07 in the absence of ongoing actions to reduce the imbalance between expenditures and revenues. This outlook was reflected in the County's initial assessment of the Governor's Proposed Budget for FY 2005-06. Even with the removal of property taxes from the State's potential menu of budget solutions as a result of the passage of Proposition 1A, the County was still vulnerable to State reductions in program funding. The County faced potential losses of approximately $172 million with about 40 percent of this amount ($74 million) attributable to the State's reduction of its participation in the level of In-Home Supportive Services provider wages and benefits from $10.10 per hour to $6.75 per hour. Other potential losses were from the continued suspension of Proposition 42 transportation funds ($24.7 million), the elimination of current year grant funding from the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act ($27.9 million), and suspension of various State mandates ($33.3 million).

By the time the Governor signed the budget in early July, the County's fiscal exposure had been reduced to $8.6 million. This improvement in the impact of the State budget on the County foreshadowed an overall improvement in California's fiscal condition. Since July, the State's budget outlook has benefited greatly from a major increase in revenues and significant savings adopted in the FY 2005-06 budget. Through November, revenues are up 6.3 percent with 47 percent of the increase attributable to the personal income tax.

According to the LAO, the additional revenues will result in a reserve balance of $5.2 billion by the end of the current fiscal year. This represents an increase of $3.9 billion from the estimates assumed when the budget was adopted. A reserve of this magnitude, in the LAO's view, is sufficient to fund current obligations for the FY 2006-07 budget under current law and maintain a $1.2 billion year end reserve notwithstanding a projected structural shortfall of $4 billion.

While the outlook is considerably improved over prior years, there are a number of fiscal pressures on the State that will place demands on the available resources. A November 2005 Sacramento Superior Court (*Pension Obligation Bonds Committee v. All Persons*) decision against the State on the sale of pension bonds without the vote of the people has the potential of reducing revenue by $525 million. Further, the minimum guarantee to K-14 schools under the law will not be sufficient to fund enrollment growth and inflation. This would require an additional $2.5 billion. When added to the triggering of Proposition 49 (for after school funding) at an estimated $428 million, it would raise the pressure on education funding by nearly $3 billion.

Most economic forecasters believe that there will be some slowing in the State economy in FY 2006-07, but are not forecasting a strong downturn. However, the State's revenue structure is highly volatile which means that a small change in economic growth would result in a large impact on revenue. In addition, even with a prediction of a healthy economy, the State, under current law, faces operational shortfalls between revenues and expenditures through FY 2010-11.

BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Even if the LAO's forecast for the budget year is on target, the County still faces a number of important issues involving the continued stability of its health system, its budget, and the preservation of local control.

County Health System Funding

Last session was highlighted by some notable legislation which affected the Department of Health Services (DHS). In addition to providing State funding for trauma care and extending the County's access to Medi-Cal cost-based outpatient reimbursement in the FY 2005-06 budget, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed, SB 1100 (Perata, Chapter 560, Statutes of 2005) which implements major elements of Governor Schwarzenegger's five-year Medicaid Waiver agreement with the Federal Government to transform the way safety net hospitals, such as the County's, are paid under the Medi-Cal Program.

SB 1100 shifts California from the use of intergovernmental transfers to certified public expenditures (CPEs) as the non-federal share for supplemental Medi-Cal hospital payments, establishes a process and methodology to ensure that baseline funding for public and private safety net hospitals will continue, and allocates growth funds, if available, between public and private hospitals.

While the Waiver and SB 1100 have the potential to improve the DHS fiscal outlook, there are important pieces of the financing reform that are not yet in place such as the scope and definition of CPEs which is pending approval by the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. At the State level, the Waiver permits California to access $180 million in unallocated Federal funds contingent upon expansion of Medi-Cal managed care in the first and second year of the waiver, and development of a health coverage initiative for uninsured persons in the waiver during the third through fifth years.

In the upcoming year, the County will seek, in collaboration with other public hospitals, to ensure favorable implementation of the Medi-Cal hospital financing waiver, and other revenues to support the safety net.

