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January 26, 2015

To: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
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From: Sachi A. Hamai
Interim Chief Executive Officer

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK AND PRIORITIES FOR 2015

This memorandum is to provide the Board with the Federal legislative outlook for 2015, which is the first year of the 114th Session of Congress. It also outlines the County's major priorities that will be pursued based on this outlook and their significance to the County, consistent with the attached Board-adopted Federal Legislative Agenda, unless otherwise instructed by the Board.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK

The Federal legislative outlook for 2015 is similar to recent years when divided government and deep partisan differences resulted in the enactment of few bills that significantly affect the County other than "must-sign" budget-related bills and extensions of expiring authorizations or funding. However, in 2015, there also will be a greater risk of spending cuts which could affect the County, as discussed in greater detail below.

Fewer public laws were enacted in the previous two sessions of Congress than in any other session since World War II. It even was difficult for Congress to pass "must-sign" budget-related legislation, such as Federal debt limit increases and a Continuing Resolution to avert a government shutdown. The biggest difference in the 114th Congress is that Republicans have gained control of both houses -- 54 of 100 senators and 246 of 434 representatives (one vacancy). However, there still is a divided government with President Obama, a Democrat, heading the Executive Branch. With Republicans controlling both houses, more bills are likely to be sent to the President -- and also vetoed by the President. Reducing the Federal budget deficit by reducing mandatory (entitlement) spending will be high on the agenda for

Congressional Republicans, which could use budget reconciliation legislation to cut such spending, as discussed later in this memo.

Below is a discussion of major legislative issues of County interest that Congress will address in 2015.

Major Legislative Issues of County Interest

Appropriations: Congress must enact appropriations for discretionary programs and activities for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2016, which begins on October 1, 2015. However, it first must finalize FFY 2015 appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which administers state and local grants, such as the Urban Area Security Initiative and State Homeland Security Grants, emergency management, and firefighting grants through which the County receives funding. Before adjourning last month, the 113th Congress provided full-year funding for all Federal discretionary programs and activities except for DHS, which was temporarily funded through February 27, 2015.

Republicans did not support full-year funding for DHS because they want to use the FFY 2015 DHS appropriations bill as a legislative vehicle for blocking the President's executive actions on immigration, which include providing many undocumented immigrants with administrative relief from deportation. The immigration issue will be the first test this year of the extent to which policy riders will be included in appropriations bills which could prompt a Presidential veto and whether the President will veto appropriations bills with riders he opposes. Annual appropriations bills are legislative vehicles for the Republican-controlled Congress to block or curb the President's executive actions, including regulatory actions.

Under current law, the overall discretionary spending cap for FFY 2016 is expected to be slightly higher than in FFY 2015. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that the non-defense spending cap will increase from approximately $492.4 billion to $493.0 billion while the defense spending cap will increase from about $521.3 billion to $523.1 billion. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 provided relief from across-the-board "sequestration" spending cuts to enforce spending caps in FFYs 2014 and 2015, but discretionary programs could be subject to sequestration cuts in FFY 2016.

Similar to the past two years, we expect that the vast majority of discretionary programs through which the County receives funding will be funded in FFY 2016 at or near their prior year levels. However, there is a greater risk of such programs being funded slightly below their prior year levels. This is because there is a risk of funding being shifted from non-defense to defense programs to mitigate

potential defense sequestration cuts without increasing the budget deficit. It also is all but certain that all FFY 2016 appropriations will not be finalized until December 2015 at the earliest. Since FFY 2000, annual appropriations have not been finalized before the month of December – two months after the start of the Federal fiscal year.

Budget Resolution/Reconciliation: There is a greater risk of spending reductions in mandatory (entitlement) programs, such as Medicaid, being enacted in 2015 than last year. This is because it is expected that the Republican-controlled Congress will approve an FFY 2016 budget resolution which includes budget reconciliation instructions to significantly reduce mandatory (entitlement) spending. This is important because budget reconciliation legislation cannot be filibustered on the Senate floor, and, therefore, requires a simple majority rather than a 60-vote majority to pass the Senate. The budget resolution also could call for alternatives to sequestration. A budget resolution requires joint approval by both houses of Congress, but not the President's signature.

Congress has not approved a budget resolution since 2009 when the Senate was able to pass the Affordable Care Act (ACA) as a budget reconciliation bill on a 56 to 43 vote without Republican support. House Budget Committee Chairman Tom Price (R-GA) has said that he plans to draft a budget resolution which will significantly reduce the Federal budget deficit and build on past budget resolutions, crafted by former House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI). The Ryan budget plans would have repealed the ACA and converted Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which currently are open-ended entitlements, into state block grants funded at significantly lower levels. Budget reconciliation legislation could be used as a vehicle for repealing the ACA's mandatory spending and revenue provisions, reducing or reforming entitlement programs, such as Medicaid, or changing tax laws.

Congressional Republicans also could use a budget reconciliation bill as the vehicle for increasing the Federal debt limit in order to place greater pressure on the President to sign a bill, which he otherwise would veto. Budget reconciliation bills historically have been used to reduce the Federal budget deficit and increase the debt limit, especially during the 1990s. For example, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 was a budget reconciliation bill which increased the Federal debt limit and also included language to significantly reduce Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funding and create the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Affordable Care Act: Since 2011, the Republican-controlled House has passed numerous bills to repeal all or part of the ACA, and such legislation will be considered again this year. President Obama would veto any bill which would repeal the entire ACA or gut its key elements, but some ACA provisions affecting the County already

have been amended and could be amended again this year. For example, in past years, the County-supported Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF) was cut, and ACA's annual Medicaid DSH cuts, which originally were due to end FFY 2020, were extended as "pay-go" offsets to help finance the cost of averting scheduled Medicare physician payment cuts. In February 2012, the PPHF was reduced by $6.25 billion over ten years. Three laws have been enacted to extend ACA's annual Medicaid DSH cuts, which now will end in FFY 2023. Last year, Congress postponed the effective date of Medicare physician payment cuts until after March 31, 2015. This year, Congress again will consider proposals to reduce Medicaid DSH payments and other mandatory spending to help finance a Medicare "doc fix."

Medicaid: Medicaid, by far, is the County's single largest and most important source of Federal revenue, which alone accounts for over half of the County's total Federal revenue. It is the primary financing source for health, mental health, and In-Home Supportive Services, provided or administered by the County, and importantly reimburses major costs which otherwise must be financed by the County. Medicaid also is a growing source of Federal revenue largely because of the ACA's Medicaid expansions and because it is an open-ended entitlement through which the Federal government reimburses eligible non-Federal costs on an uncapped matching basis without requiring the enactment of additional appropriations.

Medicaid will be a target for spending cuts because it is the largest Federal mandatory spending program after Social Security and Medicare, which also have more bipartisan support than Medicaid. There is strong support among Republicans for significantly reducing Medicaid spending by either repealing the ACA's Medicaid expansions, converting Medicaid into a block grant, or imposing per capita caps on Medicaid payments. The President most likely would veto such major Medicaid spending cuts.

Medicaid also could be targeted for smaller spending cuts that are more politically viable to help finance increases in other mandatory spending, such as financing a Medicare "doc fix." Examples of smaller spending cuts, which previously have received bipartisan support, include one-year extensions of expiring ACA Medicaid DSH cuts and restrictions on the use of provider taxes, certified public expenditures (CPEs), and intergovernmental transfers (IGTs) to finance the non-Federal share of Medicaid costs. Restricting the use of CPEs, IGTs, and provider taxes would hurt the County because they are important tools for financing higher Medicaid payments to County hospitals and other health providers at no cost to the State General Fund.

Human Service Entitlements: The County receives most of its non-Medicaid Federal revenue through human services entitlement programs -- most notably, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance,

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Child Support Enforcement programs. The County alone receives more Federal TANF and IV-E funding than any state besides California and New York.

