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January 9, 2007

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 2007-08 SESSION
(ALL DISTRICTS AFFECTED) (3 VOTES)

This letter recommends policies and proposals for the first year of the 2007-08 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 Board Offices, 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 Attachment I, 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.

ECONOMIC AND FISCAL OUTLOOK

At the beginning of calendar year 2006, California faced a structural budget deficit estimated to be in the $4 billion to $5 billion range with little prospect that the State's economic outlook would improve or that County programs would be able to escape budget reductions. In fact, the Governor's January 2006 Budget proposed substantial funding reductions in CalWORKs Programs and the continued suspension of the State-County Property Tax Administration Program for an estimated loss of $105 million. Despite a proposal to make partial repayments for deferred mandate claims and FY 2004-05 Proposition 42 transportation loans, while funding Proposition 36 at its current level, the estimated net loss to the County was approximately $26.2 million.

Between the January Budget proposal and the May Revision, the State revenue picture improved substantially to the tune of $7.5 billion over the current and budget years, according to the Department of Finance and the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO). The County's fiscal outlook also improved with the estimated impact increasing to a net gain of $163.1 million from the projected January loss of $26.2 million.

As the Governor prepares his State Budget proposals for FY 2007-08, he will confront an economic and fiscal outlook that is both similar and different from the prior January. The outlook is comparable because the State still faces a structural deficit, a shortfall estimated to exceed $5 billion according to the LAO. The perspective also is different according to the LAO because at this stage of the current economic expansion, the State should be running an operating surplus, although it is unlikely that the State will continue to experience high rates of revenue growth beyond the current year.

The LAO cautions that a sharp decline in the real estate market could slow the State's economy. Home sales and construction activity have fallen by almost 25 percent over the last year and the critical question is whether housing activity is nearing bottom or whether there is more air to be let out of the housing bubble.

The LAO's recently released **California Fiscal Outlook LAO Projections – FY 2006-07 through 2011-12** projects a $5.5 billion operating shortfall for FY 2007-08. Over the five year forecast period, the LAO anticipates that, under existing law, State budget expenditures will continue to exceed revenues absent corrective actions. In the current year, year-end reserves are expected to increase by approximately $1 billion, to $3.1 billion. This carryover could be used on a one-time basis to reduce the projected shortfall in FY 2007-08 to $2.4 billion, however, that would eliminate any reserves to help mitigate future budget shortfalls.

On the political front, the November 2006 State legislative elections were uneventful. Even with a large incoming class of new members resulting from term limits and retirements, the partisan composition of the two houses remained as it was before the election; the Democrats control the Senate, 25 to15, and the Assembly, 48 to 32.

BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Even though the State's fiscal outlook has improved over the last two years, it faces potential fiscal stress from the cost of prison overcrowding and healthcare in correctional facilities. Further pressure may result from the Governor's stated goals to eliminate the structural deficit and to make health care affordable for the State's estimated 6 million uninsured. In addition, if housing activity plummets and consumer spending does not keep the economy moving, the $5.5 billion estimated structural deficit in FY 2007-08 could deteriorate.

In this environment, there will likely be a shortage of funds for new or substantially expanded existing programs. The growth of spending for State programs in health, social services, and corrections, for example, may well exceed inflation, while education funding levels may leave little room for growth in local programs. As the economy of the State and nation is anticipated to slow over the next few years, the amount of State revenue and thus, allocations to local governments are expected to grow much slower than in FY 2005-06.

Faced with these circumstances, the County's focus will be on preservation of both State funding and its fiscal base, working primarily through the budget process. The County will continue its advocacy efforts to ensure the continued stability of its health system, funding for Proposition 36, the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act, property tax administration, adult protective services, child support services, homeless programs, state-local partnership on corrections reform, preservation of local control, and workers' compensation reform. This list may be modified based on the Governor's Proposed Budget, new Board priorities, and other proposals.

County Health System

Hospital Finance: In June 2005, the State reached an agreement with the Federal government on a new five-year Medi-Cal Hospital/Uninsured Care demonstration project waiver. This waiver affects more than $800 million of the County's annual Medi-Cal revenues. Starting in FY 2007-08, which is year three of the waiver, California will have access to an additional $180 million annually for a health care coverage initiative to expand coverage options for currently uninsured individuals. The County is eligible to apply for, and, has the potential to receive up to $54 million under the initiative. **Therefore, the**

County will work to ensure that it receives adequate funding to serve its uninsured residents. In addition, there is concern that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will apply recently enacted Federal Medicaid citizenship requirements to low-income, uninsured applicants seeking health benefits under the Hospital Financing Waiver's Coverage Initiative. **Therefore, the County will support presumptive eligibility for Medi-Cal and Healthy Family applicants awaiting verification of eligibility for disability reasons and of U.S. citizenship.**

Healthcare Reform: Newspaper accounts and Sacramento sources indicate that the reform plan will be based on the principle of "shared responsibility" among government, employers, consumers and healthcare providers, and that the State already has substantial resources which could be redirected to help pay for some of the new efforts, including Federal funding currently allocated to counties and hospitals used to help cover the uninsured. As above, advocacy efforts will focus on ensuring that the County receives adequate funding to serve its uninsured residents. **Therefore, the County will work with the State to preserve its funding, and ensure that any healthcare reform proposals are funded by the State, and accompanied by decision-making authority at the county level to ensure successful implementation.**