Other Key Health and Social Service Issues

Counties are heavily dependent on State funding for their budgets, especially for health and social service programs. Consequently, the County will continue to support adequate funding for the programs it operates and oppose program reductions unaccompanied by a commensurate diminution of responsibility, and any attempt to shift costs to counties. In this regard, the County will pursue continuation of funding for Proposition 36, the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Action of 2000, which contained funding for five years ending in FY 2005-06. It will also seek continued funding for AB 3632, the Special Education Pupils Program and juvenile probation camps.

Revision and Refunding of Proposition 36. Proposition 36, the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000, directs first and second time non-violent adult drug offenders who use, possess, or transport illegal drugs for personal use to receive drug treatment as a condition of probation in-lieu of incarceration. The Act appropriated $120 million per year to fund local costs for treatment programs and other necessary services. Los Angeles County has received approximately $30 million per year for these purposes. Under Proposition 36, the State's funding obligation ceases in FY 2005-06, although county responsibility to provide drug treatment services continues.

County-supported SB 803 (Ducheny) would revise Proposition 36 and appropriate $120 million annually to fund the Act through FY 2010-11. SB 803 would make changes to Proposition 36 to strengthen the program through close monitoring of defendants under a collaborative model involving treatment providers, the court, probation, and parole. It would extend treatment services beyond the current 12-month limit to 24 months when warranted, provide for frequent drug testing, and use short-term jail sanctions as a tool to enhance treatment compliance. SB 803 is patterned after the Drug Court Program that requires frequent drug testing and ensures accountability of drug offenders. **Because SB 803 would appropriate funds needed for the County to continue to provide drug treatment services mandated by Proposition 36, and would make changes to enhance the substance abuse treatment program, the County will continue to strongly support and work for passage of the measure. Since the ongoing level of programming is expending at a rate of $143 million a year, the County will support the continuation of Proposition 36 at this level of funding in order to avoid reductions in State support.**

AB 3632 Mandate. As part of the FY 2005-06 budget, the Governor approved a one-time legislative augmentation of $120 million to reimburse counties for special education mental health services under the AB 3632 State mandate. In his budget message, the Governor indicated that the funding will allow for the transition from a State-mandated program to a categorical program effective FY 2006-07. The new categorical program is to be developed

in collaboration with counties, schools, community mental health providers, and other stakeholders interested in mental health and special education issues. However, the Administration has not yet convened any meetings to develop the plan that would address the roles and responsibilities of local education agencies and counties in providing these Federally mandated services, including the scope of services, the necessary statutory changes, and funding levels. **Therefore, it is critical that we work closely with the State and other stakeholders to pursue those options that will ensure adequate long-term funding and address issues related to the delivery of these Federally mandated services.**

Continued Funding For Juvenile Probation. Over the past years, a number of budget proposals have been introduced recommending the elimination or reduction of funding for juvenile probation services provided by counties. Although the Administration and the Legislature have subsequently restored funding, counties have faced the possibility of major curtailments. In the case of Los Angeles County, we would have lost approximately $83 million annually, which would have required the closure of all of the 18 probation camps, resulting in over 1,000 annual commitments to the California Youth Authority and 1,000 additional group home placements.

In addition, in the FY 2005-06 budget, the State reduced funding for the Schiff-Cardenas Juvenile Justice grants by nearly 75 percent. Due to the funding structure of the grant, it did not have an impact on current year programs. However, there are no statutory requirements to continue this funding for FY 2006-07. The statewide level of funding for this grant is $100 million. Of this amount, the County's share is nearly $28 million.