Budget reconciliation could be the legislative vehicle for reforming any of these four entitlement programs or reducing their spending. In recent years, SNAP is the only one of these programs for which major spending cuts have been proposed. It also is a far larger program than the others. In FFY 2013, Federal SNAP expenditures totaled about $82 billion, compared to roughly $17 billion for TANF, nearly $7 billion for Title IV-E, and about $4 billion for child support.

It is possible that Congress will consider child welfare financing reform for the first time in many years. The biggest obstacles to such reform is that Congress is not likely to pass reform legislation which increases the Federal budget deficit, and there is a lack of agreement on how to reform child welfare financing without increasing the deficit. It is difficult, if not impossible, to craft a budget-neutral child welfare reform bill which neither includes unpopular offsetting spending cuts, spending caps, nor results in financial "winners" and "losers" among states. California and the County are more at-risk of losing Federal funding in a budget-neutral reform bill because the State alone receives approximately 27 percent of total Federal foster care funding, and the County receives about 10 percent of total funding.

Reauthorization of Expiring or Expired Programs: Multi-year reauthorization bills historically have been the legislative vehicle for making changes to existing programs. However, it has become increasingly rare for discretionary programs to be reauthorized because of Congressional gridlock and because programs routinely are funded in annual appropriations bills after their authorization had expired. Most of the discretionary programs through which the County receives funding, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, Ryan White HIV/AIDS, and Older Americans Act programs, have expired authorizations and are not likely to be reauthorized this year. It is noteworthy that, in FFY 2014, a total of $302 billion was appropriated for hundreds of programs with expired authorizations, many of which expired many years ago. For example, the authorization of appropriations for CDBG expired in FFY 1994.

Mandatory spending programs with time-limited authorizations must be reauthorized in order for their funding to continue. The authorization for surface transportation ("MAP-21") and TANF will expire this year. While it is certain that Congress will extend funding for these programs, it is far from certain that multi-year reauthorization legislation will be enacted. Since the last multi-year surface transportation reauthorization expired in 2009, Congress has kept funding for highways, bridges, mass transit and other surface

transportation programs flowing through a series of short-term extensions. The latest extension will expire on May 31, 2015. The main stumbling block to reauthorizing surface transportation programs has been the lack of agreement of how to provide sufficient revenue for the Highway Trust Fund (HTF), which is the primary source of funding for surface transportation programs. Federal fuel excise tax revenue, which finances the HTF, has been steadily falling due to improved vehicle fuel efficiency, and is projected to decline even further. Last year, the CBO estimated that the falling fuel tax revenue will result in a HTF funding shortfall of $90 billion over the next six years.

Since TANF was established in 1996, a multi-year TANF reauthorization bill has been enacted only once in 2005 when TANF was reauthorized through 2010. Congress subsequently has extended the program through a series of short-term extensions -- most recently through September 30, 2015. It is widely expected that another short-term TANF extension will be enacted this year since there has not been strong support for the enactment of a multi-year TANF reauthorization bill.

Taxes: Tax legislation also is certain to be addressed by Congress because there are numerous popular tax breaks which either expired at the end of 2014 or will expire at the end of 2015. Such tax breaks often are extended one year at a time because the estimated revenue loss over ten years would be far greater if they were permanently extended. Federal "pay-go" budget rules which require legislation with mandatory spending increases or revenue losses to have a corresponding amount or spending decreases or revenue increases are "scored" over a ten-year period.

Congress also might take up major tax reform this year. If so, tax breaks which are important to state and local governments could be targeted for elimination or reduction to help offset the impact of other tax changes, such as lowering marginal tax rates for individuals or corporations. The most valuable tax breaks for California and its local governments are the deductibility of state and local property and income taxes and tax-exempt interest on state and local bonds. In August 2014, the Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation estimated that tax expenditures (i.e., Federal revenue losses) from the deductibility of state and local taxes will total nearly $500 billion in 2014 through 2018, including $182.1 billion from the deductibility of real property taxes. It is estimated that tax expenditures on tax-exempt interest on state and local bonds would total $215 billion during the same 5-year time period.

Other Issues: As noted earlier, Congressional activity this year will focus on budget-related matters, and few bills are likely to be enacted that significantly affect the County other than "must-sign" budget-related bills and extensions of expiring mandatory spending programs, such as TANF.

Two other major issues of County interest which Congress will address this year include immigration and child sex trafficking. As in recent years, it is extremely unlikely that immigration legislation will be enacted this year. This is largely because Congressional Democrats and the President both insist on comprehensive immigration reform which includes a path to citizenship for most undocumented immigrants, but Congressional Republicans strongly oppose legalizing the status of undocumented immigrants and do not plan to move any comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

However, there is broad bipartisan support for combatting the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), so it is far more likely that Congress will enact CSEC legislation. Numerous child sex trafficking bills were introduced last year of which one bill was enacted -- the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (H.R. 4980), which included language to prevent, identify, and combat sex trafficking of youth in the child welfare system. Most of the other CSEC bills focused more on Federal efforts to address child sex trafficking more than on state and local efforts to combat child sex trafficking or help its victims. Congress, however, nearly tripled the appropriation for funding for trafficking victim services administered by the Department of Justice from $14.25 million in FFY 2014 to $42.25 million in FFY 2015.

COUNTY'S FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Unless otherwise instructed by the Board, the County's overarching Federal legislative priority this year will be to protect the County against the loss of Federal revenue or increased costs, which could result from proposals to reduce the Federal deficit or to finance increased spending in one program by reducing spending in other programs of greater benefit to the County. This overall priority is the same as in recent years when the risk of budget cuts adversely affecting the County also far exceeded the potential for funding increases. It also is consistent with overall principles and policies in the County's Federal Legislative Agenda, which is attached, to maximize Federal revenues and oppose proposals which would finance increased spending for one program by cutting other programs of greater benefit to the County, or which would result in a net revenue loss or a cost shift to the County.

In pursuing the County's overarching priority of preserving our Federal revenue, the top Federal budget priorities will be to protect the County against cuts in mandatory spending programs, which account for the vast majority of the County's overall Federal revenue. The single biggest priority will be protecting Medicaid, which alone accounts for over half of our total Federal revenue. As explained in greater detail in the legislative outlook section, Medicaid -- including the ACA's Medicaid expansions -- is likely to be targeted for major spending cuts in budget reconciliation legislation this year.

Other budget related priorities for the County will include:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which funds CalFresh in California, and also is likely to be targeted for major budget reconciliation cuts;

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), which funds CalWORKs in California, and which will expire on September 30, 2015 under current law;

- Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, which could be significantly changed if Congress considers child welfare financing reform this year;

- Surface transportation programs financed by the Highway Trust Fund, which has a major revenue shortfall, and which will expire on May 31, 2015 under current law;

- Appropriations for discretionary programs through which the County receives funding, especially programs which are major sources of revenue, such as the Section 8 and Public Housing programs, Ryan White HIV/AIDS Emergency Assistance, and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (formerly Workforce Investment Act) programs, or programs which are more vulnerable to spending cuts, such as the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program; and

- Tax deductibility of state and local taxes (especially property taxes) and tax-exempt interest on state and local bonds, which could be targeted for elimination or restrictions if Congress considers tax reform this year.

As noted earlier, few bills which significantly affect the County are likely to be enacted this year other than budget-related bills and extensions of expiring mandatory spending programs, such as TANF, but legislation to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) could be enacted because there is broad bipartisan support for such legislation. Similar to last year, legislation to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) will be a County priority; including the pursuit of Federal funding for County efforts to combat CSEC and assist its victims.

All of these afore-mentioned Federal priorities are consistent with existing policies in the County's Federal Legislative Agenda or separately adopted by the Board as in the case of CSEC-related policies adopted within the past two years. These existing Board policies are sufficient to enable the County's Washington, D.C. advocates to take positions on Federal legislative issues affecting the County this year, based on a joint review of the existing Federal Agenda by County departments and this office to determine whether any revisions should be recommended to the Board for approval.