Trauma Funding: As part of the FY 2006-07 budget process, the Legislature appropriated $10 million for trauma care services; however, the Governor deleted the augmentation. Permanent funding of at least $25 million is necessary to sustain a system that provides care for the most critically injured patients. **Therefore, the County once again will work with a statewide coalition to secure adequate State funding for trauma care in the FY 2007-08 Budget.**

Drug Treatment

Proposition 36: State law requires first time drug offenders to be directed to treatment programs rather than to jail or to prison. Funding under the initial grant ended in FY 2005-06, and the State provided $120 million in base level funding for a program whose Statewide needs have expanded to over $200 million annually. For Los Angeles County, the amount of base funding for FY 2006-07 is $30 million. The funding necessary to fully treat all Proposition 36 clients in the County is estimated to be $46.1 million.

The State also appropriated $25 million in supplemental funds in support of Proposition 36 to be used for enhancements to the program. The County applied for these funds and received $7.9 million. This leaves the County with an estimated shortfall of $8.2 million in FY 2006-07. **Therefore, the County will seek or support proposals for full State funding for Proposition 36 programs.**

State-Local Partnership on Correctional issues

State prisons and county detention facilities are inextricably linked since all State prisoners are incarcerated in county jails at some point. Thus, it is important that the Governor and the Legislature focus on the entire corrections system to address the problem of severe overcrowding in both State and local adult and juvenile facilities and early release of criminals from jails. In addition to addressing facility needs, it is also necessary to more intensively supervise the offender population that is at risk of becoming the next wave of incarcerated individuals. The two systems should be eliminating dangerous overcrowded conditions in a uniform and consistent manner by evaluating all aspects of the corrections system.

Last year's Special Session focused on prison overcrowding as primarily a State issue. Your Board, however, recommended that the Special Session should be expanded to explore the potential benefits of a State-local partnership to enhance programs at the County level that have reduced State and local detention populations and recidivism. It adopted a number of recommendations to bring the partnership to fruition and directed the County's Sacramento advocates to pursue an expansion of the scope of issues to be considered in the Special Session. While the Special Session did not produce any legislation, pursuit of the partnership was to be added to the County's State Legislative Agenda for FY 2007-08. The recommendations are as follows:

Adult Probation Funding: The State currently provides funding for juvenile probationers through the Schiff-Cardenas Juvenile Justice Grants. Due in part to this funding, the County now sends fewer juveniles to State facilities. Comparable State funding should be directed toward adult offenders and other high risk individuals who are likely to commit future crimes. Under this concept, the County could use these funds for increased supervision, additional treatment services, and aid in the successful completion of probation. In addition, services could be provided to assist the offender to avoid subsequent criminal activities that could lead to incarceration in State or local level facilities. **Therefore, the County will seek funding for adult probation programs to reduce recidivism in the local and State criminal justice system.**

Full Funding of County Costs to House State Inmates: The County houses State inmates returning to State prison due either to a parole violation or through the commission of a new crime. The State currently reimburses the County $71.57 per day to house State inmates and our estimated revenues are $17.3 million annually. The Auditor Controller has calculated the County's actual cost to be $83.50 per day. If the State were to fund our actual cost, it would provide the County with an additional $2.9 million for a total of $20.2 million annually. **Therefore, the County will seek funding to allow it to fully recover its costs under the program.**

Funding for County Adult Detention Facilities: Additional funding for the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of County detention facilities would benefit the State and local governments by ensuring appropriate beds for each type of inmate, providing sufficient space for programs intended to assist the inmate in successfully completing probation, and avoiding further criminal activities and further incarceration at County or State facilities and early release of County inmates. **Therefore, the County will seek funding for the construction, expansion, renovation, replacement or reconstruction of County jail facilities.**

Authorization for Involuntary Electronic Monitoring: This would authorize a county experiencing jail overcrowding to involuntarily place low level offenders on electronic monitoring. It would allow for the selective retention of higher level offenders in jail and mitigate the impact of the need to provide early releases of convicted offenders from County facilities. Currently, participation in this program is voluntary. **Therefore, the County will seek authority for the involuntary placement of low level offenders on electronic monitoring.**

General Government

Property Tax Administration Program: As part of the FY 2005-06 Budget agreement, the Governor and the Legislature suspended the State-County Property Tax Administration Program (PTAP) which provided $60 million annually for counties. The two-year loss to the County was $27 million. This program was highly successful, and the revenue it generated more than recovered the costs of the program. According to the California Assessors' Association, between 1996 and 2004, the State granted counties $455 million for this program which generated an estimated $5.64 billion for the State. It is in the State's financial interest to continue the program, because the State General Fund is its largest beneficiary. **Therefore, the County will support efforts to restore State funding for this purpose, and will advocate for the funding to be permanently restored.**