Over the past two years, there have been numerous discussions about a potential juvenile justice reform that would transfer certain responsibilities from the State to counties. The Administration has been working on various tracks to address the many issues facing the juvenile justice system, and it is anticipated that a reform proposal may be included in the January Proposed Budget. **Therefore, it is critical that we continue working with the State to preserve funding, and ensure that any realignment proposals are fully funded and accompanied by decision-making authority at the county level.**

Restoration of Property Tax Administration Program (PTAP)

Statewide funding in the amount of $60 million for PTAP was eliminated from the FY 2005-06 State budget despite approval by both Assembly and Senate Budget Subcommittees. This represents a loss to the County of $13.5 million. According to the California Assessors' Association, since its inception, the PTAP program has generated 12 dollars in additional property tax revenue for every dollar granted. The school's share was $6.40 for every dollar invested in the program. Thus, it is in the State's financial

interest to continue the program because the State General Fund is its largest beneficiary. **Therefore it is important that we continue to seek to restore funding for this program that is cost effective for both State and local governments.**

Infrastructure Bonds

For the second year of the 2005-06 Legislative Session, the State will be considering a number of bills which would present a number opportunities for the County to compete for funding for transportation improvements, housing projects, environmental restoration and preservation projects, flood control, watershed management, and other infrastructure projects.

Some of the legislative proposals include: 1) **County-supported and amended SB 253 (Chesbro)**, would enact the California Clean Water, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2006, which would authorize the issuance of $3.945 billion in State General Obligation bonds for acquisition, development, restoration and preservation projects; 2) **County-supported and amended AB 1269 (Pavley)**, would enact the Clean Air, Clean Water, Coastal Protection, and Parks Act of 2007, which would authorize an unspecified amount in State General Obligation Bonds for resource protection, acquisition, restoration and development; and **SB 1024 (Perata)**, would enact the Safe Facilities, Improved Mobility, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2005, which would authorize $10.275 billion in State General Obligation bonds for specified purposes, including the State transportation improvement program, levee improvements, flood control, restoration of Proposition 42 transportation funds, port infrastructure and security projects, trade corridors of significance, emissions reduction projects, transit-oriented development, transportation needs in cities and counties that meet certain requirements, and housing, regional growth, and infill development purposes.

In addition to these proposals, Governor Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders have also indicated their desire to pursue a bond package that goes beyond the traditional bond-and-build approach currently used for school and transportation projects. According to recent newspaper articles, the bond package could raise as much as $50 billion to enhance the quality of life for residents of the State. Details of the Governor's proposal are not available yet, but it is anticipated that the bond proceeds would be used to speed transportation projects to relieve traffic congestion, expedite transportation of goods, build power plants, increase affordable housing, hospital seismic retrofitting, and other infrastructure projects.

Because potential bond funding would provide valuable resources to address critical infrastructure needs, the County will work with appropriate groups to strongly support and work for passage of the infrastructure bond measures.

PRESERVATION OF LOCAL CONTROL

During the last session, the Schwarzenegger Administration formed a cabinet level Business Transportation and Housing and Resources Agencies Advisory Group to deal with the issues of Housing, Land Use and the California Environment Quality Act (CEQA). The problems of affordable housing, land use and redevelopment, traffic congestion, and air pollution are likely to be discussed during the second year of the legislative session under the general rubric of infrastructure revitalization including a requirement that every jurisdiction develop a long-term supply of land suitable, available and zoned for a full range of housing types. If the aforementioned infrastructure bond is submitted to the voters, it could be accompanied by legislation containing various incentives, restrictions, and matching requirements which could undermine local control.

Legislation is likely to be considered dealing with infill development including re-zoning and density requirements, a lessening of environmental impact review requirements once an urban specific plan has been adopted and subjected to appropriate environmental review, establishment of a permanent source of State funding for affordable housing, a suspension of prevailing wages linked to the production of affordable housing, and new lines of responsibility for planning and approving housing within a local, sub-regional and regional context. Each of these potential legislative initiatives represents both a challenge and an opportunity for the Board and several major County departments including Regional Planning, Public Works, and Parks and Recreation. The County opposes legislation that infringes upon County Board of Supervisors' local land use decision-making authority. Thus, in evaluating infrastructure related legislation, Statewide goals and State intervention must be balanced against the preservation of local control.

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) sent a letter to the Governor in early September 2005 suggesting that the approach to infrastructure in general and affordable housing in particular requires development of a comprehensive statewide growth strategy that "recognizes diversity and provides flexibility for various regions in the State to grapple with these issues in a way that is appropriate to their unique circumstances."