The Federal Agenda contains overall Federal principles and policies, which were adopted by the Board to replace the need for repetitive, similarly worded policies covering each of the many Federal issues and programs which affect or might affect the County in the future. These overall principles and policies, which are copied below, have enabled the County's staff and Washington, D.C. advocates to respond quickly to new proposals and issues which may arise with little or no advance notice:

The overall principles are to maximize Federal revenues; increase flexibility for the County; and lessen the impact of adverse Federal policies on County costs and decision-making authority.

The overall policies are to:

- Support proposals which would provide a greater share of total available Federal funding to the County or California, and oppose proposals which would reduce the County's or State's share of total funding.
- Support proposals which would provide local governments with greater decision-making authority over the use of Federal funds, and which provide for direct grants or mandatory pass-through allocations to large urban counties.
- Oppose proposals which would impose new unfunded mandates on the County.
- Oppose proposals which would finance increased spending for one program by cutting other programs of greater benefit to the County, or which would result in a net revenue loss or a cost shift to the County.
- Support proposals to reduce or relax match requirements which hinder the ability of financially distressed state and local governments to receive or utilize Federal funds.
- Support Federal fiscal relief for financially distressed state and local governments.
- Oppose Federal preemption of State and local government authority.

For example, the overall principle to maximize Federal revenue eliminated the need for separate policies supporting increased funding for the County in numerous existing or potential future programs and for policies which specify how revenue would be maximized. The overall policy to oppose proposals which would finance increased spending for one program by cutting other programs of greater benefit to the County, or which would result in a net revenue loss or a cost shift to the County is especially important under current Federal budget rules which essentially makes the Federal budget a "zero-sum" game in which spending increases must be offset by a corresponding

amount of cuts. Based on this policy, the County's advocates can oppose an amendment to reduce funding for a program through which the County annually receives funding, such as SCAAP, to finance an increase for another program through which the County does not receive any funding.

In addition to the overall principles and policies, the Federal Agenda includes more specific policies addressing major programs and issues of County interest, such as appropriations, health, TANF, employment and training, transportation, immigration, and housing. These more specific legislative policies allowed the County to pursue positions on provisions in health care reform legislation which greatly benefit the County and to oppose legislation which would repeal the ACA. For example, based on policies to support proposals which would expand Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and health insurance coverage to more persons, the County supported the ACA's expansion of Medicaid and other health insurance coverage, and also have opposed and also will continue to seek to preserve the ACA, especially its provisions which expanded Medicaid and other health insurance coverage.

Examples of other positions which the County will continue to pursue on Federal issues, consistent with existing policies in the Federal Agenda include:

- The County will oppose proposals to convert the open-ended Medicaid entitlement into a state block grant or to impose per capita caps which would significantly reduce Federal Medicaid funding, based on policies to support maintaining Medicaid as an open-ended entitlement and to oppose proposals which would increase the County's unreimbursed costs of providing and administering health care services, such as proposals which would reduce the level of Medicaid payments.

- The County also will continue to support maintaining SNAP as an open-ended entitlement and oppose cuts in SNAP eligibility or benefits, consistent with existing policies, such as policies to maintain SNAP as an open-ended entitlement and to oppose proposals which would decrease the number of indigent County residents who are eligible for Federal-funded assistance.

- The County will oppose proposals to eliminate the Federal tax deductibility of state and local income and property taxes and Federal tax-exempt interest on state and local bonds, based on existing policies to support preservation of the Federal tax deductibility of state and local income and property taxes and the Federal tax-exempt status of state and local bonds.

As with State legislative policies and positions, advocacy will continue on all previously Board-adopted Federal legislative policies and positions which will remain in effect. This office also will ensure that new positions which will be pursued on Federal legislation will be communicated to the Board offices to provide the opportunity for input prior to initial advocacy. If new or revised Board policies are needed for the County to pursue positions on emerging legislative issues, this office and other affected County departments will work with the Board to develop such policies for Board approval.

We will continue to keep you advised.

SAH:RA
MR:MT:gl

Attachment

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist

ATTACHMENT

County of Los Angeles

FEDERAL AGENDA

The Federal Agenda contains principles and policies that serve as the basis for the development and advocacy of positions on Federal legislative, administrative, and budget issues. This document consists of overall principles and policies applicable to all Federal issues, funding priorities in Federal appropriations bills, and more specific policies addressing Federal issues of major County interest.

I. OVERALL FEDERAL PRINCIPLES

1. Maximize Federal revenues.

2. Increase flexibility for the County.

3. Lessen the impact of adverse Federal policies on County costs and decision-making authority.

II. OVERALL FEDERAL POLICIES

1. Support proposals which would provide a greater share of total available Federal funding to the County or California, and oppose proposals which would reduce the County's or State's share of total funding.

2. Support proposals which would provide local governments with greater decision-making authority over the use of Federal funds, and which provide for direct grants or mandatory pass-through allocations to large urban counties.

3. Oppose proposals which would impose new unfunded mandates on the County.

4. Oppose proposals which would finance increased spending for one program by cutting other programs of greater benefit to the County, or which would result in a net revenue loss or a cost shift to the County.

5. Support proposals to reduce or relax match requirements which hinder the ability of financially distressed state and local governments to receive or utilize Federal funds.

6. Support Federal fiscal relief for financially distressed state and local governments.

7. Oppose Federal preemption of State and local government authority.

III. COUNTY FUNDING PRIORITIES IN APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

The County's funding priorities in individual appropriations bills are outlined below. Within each appropriations bill, priority is given to pursuing funding for programs which provide the County with a greater share of total funding and flexibility over the use of funds, or which are more at-risk of being significantly cut. These priorities do not include health and welfare entitlement programs, such as Medicaid, for which funding levels are not set through annual appropriations bills. Board policies on Medicaid and other entitlement programs are included in the section, entitled "IV. Federal Legislative Policies Addressing Issues of Major County Interest."

1. Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill

a. Reimbursement of Criminal Alien Costs: Support increased funding to reimburse the County's criminal justice costs associated with criminal aliens, including increased funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program.

b. County Justice/Law Enforcement Activities: Support increased funding for justice and law enforcement activities, such as the Justice Assistance Grant, anti-child sex trafficking, anti-gang, technology improvements, prosecutions, prevention, forensic science, student loan repayment for prosecutors and public defenders, and activities addressing special populations, such as juveniles, mentally ill, and homeless persons.

2. Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill

a. Ryan White HIV/AIDS Programs: Support increased funding of Ryan White HIV/AIDS programs.

b. Public Health Funding: Support increased funding for public health activities, such as bioterrorism, early detection surveillance, immunizations, tuberculosis, maternal and child health, family planning, sexually transmitted disease, childhood lead poisoning, violence and injury prevention programs, food safety, and chronic disease programs.

c. Other Health Funding: Support Federal reimbursement of the costs of emergency medical care provided to undocumented immigrants and funding for emergency preparedness and response, trauma care, and other health services.

d. Substance Abuse and Mental Health: Support increased funding for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grants, including substance abuse and mental health block grants, the Children's Mental Health Services Program, and other substance abuse, mental health, and supportive services and training grants.

e. Social Services Block Grant: Support increased funding for this block grant, which provides states with considerable flexibility over the use of funds.

f. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Programs: Support full funding of WIOA programs and other employment and training programs.

g. Older Americans Act Programs: Support increased funding for Older Americans Act programs.

h. Refugee Assistance: Support increased funding to provide cash and medical assistance, employment services, and other supportive services to refugees.

i. Community Services Block Grant (CSBG): Support increased funding for CSBG, which provides assistance to states, localities, and community-based organizations to reduce poverty, revitalize low income communities, and assist low income persons.

3. Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill

a. Water Quality and Reliability: Support funding for the improvement of water quality and reliability, including grants for projects that would expand the use of recycled water, and for the protection of water supplies against terrorist acts.

b. Marina del Rey: Support funding for the development and implementation of long-term solutions for shoaling problems, including the safe disposal of contaminated sediment and construction of improvements in Ballona Creek and the entrance of Marina del Rey.

c. Beach Erosion/Replenishment: Support funding for developing and implementing coastal management plans, including beach stabilization and replenishment projects.

4. Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill

a. Transportation Projects: Support funding for projects to build, improve, repair, and maintain highways and other transportation infrastructure in Los Angeles County.

b. Airport and Seaport Security: Support increased and multi-year funding to improve security at airports, seaports, and harbors in Los Angeles County, including funding for Coast Guard operations to protect coastal areas of the County.

c. Environmental Improvements: Support funding for initiatives to protect and enhance communities through projects promoting public safety and environmental improvements.

d. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME, Section 108 Loan Guarantees, and Homeless Assistance: Support increased funding for CDBG, HOME, Section 108 Loan Guarantee, and homeless assistance grants, and oppose efforts to increase set asides.

e. Public and Assisted Housing: Support increased funding for public housing and Section 8 programs, including rental assistance, and the public housing operating and capital funds.

5.. Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill

a. Land and Water Conservation Fund: Support full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund as well as funding for improvements in the Santa Monica Mountains, parks, environmental restoration of coastal watersheds and wetlands, and beach projects in Los Angeles County.

b. Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) Program: Support increased funding for park and open space acquisition and development under the UPARR.

6. Homeland Security Appropriations Bill

a. Homeland Security Activities: Support increased funding for state and local homeland security programs activities, such as the Urban Area Security Initiative, State Homeland Security Grant Program, emergency preparedness and response, training, equipment, and improved communications systems.

b. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): Support funding for FEMA to reimburse all unpaid disaster claims and for earthquake preparedness, disaster mitigation, and emergency management.

c. Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Program: Support increased funding for SAFER, which provides financial assistance to hire firefighters.

d. Immigration and Naturalization Activities: Support increased funding for activities such as border enforcement, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents assigned to the County's jails, automated fingerprint identification systems to track criminal aliens, prosecution of criminal aliens and alien smugglers, naturalization assistance, and processing of naturalization and immigration applications.

IV. FEDERAL POLICIES ADDRESSING ISSUES OF MAJOR COUNTY INTEREST

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FEDERAL POLICIES ADDRESSING ISSUES OF MAJOR COUNTY INTEREST

1. Health/Mental Health

a. Support reform of Medicaid financing and provider payments to increase Medicaid payments, including disproportionate share hospital payments, to health safety net providers.

b. Support reform of Medicaid payments to providers to encourage efficient use of resources and expand ambulatory care services to low-income patients without jeopardizing total available Medicaid funds.

c. Support a more equitable allocation of Federal Medicaid funds to reduce the current disparity under which some states, such as California, receive far less Federal Medicaid funds per Medicaid recipient than other states.

d. Support proposals which would increase California's Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP), the Federal matching rate used under the Medicaid and Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs.

e. Oppose proposals which would increase the County's unreimbursed costs of providing and administering health care services, such as proposals which would reduce the level of Medicaid payments, reduce the number of Medicaid eligible persons, and reduce the scope of Medicaid covered services, such as by eliminating reimbursement of graduate medical education costs and by narrowing the definition of rehabilitative services and targeted case management services that are eligible for Medicaid funding.

f. Support proposals which would expand Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and health insurance coverage to more persons, such as the uninsured, persons in State or local detention facilities, and minors whose health needs, otherwise, must be met by the County.

g. Support proposals which would increase Federal reimbursement of the County's undocumented immigrant emergency medical costs.

h. Support proposals to extend health insurance to more persons aged 55 to 64, such as by making Federal employee health benefit plans available to them.

i. Support proposals to increase Medicare payments for graduate medical education to assist public teaching hospitals, which play a critical role in training residents, and to increase funding for graduate medical education programs in preventive medicine under Medicare or other programs.

j. Support proposals and funding to enhance the nation's public health infrastructure and the capacity of local public hospitals, mental health departments, and health departments to prepare for and respond to acts of terrorism and other medical and public health emergencies.

k. Support proposals which provide increased funding for trauma care services.

l. Support proposals which provide funding for capital improvements to public hospitals, public health facilities, and clinics.

m. Support proposals and funding which would promote and market the availability of County health and mental health services, which expand and improve access to health and mental health services for the uninsured, women, and other populations with special needs, and which decrease health and mental health disparities among ethnic and cultural groups.

n. Support proposals which provide funding for urban telemedicine programs in medically underserved areas, and which would reimburse physicians in urban areas for telemedical consultations.

o. Support proposals which would expand or improve mental health and substance abuse coverage under public and private health insurance programs and which would fund and integrate mental health and substance abuse prevention, treatment, and services as part of a continuum of services under substance abuse, mental health, health, human services, and other public programs.

p. Support proposals which would allow Medicaid reimbursement for patients at institutions for mental disease (IMDs), which are hospitals, nursing facilities, or other institutions with more than 16 beds that are primarily engaged in the diagnosis, treatment, or care of persons with mental diseases.

q. Support proposals which would increase Medicaid reimbursement of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) costs, including by allowing Medicaid payments to be made to IHSS providers who are responsible relatives of recipients.

r. Support proposals which would expand Medicaid coverage to include the evaluation and diagnosis of learning disabilities.

s. Support proposals requiring prior notification to state and local governments by licensed health facilities granted protection under Federal bankruptcy laws to ensure maintenance of appropriate patient care.

t. Support proposals which allow public hospitals and other County facilities and programs which purchase prescription drugs to access discounted pharmaceutical pricing schedules, including those available to the Federal government.

u. Support proposals and funding which would increase the education, training, supply, recruitment, and retention of nurses, physicians, laboratory personnel, and other health professionals, especially for work in medically underserved areas.

v. Support proposals and funding to enhance cultural and linguistic competence in health education and delivery.

w. Support legislation to reauthorize Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration programs, which would provide increased funding to California and the

County, and support proposals that would provide for a more equitable allocation of Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant funds, such as by increasing the statutory cap on the cost of service factor that adjusts block grant allotments for the relative differences in the cost of providing substance abuse services among states.

x. Support proposals and increased funding for preventive health, public health, and mental health services, such as immunizations, early detection and diagnostic services, interconception and prenatal care, well-person care, nutrition, tobacco cessation, and health/mental health education activities.

y. Support proposals which would provide for the treatment and care of current and former Armed Services members with spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries at the Rancho Los Angeles National Rehabilitation Center under a contract with the Federal government, and which would enable veterans to receive medical care on a timely basis from non-Veterans Affairs facilities, such as the County's.

2. Children's Health Insurance Program

a. Support proposals which would maintain or increase Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funding and California's share of total funding, and which would allow the State to expend or retain more of its CHIP allotments without being subject to reallocation to other states.

b. Support proposals that would provide states with greater flexibility over the use of CHIP funds, including to expand eligibility to cover parents and legal immigrants, expand the scope of covered services, and use community-based delivery systems without requiring Federally approved waivers.

3. HIV/AIDS Programs

a. Support proposals that would increase funding for HIV/AIDS programs and activities, including Ryan White programs, HIV/AIDS screening, prevention, treatment, care, and research activities.

b. Support proposals that would increase the County's share of available funding.

c. Support preservation of direct grants to heavily impacted areas, such as the County.

d. Support proposals which would allow funds to be used to provide a more comprehensive, integrated continuum of care and services and which would increase local flexibility over the use of funds in addressing locally determined needs and priorities.

e. Support maintaining the current statutorily required roles and responsibilities of planning councils under Ryan White programs.

f. Support proposals which would increase the availability of and access to routine HIV screening and HIV/AIDS care, treatment, prevention, research, and education programs.