Protective Activities

Adult Protective Services (APS): APS is a State-mandated program, which provides investigation, crisis intervention and short-term case management services on behalf of elders and dependent adults who are victims of physical or financial abuse, neglect, abandonment, isolation, or who are unable to protect their own interests. Funding for the APS Program has not increased despite increased reports of elder and dependent adult abuse, steadily increasing caseloads, and an elderly population that is expected to increase dramatically over the next few years. Growth in the APS caseload within a capped funding allocation has resulted in a decrease in services to abused and neglected

elders and dependent adults. **Therefore, the County will support increased State funding for the APS Program to increase investigation of reports of abuse and neglect, and to provide appropriate and comprehensive services for dependent adults, and abused and neglected elders.**

Child Support Services: The Child Support Program is a joint Federal/State effort that seeks to promote parental responsibility and family self-sufficiency and to reduce public assistance costs. In California, the program is administered by counties under State supervision. Under the recently enacted Deficit Reduction Act (DRA), the use of Federal incentive funds as a match to draw down additional Federal funds will be prohibited starting in October 2007. The new DRA requirement will result in fewer resources to establish and enforce child support orders, which would result in lower child support collections. It is estimated that the State could lose approximately $100 million in Federal matching incentive funds in FY 2007-08 when the change in law takes effect. The County's Federal Legislative Agenda contains policy urging Congress to restore the Federal incentive match. **Therefore, the County will advocate for the State to preserve funding for this program.**

Homeless Programs: Homelessness is a major problem in Los Angeles County where approximately 88,000 persons are homeless on any given night. This includes over 34,000 persons in families. According to the *2005 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count*, an estimated 221,363 persons in Los Angeles County were homeless at some point during the year.

On April 4, 2006, your Board approved $100 million in County General Funds for the County Homeless Prevention Initiative to secure adequate housing for the homeless, establish multi-disciplinary and interdepartmental stabilization centers as an alternative to the arrest of the homeless for minor offenses, a Skid Row Homeless Family Access Center to connect homeless families to services and housing, and among many other programs, a Prototype Court to handle felony cases in which the offender has co-existing and persistent mental illness or drug dependence.

A number of bills related to homelessness were introduced in the State Legislature in 2006. Many of these bills failed passage, however, legislation was enacted to prohibit hospitals from transferring homeless patients from one county to another, and to increase sentences for persons convicted of drug trafficking within 1,000 feet of a drug treatment center or homeless shelter. In addition, the Social Services Budget Trailer Bill (AB 1808) included most of the provisions in County-sponsored AB 2961 which provides enhanced benefits for CalWORKs families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. A provision that was not included would have provided time-limited rental subsidies for certain qualified CalWORKs families on permanent housing assistance for whom housing instability is a

barrier to employment. **Therefore, the County will sponsor or support legislation to enhance the CalWORKS Homeless and Housing Assistance Program to create these time-limited subsidies.**

In addition, many uninsured, mentally disabled homeless adults are eligible to receive SSI and Medi-Cal benefits but do not because of administrative barriers related to eligibility determination. One such barrier is an inability to procure the necessary medical documentation to substantiate the mental disability necessary to confirm SSI eligibility. This causes many mentally disabled homeless adults to go without critical services and benefits necessary to stabilize their lives. **Therefore, the County will sponsor or support legislation that would make transitional medical coverage available for uninsured chronically homeless adults with a mental health disability who would likely be determined disabled and qualify for SSI.**

Preservation of Local Control

Infrastructure Bonds: Of the 13 Statewide initiatives included in the November 7, 2006 General Election ballot, voters approved four initiatives which present the County with a number of significant opportunities to receive, or compete for, funding for transportation improvements (Proposition 1B), housing projects (Proposition 1C), disaster preparedness and flood prevention projects (Proposition 1E), and water quality, natural resources protection, and park improvement projects (Proposition 84). While approval of the initiatives will authorize $42.7 billion in State General Obligation bonds for the specified purposes, some of the funds will become available through the State's budget process, through competitive grants, or formula allocations. This process could potentially pit local governments and other agencies against each other for the same funds. Within counties, departments may find themselves applying for funds sought by other county departments.

The County's Infrastructure Task Force will develop a Strategic Plan pursuant to the Board's direction at the meeting of December 5, 2006. The Plan will include principles and policies which seek to maximize funding for County projects through the competititive grant process, support legislation which will ensure that the County receives its fair share of per capita grants and formula allocations, and promote coordination and cooperation among departments in the pursuit of funding. **In addition, the County will work with other counties and affected associations and interest groups in pursuit of these general principles and those developed by the Task Force, and seek flexibility over the use of funds.**

Redevelopment: The rejection of Proposition 90 by the voters in the November 2006 election is not likely to decrease legislative efforts to cope with the issue of eminent domain and redevelopment. The County will continue to support the redevelopment reforms accomplished in AB 1290, which was passed in 1993. Among its many provisions, it attempted to narrow the definition of blight, thereby reducing the authority to use eminent domain. **Therefore, the County will continue to work with the Legislature to further the reforms of AB 1290 by tightening the definitions of blight, limiting the use of eminent domain in non-blighted areas, and requiring a finding of blight for projects where an agency seeks to reinstate or extend the time limit for the use of eminent domain.**