Redevelopment

The Legislature is anticipated to propose legislation that affects the operations of redevelopment agencies and redevelopment projects. Of concern would be the issue of the extension or expansion of redevelopment projects through statute. This could potentially occur without all of the stakeholders, including the County, from reaching agreement on the terms of operation and distribution of fiscal benefits related to the projects. These would contrast with provisions that require such an agreement during the development of new project areas. Therefore, it is important that combined and extended

redevelopment projects include provisions for the County to negotiate and renegotiate the terms of operation and fiscal distribution as necessary as would occur during the development of a new project that already exists under law.

In addition, redevelopment is cited frequently as a method of community revitalization and legislators frequently have sought to redefine blight despite its sometimes adverse effect on County finances. **The County will continue to oppose these efforts and to support tightening of the definitions of blight.**

Pension Reform

Another issue potentially affecting local control is pension reform. While the question of changing from a defined benefit to a defined contribution pension system has not been the subject of Board policy, the County does offer its defined benefit plan participants the option of contributing to its 401(k) and 457 plans. These pension plans were developed and implemented at the local level to assist the County to recruit and retain its employees and to provide the Board with the flexibility to meet local needs and maintain a sound financial retirement system. **The County will support pension reforms that protect local control and flexibility in this area.**

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 and II are submitted for your Board's consideration as the guiding principles for our advocacy efforts in Sacramento during the second year of 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:JF:hg

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, counseling, and education records.

15. Support proposals to fund Child Welfare Services outcome improvements included in the County's Self-Improvement Plan (SIP), including Point of Engagement, the State's AB 636 Outcomes and Accountability System and 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 California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division and local government 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 and implement 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 12, including those with special needs up to age 18 and children from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

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 provider education, training, and access to health insurance, and basing program design on strong and rigorous research evidence.

3. Support efforts to increase funding, inclusive of Standardized Reimbursement Rates (SRRs), tax credits and other incentives, to provide all children, including those from low-income families and 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, renovation, and maintenance; 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.

8. Support proposals designed to prevent and detect fraud in State-subsidized child care programs.

9. Support proposals that improve child care quality by promoting annual cost-of-living adjustments to child care development programs, link reimbursement rates for subsidized child care to the quality of care, and provide funding to maintain centralized eligibility lists.

10. Oppose proposals that would disproportionately reduce subsidized child care rates to providers serving primarily low-income communities.

2. Environment, Natural Resources and Recreation

2.1 Air Quality

1. Support funding to assist local government to purchase and/or 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 and use of alternative fuels, and retrofit of existing generators and fleets.

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

5. Support measures that promote the development of cleaner burning fuels and other feasible 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 provides increased funding for the reduction of particulate matter emissions from on-road diesel vehicles, independent of Nitrous Oxide emissions.

8. Support proposals that provide authority to local and regional agencies to reduce locomotive, railyard, port, and mobile source emissions.

9. Support proposals that return a greater share of funds to local areas which generate AB 2766 revenues, and provide greater flexibility to local programs to comply with air quality rules and regulations.

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 establish an off-leash dog beach in Los Angeles County unless it provides for State indemnification of the County and an appropriation to fund all additional County costs associated with an off-leash dog beach 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 control, removal and/or eradication of invasive species that negatively affect 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 use of gray and reclaimed water.

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.

7. Support legislation to collect a fee of up to $6 upon the annual registration or renewal of motor vehicle registrations to fund projects and grants that prevent, reduce, remediate, or mitigate the adverse environmental effects of motor vehicles and their associated facilities and other infrastructure improvement projects.

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 State Recreation Area, Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, and Placerita Canyon State Recreation Area.

3. Support funding and partnering opportunities with social service agencies and schools 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 and health 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 proposals which promote partnering opportunities with social and health service agencies and allow park and recreation programs to be eligible for State preventive health funding.

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. 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.