4. Health and Human Services Reform

a. Support proposals which would increase the number of indigent County residents who are eligible to receive Federally-funded assistance while ensuring that sponsors meet their financial obligations.

b. Support maintaining Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and child support enforcement as open-ended entitlement programs.

c. Support open-ended entitlements for Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance and other funding models that promote priorities, such as increased state and local flexibility in the expenditure of Federal funding, and support achievement of better outcomes for children.

d. Support sufficient funding for health and human services reforms commensurate with any increase in services or administrative responsibilities needed to implement the reforms.

e. Support proposals and funding for welfare-to-work activities.

f. Support proposals and funding for services to non-custodial parents that strengthen their earning power, promote the payment of child support, and promote more effective parenting and greater involvement in the lives of their children.

g. Support proposals and funding to improve health and human services information technology and to implement and make improvements to automated data and management information systems for Federal programs administered by state and local governments.

h. Support proposals which would simplify the administration of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, SNAP, and other public assistance programs.

i. Oppose proposals that would reduce Federal or State financial participation in health and human services programs, especially proposals that could result in a reduction in services or shift costs to the County.

j. Support proposals to hold state and local governments harmless from fiscal penalties when the Federal government did not provide additional funding commensurate with the cost of meeting new Federal requirements, or when the failure to meet Federal requirements resulted from factors beyond their control, such as the lack of clear program instructions.

k. Oppose proposals which would increase the County's unreimbursed costs of providing and administering health and human services, such as reducing Federal funding or denying Federally-funded benefits to indigent County residents who will remain eligible for County-funded services.

l. Support proposals which would enhance the County's ability to utilize Federal funds to coordinate and integrate service delivery, including, but not limited to, the sharing of costs and client information across Federal programs.

m. Oppose administratively imposed requirements, such as performance or quality control standards, that are not accompanied by additional Federal funding.

n. Support proposals that would increase state and local flexibility under Section 1115 waivers, including by extending Section 1115 waiver authority to Title IV-B Child and Family Services, Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, and Title XX Social Services.

o. Support maintaining the flexibility of states to terminate demonstration projects and state options in health and human services programs.

p. Support proposals and funding that would promote home and community-based care, especially for persons who, otherwise, would require institutionalization.

q. Support proposals to increase Federal child support enforcement funding.

r. Support proposals and funding to assist ex-offenders become self-sufficient through employment and training.

s. Support proposals which would increase nutrition education, provide consumers with more nutritional information on foods, and discourage the marketing of non-nutritious foods and beverages to children.

t. Support legislation which would mirror California's Medical Injury and Compensation Reform Act (MICRA), and which would not preempt state laws which govern medical malpractice and torts, such as MICRA.

5. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

a. Support legislation which maintains or increases annual TANF Block Grant funding levels and state and local flexibility over the use of funds, provides for an equitable allocation of funds to California, and preserves or increases the current state maintenance-of-effort (MOE) requirement to ensure that sufficient resources are available to meet the needs of low income children and their families in the County.

b. Support preservation of the current scope of allowable activities and populations served.

c. Support expanding the work activities that states may count towards the TANF work participation rate, and support the elimination of the separate two-parent work requirement.

d. Support proposals which provide incentives to states to move families toward self-sufficiency, such as by providing credit toward a state's work participation rate for moving recipients into employment and by subsidizing employment.

e. Support proposals which would waive fiscal penalties on states that failed to meet Federal work participation rate requirements despite increasing expenditures on work-related activities or which would allow a state to pay its penalty by increasing its TANF work-related expenditures by an amount equal to the penalty.

f. Support proposals which would increase the flexibility of states to draw down their TANF allotments.

g. Support proposals which would strengthen TANF's role in reducing child poverty.

h. Support proposals to increase state and local flexibility under TANF, especially over welfare-to-work activities, including for subsidized employment..

i. Support proposals which would reduce potential increased costs or fiscal penalties for states and counties under TANF, including those that otherwise would result from increased Federal requirements.

6. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Stamps)

a. Support continued funding for the SNAP, which formerly was the Food Stamps Program.

b. Support proposals which would simplify SNAP administration, including telephone interviews with applicants, one-step benefit calculations, and streamlining of the program's work and training requirements.

c. Support proposals to reform its quality control (QC) system, such as by setting more reasonable error rate targets, placing greater emphasis on rewarding good performance rather than penalizing poor performance, and allowing states to reinvest any QC fiscal penalty as an alternative to payment.

d. Support proposals which improve coordination between the SNAP and TANF programs, including providing states with the option to use the TANF definition of household.

e. Support the restoration of SNAP eligibility to all legal non-citizens with deeming provisions for sponsored immigrants.

7. Children and Family Services

a. Support proposals which would provide a subsidy for legal guardian relative caregivers who have assumed full time care and responsibility for abused and neglected children and avoid foster care placement for such children, including through Federal financial participation under Title IV-E.

b. Support proposals and funding which would promote income security, housing, health care, education and vocational opportunities, and economic self-sufficiency for youth emancipating from foster care, and which would lower the age provision of the Independent Living Program to 14 years.

c. Support proposals which would expand Title IV-E eligibility to more abused and neglected children.

d. Support proposals which would increase funding for foster care, adoption assistance, independent living, family preservation, child protective services, and other services to promote the safety and well-being of abused and neglected children.

e. Support proposals and funding which would implement a Child Health and Education Passport System in Los Angeles County.

f. Support proposals which would enhance legal permanence for foster children, such as by expanding family finding programs and streamlining and/or supporting adoption and legal guardianship programs.

g. Support proposals and funding which would improve and increase the training of child welfare, mental health, health, and other workers who provide services to children in the child welfare system.

h. Support proposals which allow fiscal penalties imposed on the State to be reinvested in the child support program.

i. Support legislation that requires Federal agencies to update their records within five days of receipt of information from state Title IV-D child support agencies.

j. Support proposals and funding to promote and increase intervention, prevention, training, technical assistance, research, and education in the areas of domestic violence, child abuse, child sex trafficking, and elder abuse, including through the reauthorization of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

k. Support proposals which would provide for the flexible use of Federal funding to provide services to abused and neglected children and their families.

l. Support enactment of tax credits for individuals who provide in-home care to elderly parents or other family members.

m. Support proposals which provide funding for before and after-school programs.

n. Support proposals to provide states with increased financial incentives to pass through child support arrearages to children who receive welfare benefits.

o. Support proposals and funding that increase the availability and quality of affordable child care and development services, including universal preschool and early childhood education.

p. Support proposals and funding to local school districts and child care and development programs to implement locally determined programs to help educate children with limited English proficiency.

q. Support legislation to reauthorize the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program, which maintains or increases California's percentage share of total CSBG funding, and which retains the current requirement that states pass through block grant funds to local communities.

r. Support proposals that provide child welfare agencies, juvenile probation agencies, juvenile courts, and court-appointed advocates with access to educational records on children who they are serving.

s. Support proposals that would fully fund special education.

t. Support proposals and funding to expand mentoring services and after-school recreation activities for at-risk youth, including foster youth.

8. Employment and Training

a. Support programs that provide training, remedial education, job placement, career enhancement, subsidized employment, and other services to low-income persons, at-risk youth, and displaced workers to increase their employment and earnings.

b. Support providing local elected officials greater control and flexibility over the administration, planning, and implementation of employment and training programs.

c. Support the pass-through of Federal employment and training funds to local areas based on relative need as measured by factors such as unemployment, poverty, and the number of welfare recipients and displaced workers.

d. Support legislation which allows persons from the military to obtain credit for their training, and promotes the transfer of such skills to the private sector and other government agencies to avoid the time and cost of retraining.

e. Support proposals which permit the full implementation of the County's Living Wage Ordinance.

9. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

a. Support maintaining and funding for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which provides separate adult, youth, and dislocated worker formula grants for workforce development activities to states with the mandatory pass-through of funds to local workforce areas.

b. Support proposals to provide local elected officials with greater flexibility over the administration, planning, and use of WIOA funds, including the flexibility to serve more in-school youth and foster youth, administer stand-alone summer youth programs, and subsidize employment.

c. Support proposals which would expand and improve the effectiveness of the one-stop workforce delivery system, including providing greater flexibility in forming local partnerships and in sharing information and costs among programs and entities participating in the one-stop system.

d. Support WIOA performance measurement system reforms which would promote local flexibility in setting performance goals, and which would ensure that local areas are not penalized for having a high unemployment rate or for targeting services at hard-to-employ persons or persons with special needs, such as foster youth or the homeless.

e. Support proposals which would equitably allocate WIOA funds to states and substate areas, based solely on relative need using the latest available data.

f. Oppose proposals that would include WIOA programs in a "super waiver" covering multiple Federal employment and education programs, which could reduce the amount of funds available to the County for locally determined workforce services.

g. Support proposals which would provide a streamlined funding mechanism for sharing one-stop infrastructure costs among partner programs in a manner that ensures County-administered partner programs will not incur a disproportionately high share of infrastructure costs.

10. Older Americans Act Programs

a. Support increased funding for Older Americans Act (OAA) programs.

b. Support proposals that would increase flexibility, including by allowing Family Caregiver Program funds to be used to serve grandparents under age 60 who are raising children.

c. Support proposals that would reduce non-Federal match requirements and expand what can be counted as a matching contribution.

d. Support proposals which would provide for the more equitable allocation of OAA funds to states and substate areas, based solely on relative need using the latest available data.

11. Homeland Security

a. Support funding for local homeland security activities, such as emergency preparedness and response, planning, training, equipment, personnel, and improved interoperable communications systems.

b. Support proposals and funding to enhance the nation's public health infrastructure and the capacity of local public hospitals and health departments to prepare for and respond to acts of terrorism and other medical and public health emergencies.

c. Support proposals which would more effectively target homeland security, first responder, bioterrorism, and firefighting funds based on relative need, population, and threat levels.

d. Support funding to improve the security of critical infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, flood control, water resources, hospitals, public buildings, and transportation facilities.

e. Support funding to ensure an adequate supply of vaccine, antidotes, medications, and other medical supplies to respond to a health emergency or terrorist threat.

f. Support the direct allocation or the pass-through of an equitable share of state block grant funds to counties for first responder, bioterrorism, interoperable communications, emergency management, and other homeland security activities.

g. Oppose match or cost-sharing requirements which would hinder the ability of financially distressed state and local governments to receive or utilize Federal funds.

h. Support greater local flexibility over the use of first responder, bioterrorism, interoperable communications, and other homeland security funding, including the flexibility to use funds to pay for personnel.

i. Support proposals which would clarify that the Federal government rather than state and local public health departments or their employees is financially liable for any claims arising from the administration of a vaccine as part of their involvement in a Federal vaccination campaign.

j. Support proposals which would facilitate interagency information sharing and coordination on emergency management, law enforcement, public safety, and health matters relating to homeland security.

k. Support proposals and funding for human relations agencies to combat terrorism and related hate violence by helping to enhance communication, trust, and cooperation between law enforcement and impacted communities, and for the nation's human relations infrastructure to prepare for, prevent, and respond to hate violence, prejudice, and damage to intergroup relations that may arise from terrorist attacks or threats.

l. Support the concept of multi-year Federal grant funding to improve security at seaports and harbors in Los Angeles County.

m. Support proposals which would promote a regional approach to homeland security and emergency preparedness.

n. Support proposals and funding which would increase fire prevention and fire safety, and which would enhance the capabilities of fire departments to provide fire and other public safety services.

o. Support proposals and funding which would strengthen the cyber security of the information technology and network infrastructure of state and local governments.

12. Justice/Public Safety

a. Support the allocation of Justice Assistance Grant, juvenile justice, and other anti-crime block grant funds to local governments based on their relative need and responsibility for criminal justice activities, such as measured by crime rates and criminal justice expenditures including, but not limited to, jails, courts, prosecution, incarceration, probation, and indigent defense.

b. Support direct grants (or the pass-through of an equitable share of state block grant funds) to counties for the development, refurbishment, or operation of correctional facilities.

c. Support the elimination of local match requirements under anti-crime and other justice assistance programs, such as the Community Oriented Policing Services program, for financially distressed local governments.

d. Support proposals to allow the County to count its unreimbursed criminal alien incarceration costs as matching funds towards any match requirement for Federal anti-crime funds.

e. Support increased Federal resources to assist County justice agencies with crime laboratory improvements and backlog reduction, drug laundering intervention, combatting child sex trafficking, jail automation, tracking of criminal aliens, and in addressing other needs.

f. Support increased funding for probation under Federal community policing programs, but not at the expense of currently financed law enforcement activities.

g. Support proposals which would facilitate information sharing and coordination between Federal, state, and local public safety agencies.

h. Support proposals to promote community prosecution programs and increase prosecutions, including gun-related crimes, child sex trafficking, and identity theft.

i. Support increased Federal involvement and funding to reduce gang-related crimes, and increased Federal funding for juvenile justice programs which promote a balance of funding between punitive intervention efforts and prevention investments.

j. Support proposals that make mental health intervention a component of law enforcement and the administration of justice, including training law enforcement personnel in dealing with the mentally ill, and support funding for mental health courts.

k. Support legislation which expands Federal jurisdiction to prosecute hate crimes based on gender, sexual orientation, and disability.

l. Support legislation which seeks to reduce discrimination and hate crimes, increase human relations education and training, and enhance communities' capacity to effectively address intergroup relations issues.

m. Support proposals which allow for an intercept of Federal tax refunds of probationers who owe restitution.

n. Support proposals and funding which would provide for the cancellation or repayment of student loans for public defenders and prosecutors.

o. Support proposals and funding to expand drug courts, mental health courts, child sex trafficking courts, and their related treatment programs as an alternative to incarceration.

p. Support proposals to prohibit the unauthorized use, manufacture, wearing, sale, or transfer of any official public agency badge or photographic identification card.

q. Support proposals which would increase the County's share of Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funding, provide direct JAG funding to the County in a timely manner, and increase the County's decision-making authority and flexibility over the use of funds.

13. Immigration and Refugees

a. Support proposals which would reduce the County's criminal justice costs associated with criminal aliens, such as by providing increased Federal reimbursement of County costs or by increasing the identification, apprehension, deportation, or Federal prosecutions of criminal aliens.

b. Support proposals which would reduce backlogs of naturalization and immigration adjustment of status cases and which eliminate barriers faced by aged and disabled legal immigrants in becoming naturalized citizens.

c. Support an extension of Section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which allows immigrants to adjust their immigration status without leaving the country if they pay a penalty fee, and support using the fee revenues to expand immigration and naturalization activities and reimburse criminal alien costs in the districts where the fees are collected.

d. Support legislation to authorize and provide funding for Refugee Act programs that ensure that newly arrived refugees will receive cash and medical assistance, employment and training, social services, and other needed services.

e. Support a more equitable allocation of Refugee Social Services and Targeted Assistance funds, and support proposals which provide local governments with greater decision-making authority over the use of funds, including the flexibility to serve refugees who have been in the U.S. over five years.

f. Oppose proposals which would restrict the eligibility of refugees for other Federal programs, such as TANF, Supplemental Security Income, and Medicaid, or which would shift costs of providing cash and medical assistance to refugees from the Federal government to state and local governments.

g. Support proposals and funding which would reimburse the County for costs resulting from Federal immigration policies.

14. Community Development

a. Support programs and initiatives providing community development, economic development, and housing for low and moderate income persons to improve their living conditions and the economic health and infrastructure of their communities.

b. Support proposals which provide increased local flexibility under Federal community development and housing programs.

c. Support retention of the current direct allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to large urban counties and CDBG and HOME state/local allocation formulas which would maintain or increase funding for Los Angeles County.

d. Support continued funding for the Section 108 loan guarantee program, which is an important source of financing for economic development, housing rehabilitation, and other physical development projects.

e. Oppose policies which would allow private commercial development and the transfer of land to private entities at the Veterans Affairs West Los Angeles Healthcare Center.

f. Support proposals which would increase resources available to local jurisdictions to clean up and redevelop brownfields.

g. Oppose proposals which would increase fees for Small Business Administration loans.

h. Support proposals which would increase funding for asbestos and lead-based paint removal programs.

i. Support proposals and funding which would promote small business development, including high technology companies.