Workers' Compensation

Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed a County-opposed workers' compensation bill, which would have increased County costs for payments to employees receiving permanent disability benefits. In addition, a second bill, which would have allowed peace officers to seek treatment for work related injuries outside of the employer approved physician network, died in the Senate. It is likely that similar bills, or variations thereof, will be introduced in 2007. **Therefore, the County will continue to support workers' compensation reforms that prevent abuses of the system and oppose legislation that weakens the workers' compensation reforms already enacted.**

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 revisions and additions to the 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 Attachment I are submitted for your Board's consideration as the guiding principles for our advocacy efforts in Sacramento during the first year of the 2007-08 Legislative Session. Attachment II provides a list of County sponsorship bills, all of which are the result of Board motions. Therefore the list is for your information only. 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:hg

Attachments

c: County Counsel
All Department Heads

ATTACHMENT I

RECOMMENDED REVISIONS TO STATE LEGISLATIVE POLICIES ADDRESSING ISSUES OF MAJOR COUNTY INTEREST

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RECOMMENDED POLICY CHANGES FOR THE 2007-08 STATE AGENDA

1. Children and Families

1.1 Child Welfare Services

8. Support funding for parenting programs aimed at teens ***and child care services for teen parents.*** (Requested by the Department of Children and Family Services)

1.2 Child Welfare Services – Foster Care

15. ***Support funding for proposals that would expand searches for relatives, provide technical assistance and training so that permanent, lifelong connections for children and youth of all ages can be achieved.*** (Requested by the Department of Children and Family Services)

16. ***Support proposals that achieve permanency for previously adopted children who have returned to the foster care system as a result of an adoption disruption or the death or incapacitation of an adoptive parent.*** (Requested by the Department of Children and Family Services)

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. ***Such efforts should also encompass goals for the development and sustainability of a professional workforce and early learning standards that build upon established foundations for early childhood education research and practice.*** (Requested by the Policy Roundtable for Child Care)

3. Support efforts to increase ~~funding, inclusive of~~ Standardized Reimbursement Rates ***and other revenue streams,*** tax credits and other incentives to provide all children, including ~~those~~ from low-***to moderate-*** income families ~~and those with special needs~~ ***with a need for child care and development services,*** universal access to sustainable, high quality early care and education services, ***inclusive of children with special needs,*** and effectively integrate new funding resources into the existing early care and education infrastructure. (Requested by the Policy Roundtable for Child Care)

4. Support efforts to increase access to integrated, high quality early care and education services that are simple for families to utilize ***and meet their needs,*** 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; ***full-day, full-year programs;*** cultural and linguistic diversity; and recognition of disabilities and other special needs. (Requested by the Policy Roundtable for Child Care)

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. (Requested by the Policy Roundtable for Child Care)

9. Support proposals that improve child care quality by promoting annual cost-of-living adjustments to child care development programs, ***adjust the State Median Income limits annually for subsidized child care, adjust the Regional Market Rate ceilings annually to more accurately reflect current market conditions,*** link reimbursement rates for subsidized child care to the quality of care, and provide funding to maintain centralized eligibility lists. (Requested by the Department of Public Social Services)

2. Environment, Natural Resources and Recreation

2.3 Environmental Protection and Open Space

8. ***Support legislation that would exempt routine maintenance and operation of existing publicly owned facilities from Regional Board permits and Streambed Alteration Agreements.*** (Requested by the Department of Public Works)

2.4 Parks

1. Support funding for acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of parks and recreation facilities and open space***, and seek additional funding for the establishment of new urban parks in the underserved areas of the County.*** (Requested by the Department of Regional Planning)

2.6 Water Supply

8. ***Support State legislation that is directed at increasing the use of recycled water within Los Angeles County.*** (Requested by the Department of Public Works)

3. General Government

3.1 Retirement, Compensation and Benefits, and Workers' Compensation

4. ~~Support balanced reform of the State workers' compensation system, including a reconsideration or temporary suspension of the benefit improvements enacted in 2002.~~ ***Support legislation that promotes the timely provision of reasonable and necessary medical care while opposing legislation that erodes the medical reforms accomplished by the 2003-04 session workers' compensation reform legislation.*** (Requested by the Chief Administrative Office Risk Management)

10. Support legislation that funds the Public Interest Attorney Loan Repayment ~~Bill (AB 935)~~ ***Program*** which assists in the recruitment of public defenders ***and prosecutors, or any other student loan repayment assistance or forgiveness legislation which benefits public defenders and prosecutors.*** (Requested by the Public Defender)

11. ***Support legislation intended to eliminate billing fraud in the workers' compensation system.*** (Requested by the Chief Administrative Office Risk Management)

3.2 Land Use Planning

3. ***Oppose legislation that imposes financial penalties on local governments for implementing zoning regulations that reduce the value of affected private properties. Such regulations may include changes of zone and the application of new development standards to private properties.*** (Requested by the Department of Regional Planning)

4. ***Oppose legislation which prohibits local governments from applying certain zoning regulations to certain categories of land uses, such as the State's requirement that local jurisdictions may not require a discretionary zoning permit for community care facilities and certain classes of child care facilities.*** (Requested by the Department of Regional Planning)