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 San Gabriel River Discovery Center at Whittier Narrows Regional Park.

8. Support proposals that promote a share Federal, State and local funding formula to pay for implementation of Total Maximum Daily Load and other stormwater requirements.

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

10. Support authorization and funding for the Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA) Project, as required by AB 1147.

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.

6. Support funding for the design and construction of a recycled water system for the Antelope Valley to reduce reliance on imported water and improve water supply reliability.

7. Support legislation that would promote groundwater banking programs and facilitate the regulatory approval process required for implementation of groundwater banking programs.

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 related to injuries, illnesses, diseases, or physical conditions and that can be claimed as 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 detection, exclusion, and eradication including the red imported fire ant, the Preventive (sterile) Release Program for Mediterranean Fruit Fly, 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, and to effectively regulate producers participating in certified farmers' markets.

3. Support increased funding for the management of established pests, including invasive weeds, insects and vertebrates, and research to develop resistant plant 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 to ensure the safety of workers and the public, and the quality of the environment.

5. Support proposals which strengthen the compliance of the structural fumigation industry in the safe handling of registered fumigants, and promote the safe use and handling of pesticides among workers and the general public.

6. Support proposals that increase the allocation of unclaimed refunded gas tax revenues generated from farming and horticultural activities to counties for use by county Agricultural Commissioners to support regulatory oversight of agricultural producers and to enhance local programs related to agriculture.

7. Oppose legislation that impedes the control of rodents, invasive species, and enforcement of pesticide use laws and regulations.

3.4 Consumer Protection

1. Support legislation to protect consumers by providing increased and more reliable product quantity and price information to facilitate value comparisons in sales of any commodity 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, packaging and sales of commodities, the quality of motor vehicle fuels, and the accuracy of prices charged in retail transactions.

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.

7. Support proposals that promote effective price verification inspections by enhancing funding and encouraging investigations focusing on problem pricing areas and practices.

8. Support proposals that maintain or increase funding for the Dispute Resolution Program.

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.

6. Support proposals that allocate special education funds in a manner that accurately reflects the needs of children in the County.

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, expand and extend designations for the State Enterprise Zone program for urban areas and will protect the County's fiscal base and revenues.

3.16 Elections and Voting

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

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

3. Support proposals to provide County reimbursement for the costs incurred in conducting special elections to fill vacancies in State and Federal offices.

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 proposals to provide SB 1732 funding for the LAC+USC Medical Center Replacement Project while preserving the option to expand its scope at the County's discretion.

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

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

14. 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, application, and re-determination processes to increase and expedite enrollment and promote retention, 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 proposals to require names-based HIV reporting, and 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 proposals to require hospitals to have a written infection-control program, and/or to establish a State-wide system for public disclosure of information on healthcare-associated infections in a manner that would assist consumers to consider healthcare options.

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

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

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

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

10. 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, availability of nutritious and safe foods, and reduce the prevalence of smoking and obesity.

11. 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 and State Food Assistance Programs.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. Support legislation to improve the planning and certification of new Adult Day Health Care programs and to strengthen the program and fiscal monitoring of these programs.

15. Support proposals to reduce the spread of sexually transmitted diseases by adding neonatal herpes to the list of reportable diseases, requiring the adult film industry to increase surveillance and treatment efforts, and allowing public health departments to train, supervise, and monitor public health staff that conduct phlebotomy in field-based settings.

4.7 Alcohol and Drug

1. Support proposals to increase funding for alcohol and drug prevention, treatment, and recovery services that provide local flexibility and discretion based on the local planning process.

2. 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.

3. Oppose measures that reduce the availability and accessibility of alcohol and drug prevention, treatment, and recovery services for persons with alcohol and drug problems.

4. Support funding for health, mental health, homeless assistance, social services, and criminal justice programs that provide or make accessible substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery services as part of its continuum of services.

5. Support proposals that promote environmental approaches to reducing alcohol and drug problems in the community, e.g., expanding local authority to enforce local zoning ordinances related to alcohol outlets and increasing funding to expand/enhance community-based coalitions to help residents prevent/reduce local alcohol and drug problems.