15. Housing and Homeless Assistance

a. Support proposals to maintain or increase funding to public housing authorities (PHAs), such as for capital improvements, operating subsidies, resident services, administration, and anti-crime programs in public housing.

b. Support proposals which would provide local officials with greater flexibility over the administration and use of housing funds, including over the membership of the governing body of the PHA, asset management, performance measurements, fair housing, HOME, public housing, Section 8, and the Moving to Work Demonstration Program.

c. Support the continued administration of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program by local PHAs, and oppose proposals which would reduce local decision-making authority or convert the Section 8 program into a block grant to states.

d. Support sufficient funding to renew all existing Section 8 vouchers at reasonable rents for the jurisdictions served.

e. Support proposals which would simplify program administration and ease reporting requirements for public housing authorities.

f. Support proposals, tax incentives, and funding which would increase home ownership and rental housing opportunities for low and moderate income individuals and families and increase the supply of affordable housing.

g. Support proposals which provide additional resources for meeting the housing and related supportive service needs of special populations, such as the elderly, disabled, victims of trafficking, veterans, and mentally ill persons.

h. Support the reauthorization of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and proposals which would increase local discretion over the use of homeless assistance funds, increase funding for homeless assistance programs, including supportive housing, supportive services, Raid Re-Housing, emergency services, and the Homeless Management Information System, more equitably distribute funds based on relative

need, and fund the renewal of contracts for permanent supportive housing from a separate homeless program account rather than Section 8 funds.

i. Support proposals and funding that would increase fair housing activities.

j. Support proposals to provide funding to collect data on the number and characteristics of the homeless population in Los Angeles County.

k. Support proposals that would impede predatory lending practices.

l. Oppose proposals which would restrict the authority of public housing authorities in the administration of housing programs, such as the selection and eviction of tenants, leveraging of assets to expand affordable housing opportunities, or which would impose costly new requirements that are not accompanied by additional resources to implement them.

m. Support proposals that would enhance the ability of public housing authorities to prevent fraud and collect unpaid rents.

n. Support the creation of a Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) data base that would contain information on all participants in HUD-assisted programs to ensure proper and timely assistance.

o. Support proposals and funding which would enable more homebuyers to avoid foreclosures, mitigate the negative impacts of foreclosures, and stabilize impacted neighborhoods, such as through housing counseling programs, the restructuring of loan terms for borrowers at risk of foreclosure, rehabilitation of foreclosed properties, and increased flexibility over the use of Federal funds.

16. Transportation

a. Support funding for County transportation projects.

b. Support proposals to provide local officials with greater flexibility under Federal transportation programs.

c. Support regional alternatives to the expansion of Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), including the use of tax and fee incentives for airlines to expand the number of flights at underutilized regional airports.

d. Support funding for clean fuel buses and for bus maintenance facility improvements.

e. Support efforts to work collaboratively with regional transportation agencies to secure funding for transportation projects in Los Angeles County.

f. Support funding to state and local agencies to construct highway-rail grade separations in order to relieve traffic congestion and improve public safety.

g. Support proposals and funding which would improve the efficient movement of goods from ports to other regions and reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality.

17. Surface Transportation Reauthorization

a. Support legislation to reauthorize surface transportation programs, which would maintain or increase overall annual funding, provide for a more equitable allocation of funds to California and the County, fund demonstration projects in the County, and enhance the role of local officials over the planning and use of funds.

b. Support proposals which would increase the share of Federal transportation funds received by California relative to Federal taxes collected from California.

c. Support proposals to increase funding for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program, which funds transportation projects that lower emissions to assist states in meeting Federal air quality standards, targets a greater share of CMAQ funds to urban areas with the worst air quality, and increases local flexibility over the use of CMAQ funds in improving air quality.

d. Support proposals which would increase state and local control over the use of funds by increasing the share of total funding allocated, by formula, to states rather than through Congressionally-earmarked projects.

e. Support proposals to streamline and expedite the transportation planning and development process.

18. Air, Water, and Resources

a. Support proposals which would permit greater local flexibility over water supplies, stormwater, groundwater, and flood control, and oppose changes in Federal law and policy which restrict the ability of the County to maintain facilities so they can function as designed.

b. Support proposals and funding for research and development of technologies to improve water quality, including relating to brackish water, chromium 6, perchlorate, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), arsenic, radon, and disinfection byproducts.

c. Support proposals and funding which would improve the reliability, quality, quantity, and security of water supplies and water infrastructure in Los Angeles County.

d. Support amendments to the Clean Water Act which would authorize Federal funding or cost-sharing for implementing Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) standards, or which would exempt from its provisions those routine operation and maintenance activities on existing publicly-owned facilities and the construction of publicly owned water quality enhancement facilities.

e. Support legislation which repeals the mandated use of oxygenated fuel additives, such as MTBE.

f. Oppose proposals that would shift liability for the cost of cleaning up pollution caused by fuel additives, such as MTBE, from the private sector to state and local governments.

g. Support proposals which provide funding to states and local governments to reduce emissions from mobile and fixed sources, such as through the conversion of vehicle fleets to alternative fuels.

h. Support proposals which provide funding or tax credits for projects to improve air quality, such as by reducing toxic particulate matter emissions from diesel engines through voluntary scrap programs and the replacement or retrofit of diesel-powered vehicles and equipment, or which promote the use of sustainable building practices that reduce resource consumption, energy consumption, and release of pollutants and wastes, such as through the use of solar energy and water reclamation.

i. Support proposals which provide funding to state and local governments for environmental protection and restoration of watersheds, shorelines, and wetlands, land acquisition, open space, and improvements to parks, beaches, and other recreational areas.

j. Support proposals to fund the operation and maintenance of watershed or multi-use projects.

k. Support proposals and funding for flood protection, water conservation and infrastructure, pollution control, storm drain improvements, septic systems, stormwater management, groundwater recharge, and low impact development practices.

l. Oppose proposals which would reduce the amount of funds available to state and local governments from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

m. Support proposals to fully fund the Los Angeles County segment of the Army Corps of Engineers' Coast of California study and the development of long-term management plans for sediments in the Los Angeles region.

n. Support the use of a portion of funds from the Outer Continental Shelf Royalty Fund for sand replenishment, sewage treatment, urban runoff programs, and the environmental protection and restoration of watersheds, shorelines, and wetlands, and oppose initiatives to renew offshore drilling.

o. Support proposals which would authorize Federal cost-sharing of local development and rehabilitation projects as well as operations and maintenance at Federal-owned and constructed flood control facilities used for regional recreation.

p. Support funding for pest prevention and eradication efforts, weed and wildlife management efforts, enhanced pesticide use enforcement and monitoring, increased surveillance of pests at ports of entry in California, and for the Sterile Insect Release program in the Los Angeles area to prevent Medfly infestations.

q. Support funding for weights and measures inspection and enforcement.

r. Support proposals that provide public agencies with immunity from liability to encourage development of multiuse watershed management, environmental restoration, open space, and recreation projects within flood protection and water conservation facilities.

s. Support proposals and funding that would assist local park agencies in their efforts to promote healthy lifestyles and activities that address the problem of obesity.

t. Support proposals and funding to promote or expand after-school programs, including for partnerships between local school districts and park agencies.

u. Support proposals and financing, including tax-exempt financing or tax credits, which would reduce climate change, greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, such as from solid waste landfills, and which would increase the use of landfill gases as an energy source for generating electricity or heat.

v. Support the authorization and reforms of the National Flood Insurance Program with provisions such as risk-based flood insurance, mapping of flood hazards based on actual flood risk, and affordable flood insurance for residents and businesses in the County, and oppose proposals which would significantly increase flood insurance premiums or impose costly new flood insurance requirements on property owners and communities in the County.