5. ***Support legislation and policy that promotes the development of housing sites near public transit hubs, promotes the development of housing in urban centers rather than suburbs to decrease sprawl, or promotes urban design that encourages safe walking routes to commercial districts and schools if financed by a mutually agreed upon funding mechanism.*** (Requested by the Department s of Public Health and Regional Planning)

6. ***Support legislation that would correct inequities in the Coastal Act which currently require that coastal county approvals of coastal development permits for uses that are not the "principal permitted use" specified for a county zone, be subject to appeals to the California Coastal Commission, but do not require the same of similarly approved coastal development approvals by coastal cities.*** (Requested by the Department of Regional Planning)

3.4 Consumer Protection

9. ***Support local governments' right to adopt local consumer protection standards and enforcement mechanisms.*** (Requested by the Department of Consumer Affairs)

3.8 Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)

2. ***Oppose legislation that requires LAFCOs to review and make recommendations on urban expansion projects in outlying areas for efficient and adequate extensions of urban level infrastructure and services.*** (Requested by the Department of Regional Planning)

3.9 Historic Preservation

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 Boddy House, ***Tesoro Adobe, Hugo Reid Adobe,*** and the William S. Hart House. (Requested by the Department of Parks and Recreation)

3.11 Library Services

7. Support continuation of the county library exemption from ***any extension of*** the negotiated local government tax shift in 2005, and oppose actions that would negate the exemption ***and/or reduce or eliminate protection of local government's property taxes.*** (Requested by the Public Librarian)

3.13 Education

7. ***Support proposals to maintain or increase State funding for arts education.*** (Requested by the Arts Commission)

8. ***Support proposals which address the accountability of school districts in developing, implementing and evaluating arts education.*** (Requested by the Arts Commission)

3.14 Public Records

3. ***Support legislation that will provide State funding for the development of County Records Management and Archival Programs.*** (Requested by the Chief Administrative Office Unincorporated Area Services and Special Projects)

4. Health

4.1 Financing of the Safety Net

11. Support proposals to provide SB 1732 funding for ~~**the LAC+USC Medical Center Replacement Project**~~ ***County health facilities*** while preserving the option to expand ~~**its**~~ ***a project's*** scope at the County's discretion. (Requested by the Department of Health Services)

15. ***Support proposals to conform State formulae for calculating individual share of costs and low-income eligibility in the Medicare Part D prescription drug program to adequate cost of living levels in Los Angeles County.*** (Requested by the HIV Commission)

4.3 Medi-Cal and Healthy Families

3. Support increased funding of Medi-Cal and Healthy Families outreach, enrollment, ***required documentation procurement,*** and retention activities. (Requested by the Department of Public Social Services)

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.~~
Support proposals to simplify and expand Medi-Cal and Healthy Families Program eligibility, such as by increasing income and asset eligibility levels and enabling more disabled persons to qualify (or alternatively, by expanding the definition of disability). (Requested by the HIV Commission)

15. ***Support proposals to expand local and statewide efforts to fund children's health coverage programs with the goal of universal health coverage for all children in the State of California.*** (Requested by the Department of Health Services)

16. ***Support proposals to allow women to utilize their full-scope no-cost Medi-Cal coverage for two years post-partum.*** (Requested by the Department of Health Services)

17. ***Support State funding for costs associated with implementation of the Deficit Reduction Act – Citizenship/Identity Verification.*** (Requested by the Department of Health Services)

18. ***Support proposals allowing Seniors and Persons with Disabilities continuance of their choice to maintain fee-for-service Medi-Cal.*** (Requested by the Department of Health Services)

19. ***Support legislation to increase the Medi-Cal Maintenance Need Income Levels to a minimum of 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).*** (Requested by the Department of Health Services)

20. ***Support proposals to align Medi-Cal reimbursement rates for providers and hospitals in medically underserved areas in Southern California with Northern California Medi-Cal reimbursement rates.*** Requested by the Department of Health Services)

4.4 Health Insurance and Coverage

4. Support enhanced access to prescription drugs, ***devices and immunizations*** for low-income uninsured persons. (Requested by the Department of Health Services)

5. ***Support measures to ensure that health care application forms are provided in languages other than English, in the primary language of the intended population served, and/or interpreters should be provided as needed.*** (Requested by the Commission on Insurance)

6. ***Support measures to reduce the time to one year in which health insurance coverage cancellation must be determined.*** (Requested by the Commission on Insurance)

7. ***Support measures which provide that health insurance coverage is established upon the date of receipt of an application or receipt of the 1st premium payment.*** (Requested by the Commission on Insurance)

8. ***Support measures which require that cancellation of health insurance coverage must be prior to any authorization of services.*** (Requested by the Commission on Insurance)

9. ***Support measures which would require the Department of Managed Health Care to review actuarial studies for any and all health insurance rate increases to ensure that the study was appropriately performed by a qualified actuarial firm.*** (Requested by the Commission on Insurance)

10. ***Support measures which require that changes to health care coverage must be made within one year unless those changes apply to everyone in the insured population or are required by law or regulation.*** (Requested by the Commission on Insurance)

11. ***Support measures that require health insurance companies to prove intentional omissions by an applicant to cancel coverage, and that require cancellations to correlate between any prior and present medical conditions for which treatment is needed.*** (Requested by the Commission on Insurance)