4.8 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.

4.9 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, osteoporosis and other chronic 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 to provide additional resources for meeting the capital and operational costs of housing production and related supportive service needs of low-moderate-income families and the needs of special populations, including elderly, disabled and mentally ill persons.

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

12. 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, employment information, public assistance records and other information that pertains to participant information for housing purposes for prevention of fraud and other criminal activity.

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

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

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

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

17. 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. Oppose legislation which would further limit the scope of information about sex offenders that can be provided over the internet and the authority of local jurisdictions to provide such information under Megan's Law.

8. Support legislation that maintains or increases funding and continues the current model of traffic violator school monitoring as described in the California Vehicle Code.

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.

11. Support proposals to prohibit the intentional feeding of select wild animals that present a threat to public safety.

6.2 Proposition 36

1. Support additional State funding, without supplantation of existing resources, to ensure that nonviolent drug offenders have full access to a full continuum of drug addiction treatment and recovery support services, including drug testing, as a means of reducing re-arrests for drug-related crimes.

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 adequate State funding for Proposition 36 and ensure funding allocations meet caseload growth.

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 proposals to reform and strengthen Proposition 36 through the use of frequent drug testing, graduated short-term sanctions and incarceration, in-custody treatment services, and close monitoring of defendants using a collaborative model involving treatment and recovery support programs and criminal justice agencies.

6. Oppose legislation that expands eligibility for Proposition 36 unless additional funding is provided to fully fund 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 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.

7. Oppose proposal that impedes the ability to ensure timely weed hazard abatement through use of most effective methods to eliminate fire risk.

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 Act.

11. Support legislation to extend Kin-Gap benefits to Probation youth.

6.8 Probation

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

2. Support State funding of adult probation services, and 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, and authorize collection by the Department of Corrections of court-ordered financial obligations payable to counties and county agencies from State prisoners and parolees.

7. Support legislation to fund and authorize increased caseload sizes for the implementation of continuous electronic monitoring of probationers.

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 authorize government agencies to exchange information regarding probationers to the full extent authorized by Federal law.

6.9 Anti-Terrorism

1. Support funding of local efforts to prevent and prepare for acts of terrorism while minimizing duplication of responsibilities.

2. Support legislation to facilitate prosecution of terrorist threats, and establish reasonable punishments.

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

4. 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.

5. Support funding for decontamination capabilities at all hospitals.

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

7. 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.

8. 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.

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

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

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

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

11. 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.

12. 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.

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

14. Oppose proposals that would pre-empt the ability of local governments to negotiate compensation for the use of rights-or-way by telecommunication companies.

15. 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.

16. 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.

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

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

19. 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.

20. Support proposals to improve tax compliance related to non-reporting of corporate ownership transfers.

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, families and 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 benefits due to drug-related convictions, if that family member has successfully completed a qualified drug rehabilitation program and remains drug free.

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

11. Support legislation that excludes special military pay when determining CalWORKs eligibility for families of deployed members of the armed services.

12. Support proposals that reduce barriers and increase the participation of pregnant or parenting teens in the CalLEARN Program.

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, and to provide employment and training services for evacuees of natural disasters who relocate to 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 counseling 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 domestic violence prevention and intervention through public awareness, education, and counseling.

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.

2. Support proposals that strengthen the quality of care and/or integrity of the IHSS Program.

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.

15. Support proposals which require the licensing, oversight and regulation of conservators, establish a Probate Ombudsman Program, and provide sufficient resources to conduct investigations of conservators through the Probate Court and the Public Guardian Program.

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.

10.12 Homelessness

1. Support proposals which increase funding for homeless assistance programs, including supportive housing, supportive services, and emergency services, increase local flexibility over the use of homeless assistance funds, simplify and reduce administrative requirements, and more equitably distribute funds based on relative need.

2. Support proposals which provide additional resources for meeting the housing and related supportive service needs of special populations, including elderly, disabled, and mentally ill persons.