19. Waste Management and Superfund

a. Support proposals which protect local governments from liability for hazardous waste cleanup and which provide funding to local governments to clean up hazardous waste sites.

b. Support proposals and funding for the immediate clean-up of hazardous materials at closed military bases to ensure the prompt reuse of those bases for new purposes.

c. Support proposals which establish a redemption value on paint cans to promote recycling of leftover paint.

d. Support development of long-term markets for recycled materials and other end-use products.

e. Support proposals which would increase recycling, such as of televisions and computer monitors that are toxic due to their lead content, including by requiring manufacturers, retailers, and end users to help finance recycling costs.

f. Support the development of alternatives to landfilling, such as conversion technologies, that protect the environment, public health, and public safety.

g. Oppose proposals which would allow transport of nuclear waste through the County.

h. Support proposals that would provide for the safe collection and disposal of medical waste materials, such as medical needles.

20. Disaster Assistance

a. Support proposals which would increase the amount of Federal disaster aid available to the County, such as by authorizing Federal reimbursement of straight-time labor costs for emergency response work, and oppose proposals that would reduce Federal

disaster aid or increase the proportion of disaster aid or hazard mitigation costs which must be borne by state or local governments.

b. Support proposals and funding to improve the capacity of state and local governments to plan, prepare, and respond to emergencies, including those involving acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and public health emergencies.

21. Utilities and Energy

a. Support efforts to ensure reasonable wholesale rates for electricity, and oppose proposals which would restrict state and local government efforts from addressing energy problems.

b. Support proposals to require refunds to consumers and utilities for rates charged in excess of just and reasonable levels.

c. Support efforts to establish electric utility reliability standards.

d. Oppose proposals which would restrict the ability of public agencies to use tax-exempt financing for electric co-generation.

e. Oppose proposals which would preempt state or local authority over the siting or zoning of power plants, power lines, or other utility-related infrastructure.

f. Support proposals and funding which would assist local governments in reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, shifting energy usage to non-peak hours, promoting energy efficiency, using renewable resources, and implementing local energy strategies and initiatives.

22. Communications

a. Support proposals and funding that would enable County public safety agencies to upgrade their communications systems, utilize additional radio spectrum, implement or expand interoperable communications systems, use new communications technologies, and meet increasingly complex communications requirements.

b. Support proposals to provide local agencies with waivers from Federal mandates to convert from broadband to narrow band communications technologies unless sufficient funding is provided to comply with the mandates.

c. Support proposals which would assign additional radio spectrum to public safety agencies.

d. Oppose proposals which preempt local government authority over telecommunications services, such as the franchising and regulation of cable television services, the placement, construction, and modification of telecommunications towers and facilities, emergency alert and interoperable communications systems, and the protection of consumers relating to telecommunication services.

e. Support proposals which encourage competition among communications providers for the full range of telephone, cable, video, internet, and broadband services.

f. Support Federal proposals which prohibit "slamming" and "cramming" of telecommunications services, and which limit the financial liability of affected consumers.

g. Support proposals which protect consumers from unsolicited commercial electronic mail ("spamming").

h. Oppose proposals which preempt the authority of local government to adopt policies on use of Internet services and equipment funded by the Federal E-rate telecommunication discount program.

i. Support proposals to provide consumers with a callback number that would lift the identity block used by marketers in telephone solicitations.

j. Support proposals to provide all public libraries with lower rates for telecommunications services, including access to the Internet.

k. Support proposals that promote and fund nationwide availability of 2-1-1 telephone service for information and referral to human services and for other purposes.

l. Support proposals that promote universal and affordable access to a wide range of telecommunication services, including voice, video, data, and the Internet.

m. Support proposals 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.

23. Tobacco Settlement

a. Support proposals which reimburse local governments for indigent and employee health care costs attributable to tobacco products, reduce youth access to tobacco products, and promote community-based tobacco prevention and intervention efforts.

b. Oppose proposals which weaken the ability of local government to sue the tobacco industry, preempt the ability of local government to regulate tobacco products, and weaken the ability of the Federal Food and Drug Administration to regulate nicotine, unless part of an overall settlement which is beneficial to the County.

c. Support proposals which prevent the Federal government from taking proceeds from settlements between the tobacco industry and state and local governments.

d. Oppose proposals which limit the ability of individuals to sue the tobacco industry for tobacco-related damages.

24. Census and Federal Data

a. Support proposals which promote accurate, unbiased and inclusive census counts and data collection, including by supporting the use of scientifically sound sampling methods to augment the direct count to ensure that accurate data will be available with which to equitably allocate funds among states and localities.

b. Support the use of the most current available Federal demographic data in allocating Federal formula grant funds to assure that areas, such as the County, whose population is growing faster than the national average, receive an equitable share of funds.

c. Oppose the use of small state minimums which provide states with small populations with more Federal aid relative to need than more populous states, such as California.

25. Federalism

a. Support proposals which ensure the input of state and local governments before implementing any Executive Order relating to the powers of state and local governments.

b. Oppose proposals which preempt local land use decision-making authority, exempt certain categories of land use from zoning requirements, or limit the ability of local governments to determine appropriate uses of property within their jurisdiction.

c. Support proposals which would expedite Federal review of waiver requests submitted by state and local governments, especially requests for waiver extensions or waivers similar to those approved in other jurisdictions.

d. Oppose proposals which would result in a net cost increase or revenue loss to state and local governments without providing them with offsetting Federal revenue.

e. Oppose proposals which would result in the downsizing or closure of the Los Angeles Air Force Base and other military installations in California.

f. Support preservation of the Federal tax deductibility of state and local income and property taxes and the Federal tax-exempt status of state and local bonds.

g. Support the repeal of any Federal mandate that would require state and local governments to withhold a percentage of payments to contractors or vendors for payment to the Federal government for Federal tax collection purposes.

h. Oppose proposals that jeopardize local revenues associated with the provision of voice (telephone), video (cable) and data (Internet) services.

i. Support proposals which would provide state and local governments with the option of using Federal supply schedules to acquire goods and services.

26. Retirement/Pension Programs

a. Oppose proposals which mandate Social Security and Medicare coverage of state and local government employees.

b. Support proposals which would increase the portability of government pension and deferred income plans, including by allowing Section 457 transfers to purchase retirement service credits, and which would relax limits on contributions to and benefits from such plans.

c. Support proposals to repeal or reduce the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision which reduce the amount of Social Security benefits received by many Federal, state, and local government retirees and their spouses.

27. Voting

a. Support legislation which permits registrars to remove names from voting rolls when unable to confirm residency, permits the use of Social Security numbers on voter registration affidavits, establishes a system for local elections officials to ascertain and determine the status of Federal felons on probation or parole, and permits the U.S. Postal Service to return undeliverable official elections materials without charge to elections officials.

b. Support proposals and funding to help state and local governments upgrade their voting equipment to a more technologically advanced system that produces accurate and expeditious election results without imposing uniform nationwide standards.

c. Support legislation to update Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act in order to effectively protect voting rights and pass constitutional muster.

28. Cultural/Libraries/Arts Education

a. Support increased Federal funding for arts education research and for cultural and educational agencies, including museums, which promote and sustain the arts, arts education, the humanities, and the sciences.

b. Support increased funding for public libraries.

c. Support funding for the Federal Depository Library Program, which makes government publications accessible at public libraries throughout the country.

d. Oppose closures and service reductions at Environmental Protection Agency regional and special libraries which support environmental research by members of the public and EPA staff.

e. Support legislation to include the arts as core curriculum under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

29. Consumer Affairs

Support proposals to prohibit unsolicited credit checks currently being marketed by credit card companies.