12. ***Support proposals to develop and implement solutions to improve health care access in medically underserved communities within the State, including proposals to provide funding and other incentives for health care providers, hospitals, and clinics to serve medically underserved areas.*** (Requested by the Department of Health Services)

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.**~~ (Requested by the Department of Public Health)

2. ~~**Support proposals to provide data collected under the HIV Diagnostic Assay Program to assist in local planning and prevention efforts.**~~ (Requested by the Department of Public Health)

4. Support proposals ***and funding for the provision of comprehensive care and treatment services for people living with HIV/AIDS, including HIV counseling, testing, and education, and promote the inclusion of these services as part of routine medical care.*** ~~that promote the inclusion of HIV counseling and prevention education as a part of routine medical care~~. (Requested by the Department of Public Health)

5. Support proposals ~~to require names-based HIV reporting,~~ and increased funding ~~for~~ ***to effectively institute*** HIV surveillance ~~to ensure the ability~~ ***by name Statewide in order*** to identify emerging areas of need, ~~and~~ craft programmatic responses***, and ensure adequate levels of federal funding.*** (Requested by the Department of Public Health)

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

6. ***Support proposals to promote HIV/AIDS policy consistent with accepted public health standards, and to upgrade and expand HIV counseling/testing, education, outreach, care and treatment in State correctional and incarceration facilities and transitional services upon release for prisoners with HIV/AIDS.*** (Requested by the Department of Public Health and the HIV Commission)

7. ***Support proposals to mitigate losses of federal funding for HIV/AIDS services with State budgetary appropriations.*** (Requested by the HIV Commission)

4.6 Public Health

1. Support measures that provide funding to strengthen the ability of the public health system to ***detect and*** respond to ~~chemical, biological, and other forms of terrorism~~ ***natural, as well as man-made disasters, including acts of terrorism***. (Requested by the Department of Public Health)

3. Support increased funding for public health activities including: ***acute communicable disease control,*** immunizations, tuberculosis, ***sexually transmitted disease control, veterinary public health and rabies control, public health laboratory,*** maternal and child health, family planning, ~~sexually transmitted diseases,~~ childhood lead poisoning prevention, injury and violence prevention, food safety, and chronic disease programs. (Requested by the Department of Public Health)

16. ***Support legislation and funding that facilitate or require health facilities, schools, private business, government, and government-funded agencies to participate in large-scale disaster preparedness exercises, especially in the area of mass care.*** (Requested by the Department of Public Health)

17. ***Support proposals that protect and improve the health of adolescents and young adults (13-24 years of age) through:***

    a) enhanced multidisciplinary collaborations among departments and agencies serving youth;

b) ***funding to enhance integration of services to adolescents, including physical and mental health, juvenile detention services, employment and training or community experiences to which the youth can be referred; and***

c) ***training for adolescent service providers on youth development, youth resiliency, cultural competency, physical and mental health, youth violence prevention, nutrition and physical fitness, and substance abuse.*** (Requested by the Department of Public Health)

19. ***Support measures that promote partnerships between community organizations and Public Health agencies to establish and enhance public awareness campaigns to encourage healthy lifestyles.*** (Requested by the Department of Public Health)

20. ***Support funding to promote and market the availability of existing resources and services within Public Health to enable timely and adequate health access.*** (Requested by the Department of Public Health)

21. ***Support proposals that would prevent youth access to tobacco products by: 1) protecting anti-preemption language specified in the Cigarette and Tobacco Licensing Act of 2003 that explicitly allows local jurisdictions to pass tobacco retail licensing laws; 2) imposing restrictions on internet sale of tobacco products; and 3) restricting the sampling of tobacco products in bars and public events.*** (Requested by the Department of Public Health)

22. ***Support proposals that would reduce exposure to secondhand smoke (SHS) including: 1) reducing involuntary exposure to SHS in outdoor areas; 2) reducing involuntary exposure to SHS in multi unit housing complexes; 3) protecting children from involuntary exposure to SHS while riding in cars; and 4) designating SHS as a public nuisance.*** (Requested by the Department of Public Health)

23. ***Support proposals to increase tobacco cessation services including mandating cessation services be covered as part of employee health benefits.*** (Requested by the Department of Public Health)

24. ***Support the development and implementation of programs which would provide incentives to improve the health of the workforce, including but not limited to facilitating strategies for increased physical activity and healthier eating.*** (Requested by the Department of Public Health)

4.7 Alcohol and Drug

2. Support proposals for ***increased*** funding ***from Medi-Cal, Healthy Families Program, and other funding sources*** to enhance the alcohol and drug services system of care ~~for adolescents~~ ***including youth in the juvenile justice system and youth transitioning out of foster care,*** to address the growing problems associated with adolescent alcohol and drug use. (Requested by the Department of Public Health)

4. Support ***proposals that provide*** funding for health, mental health, homeless assistance, ***child welfare services,*** social services, ***as well as adult and juvenile*** criminal justice programs that provide or make accessible substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery services as part of its continuum of services. (Requested by the Department of Public Health)