3. Support creation and funding of a State plan to end homelessness, and the reconvening of a State-level Interagency Council on Homelessness comprised of representatives from all State cabinet departments responsible for programs or activities that affect homeless persons and the agencies that serve them.

4. Support proposals to improve the discharge policies and procedures of State prisons, hospitals and any other agencies with residential services, to ensure that persons are not homeless at the time of release.

5. Support proposals to increase services and benefits for CalWORKs homeless families and services and benefits to prevent homelessness among families receiving CalWORKs.

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.

14. Support rail safety legislation that is designed to prevent accidents and increase California's control over rail safety.

15. Oppose legislation and/or proposals that allow large combination vehicles (LCVs), such as triple trailer trucks to operate in California or attempts to increase the size or weight of combination vehicles.

16. Support legislation that provides for the repayment of $2.3 billion in sales tax revenues on gasoline that were retained in the State General Fund in Fiscal Years 2003-04 and 2004-05, and secure additional funding to fill the funding gap between Fiscal Years 2005-06 and 2008-09 for the local agencies that received funds from AB 2928 Traffic Congestion Relief Program.

17. Support the inclusion of funding for grade separations and local road improvement projects in any proposed statewide infrastructure bond measure.

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, and solar 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 and distribution 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 provided the power source is equivalent or cleaner than the current supply.

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.

2. Support proposals that improve the management of numbering resources applicable to telecommunications carriers, and avoid the premature exhaustion or split of an area code.

ATTACHMENT II

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

1. 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 Funds 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. On February 22, 2005, SB 945 (Soto) was introduced on behalf of the County, and the measure is pending action by the Senate Judiciary Committee. **Therefore, the County will continue to sponsor SB 945 or other legislation to implement names-based HIV reporting in California.**

2. 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. On February 22, 2005, SB 656 (Romero) was introduced on behalf of the County, and the measure is pending action by the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee. **Therefore, the County will continue to sponsor SB 656 or other 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.**

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

The recent State Budget eliminated $60 million in funding for the State-County Property Tax Administration Program. The loss to the County is $13.5 million. Since its inception, according to the California Assessors' Association, 12 dollars in additional tax revenue has been generated for every dollar invested. Clearly, it is in the interest of all levels of government which are supported by property taxes to continue the program. **Therefore, the County will sponsor or support legislation to restore PTAP funding and authorize the program permanently.**

4. Homeless Response

The Board has directed County Departments to identify needed actions to improve the County's response to homelessness. Among the priority areas are homeless families with children living in the Skid Row area of Downtown Los Angeles, and the need to intervene with homeless persons who encounter the criminal justice system. **Therefore, the County will sponsor or support legislation to amend State law to enhance the CalWORKs Homeless and Housing Assistance Program by creating an eviction prevention assistance benefit for CalWORKs families, increasing the CalWORKs Temporary Homeless Assistance benefit, raising the eligibility threshold and payment level for CalWORKs Permanent Homeless Assistance, and creating a time-limited rental subsidy for certain qualified CalWORKs families. In addition, the County will sponsor or support legislation that provides State funding for initiatives to improve services and decompress the criminal justice system through the creation of judicial and non-judicial diversion programs, stabilization centers, transitional housing, and pre-release case planning and benefits re-establishment.**

5. Communicable Disease Testing Following a Physical Assault in a Courtroom

On March 14, 2005 a custody defendant attacked his defense attorney, an Alternate Public Defender, in a courtroom of the San Fernando Valley Courthouse. In a review of the incident, it became apparent that there was no avenue in existing law to order the testing of the defendant for communicable diseases other than AIDS. On July 20, 2005 the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee voted to recommend to the Board that the CAO work with Judicial Council to seek Judicial Council sponsorship of legislation to protect courtroom personnel, and any other individuals in the courtroom that are potentially exposed to communicable diseases other than AIDS. **Therefore, the County, in collaboration with the Judicial Council, will seek sponsorship of legislation to grant the Court the authority to test a defendant for communicable diseases other than AIDS following a physical assault in a courtroom.**