6. ***Support proposals that provide funding to increase the availability of education programs to prevent Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, a spectrum of irreversible birth defects caused when a woman drinks alcohol during pregnancy.*** (Requested by the Department of Public Health)

4.8 Health Education and Training

2. Support enhanced funding for nursing education and training slots at public universities and teaching hospitals, as well as recruitment and retention of nurses, ***physicians, and allied health professionals to work in*** medically underserved areas. (Requested by the Department of Health Services)

6. ***Support proposals to expand healthcare workforce development funding for nursing student education.*** (Requested by the Department of Health Services)

7. ***Support proposals that fund training to enhance the competency of the Health Education workforce.*** (Requested by the Department of Health Services)

4.9 Women's Health

2. Support proposals that expand access to ***and provide funding for a full range of*** prevention and treatment services for all women, ~~by~~ ***including*** removing barriers to access, expanding payors, and improving outreach and education. (Requested by the Department of Public Health)

3. Support measures to increase the availability of ***and funding for*** prevention, ***diagnostic*** and treatment services for women affected by cardiovascular, cancer, osteoporosis and other chronic disease. (Requested by the Department of Public Health)

5. Housing and Community Development

17. ***Support legislation that continues the requirement for landlords to provide tenants that are on assisted programs with a 90-day notice to move in order to allow sufficient time to complete the process.*** (Requested by the Community Development Commission)

6. Justice and Public Safety

6.1 General

12. ***Oppose legislation that would limit the court assistance program authority of non-profit agencies that administer and monitor traffic violator schools on behalf of the Superior Court.*** (Requested by the Community Development Commission)

6.2 Proposition 36

3. Support ~~adequate~~ ***permanent and full*** State funding for Proposition 36 ***(i.e. Substance Abuse Treatment Trust Fund*** and ensure funding allocations meet caseload growth. (Requested by the Department of Public Health)

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~~. ~~with the following restrictions on~~ ***if such jail-based treatment programs are part of an overall system of graduated, short-term therapeutic sanctions supervised by the Courts and provided in a dedicated treatment unit of a county jail.*** (Requested by the Public Defender and the Department of Public Health)

7. ***Support additional funding for the Substance Abuse Offender Treatment Program to enable counties to improve their Proposition 36 treatment outcomes.*** (Requested by the Department of Public Health)

6.3 Trial Court Funding

4. Support measures that promote the ~~efficiency and fiscal neutrality of the~~ ***transfer*** of trial court facilities to the State ***in an efficient and fiscally neutral manner.*** (Requested by the Chief Administrative Office Asset Management)

6.8 Probation

10. Support legislation to authorize government agencies to exchange information regarding probationers to the full extent authorized by Federal law***, while ensuring adequate due process protections.*** (Requested by the Public Defender)

6.9 Anti-Terrorism

11. Support legislation to fund the creation and dissemination of emergency, health or criminal history information, ***while ensuring adequate due process protections***. (Requested by the Public Defender)

9. Revenue and Taxation

21. ***Oppose legislation that would give redevelopment agencies, cities and other public agencies that receive property tax revenues standing as third-party participants in assessment appeal proceedings relating to properties that are located in the agencies' jurisdiction or legislation that would require the clerk of the board to send notice of hearing to third-parties.*** (Requested by the Executive Office)

22. ***Oppose measures that jeopardize local revenues resulting from the provision of voice (telephone), video (cable) and data (internet) services.*** (Requested by the Department of Consumer Affairs)

10. Social Services

10.1 Reforming the Safety Net and Promoting Self-Sufficiency

2. Oppose proposals ~~what~~ ***which*** would reduce available Federal matching funds for health and human service programs by capping State General Fund contributions. (Requested by the Department of Public Social Services)

10.2 CalWORKs

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~~ ***reliable*** transportation. (Requested by the Department of Public Social Services)

8. Support the use of TANF funds to provide employment-related and support***ive*** services to non-custodial parents of children receiving TANF benefits, as permitted under Federal law. (Requested by the Department of Public Social Services)

12. Support proposals that reduce barriers and increase the participation of pregnant or parenting teens in the ~~CalLEARN~~ ***Cal-Learn*** Program. (Requested by the Department of Public Social Services)

10.7 In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

2. Support proposals ~~that strengthen the quality of care and/or integrity of the IHSS Program~~ ***to ensure the delivery of all eligible services, quality of care, the health and safety of IHSS consumers, and the integrity of the IHSS Program.*** (Requested by the Department of Public Social Services)

10.8 Senior and Adult Services

1. Support increased funding for ~~a~~***A***dult ~~p~~***P***rotective ~~s~~***S***ervices ***(APS) Programs*** to enable counties to ensure the safety and protection of abused and neglected elders and dependent adults ***and to meet new State mandates to the program and associated increases in APS client caseloads.*** (Requested by the Department of Community and Senior Services)

11. State-County Relationship

10. ***Oppose legislation that would constitute State unfunded land use and general plan-related mandates on local governments.*** (Requested by the Department of Regional Planning

12. Transportation

5. Support an increase in grade separation funds if regional transit programs are not harmed and the funding received by the ***County of Los Angeles*** Department of Public Works from ~~the California Department of Transportation or from~~ gas tax revenues is not reduced ***and the project funding received from the State Transportation Improvement Program is not significantly reduced.*** (Requested by the Department of Public Works)

8. Support the protection of ~~Transportation Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) funds, and oppose the diversion of TCRP funds from critical transportation projects~~ ***revenues received from the sales taxes on gasoline under Proposition 42 to ensure that these funds are used to fund transportation improvements.*** (Requested by the Department of Public Works)

13. Utilities and Infrastructure

13.3 Telephone Services/***Telecommunications***

3. ***Support measures that promote universal access to telecommunication services including voice, video, data, and the Internet.*** (Requested by the Department of Consumer Affairs)

4. ***Oppose measures that restrict local control over the public rights-of-way.*** (Requested by the Department of Consumer Affairs)

5. ***Oppose measures restricting local authority over emergency alert communications systems.*** (Requested by the Department of Consumer Affairs)

6. ***Support measures that provide local governments with no-cost access to media to distribute information to residents by such methods as Public, Educational, and Government access channels.*** (Requested by the Department of Consumer Affairs)

2007-08 PROPOSALS FOR COUNTY-SPONSORSHIP

Child Care Fraud

- On March 21, 2006, the Board took action to support SB 1421 (Margett), which was sponsored by Supervisor Knabe, to establish a two-year pilot in Los Angeles County to identify, investigate, and prosecute suspected cases of fraud in Stage 2 and Stage 3 CalWORKs Child Care Programs. The Board subsequently took action on July 5, 2007 instructing the Chief Administrative Officer to develop a legislative proposal for the 2007 State Legislative session to implement an effective system to prevent and detect fraud in the Stage 2 and Stage 3 CalWORKs Child Care Programs. On November 14, 2006 the Board directed the County's Sacramento Advocates to expand legislative efforts to include seeking enhancement of enhanced quality control and fraud mitigation measures for these programs through the State Budget process. **Therefore, the County will sponsor or support legislation and funding to enact child care fraud measures in the Stage 2 and Stage 3 CalWORKs Child Care Programs**.

Electronic Monitoring

- On August 1, 2006, the Board instructed the Chief Administrative Office and County Counsel to draft Legislation to amend State law to allow for the courts, the Sheriff and the Probation Department to mandate an electronic monitoring sentence, while also keeping the voluntary provision in place, and instruct the County's Legislative Advocates in Sacramento to seek an author for the bill. **Therefore, the County will sponsor legislation to implement electronic monitoring sentencing.**

Sex Offenders

- On September 5, 2006, the Board instructed the Chief Administrative Office to explore legislation prohibiting sex offenders from entering public libraries.

  A working group convened by the CAO including the County Librarian and staff from the District Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff, and County Counsel found that SB 1128 (Alquist), urgency legislation which was signed by the Governor on September 20, 2006, is likely to have a significant impact on preventing sex offenders from having contact with young children in libraries. SB 1128 provides that any registered sex offender who remains in a public place where children normally congregate after being asked to leave by a city police officer or deputy sheriff, among others, or returns within 72 hours after being asked to leave, would be punished by a fine up to $2,000, by imprisonment in county jail for up to six months, or by both that fine and imprisonment. The working group determined that it would be appropriate to fully implement this new law in County libraries and assess its effectiveness prior to recommending that the County seek additional legislation. The County Librarian is working with County Counsel and the Sheriff's staff to draft policies, procedures and training materials to train appropriate staff.

Therefore, the County will wait until SB 1128 is implemented locally and assess the effectiveness of the new law before sponsoring legislation.

Prescribing and Distributing Naloxone

- On September 12, 2006, the Board instructed the County's Legislative Advocates in Sacramento to seek State legislation that would limit the civil and criminal liability involved in prescribing and distributing Naloxone for all parties involved in any expansion of the pilot drug overdose prevention and Naloxone distribution project in Los Angeles County. **Therefore, the County will sponsor legislation to accomplish this goal.**

Mandatory Retirement Age for Law Enforcement Personnel

- On November 14, 2006, the Board instructed the Chief Administrative Officer to seek legislation that will lift the mandatory retirement age for Sheriff's employees hired prior to April 1997, similar to those hired after April 1997. **Therefore, the County will sponsor legislation to lift the mandatory retirement age for Sheriff's employees hired prior to April 1997.**

Military Personnel Voting

- On November 14, 2006, the Board instructed County Counsel, Registrar-Recorder/County-Clerk and the Director of Military and Veterans Affairs to develop legislative language that will allow those serving in the military, who are called to active duty in the United States on short notice, to be able to cast an absentee/provisional/or faxed ballot allowing those voters to be made part of the official canvass, and identify a sponsor for this legislation. **Therefore, the County will sponsor legislation to accomplish this goal.**

State Street Sign Requirements

- On December 5, 2006, the Board instructed the County's Legislative Advocates in Sacramento to seek legislation to allow Los Angeles County to use County Street Name Signs on State highways, as long as they do not violate mandatory compliance conditions; and to further investigate if other cities or counties throughout the State would also benefit from such legislation and would want to join in supporting such an effort. **Therefore, the County will sponsor legislation to allow the use of County Street Name Signs on State highways.**