



County of Marin

*2012 Federal & State Legislative
Programs & Policy Guidelines*

Adopted December 6, 2011

COUNTY OF MARIN

2012 FEDERAL & STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS AND LEGISLATIVE POLICY GUIDELINES

The Federal and State Legislative Programs are designed to provide the Board's policy direction on legislation regarding matters that are of singular and direct interest to Marin County. In some instances, such matters may also be of general statewide or national interest. Some legislative items appear in both the state and federal programs; this is because the focus of the program or the amount of funding requested may differ depending on the legislative body targeted. In other cases, your Board may wish to sponsor legislation to affect a policy change specific to Marin County.

'Attachment A' represents the 2012 Legislative Policy Guidelines. These Guidelines are designed to (a) provide standing authority to take action on pending legislative matters when time constraints preclude bringing such matters to the Board of Supervisors in advance, and (b) provide our lobbyists a better understanding of the Board's policy preferences regarding a variety of intergovernmental issues that might arise during the course of the year.

2012 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

A. POLICY

1. ***Climate Change.*** Support federal action on climate change to assist Marin County and the Bay Area as a whole in meeting its climate change goals. Support efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change and associated sea-level rise, including wetlands restoration, levee construction or other similar structural resilience measures. Support efforts to establish a connection between climate change and local governments' ability to operate local transit systems and other non-motorized transportation programs. Monitor federal legislative proposals on climate change and energy policy to ensure that any legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions be structured to assist the region in achieving our greenhouse gas reduction and mobility goals.
2. ***Sustainable Agriculture on National Parklands.*** Explore opportunities to support sustainable agricultural uses within existing agricultural areas in national parklands in Marin County to enhance local agricultural diversity, including participation in the environmental review processes relating to oyster operations in coastal Marin County.
3. ***FEMA Flood Insurance.*** Monitor federal efforts to reform the national flood insurance program. Support efforts to ensure that FEMA uses transparent processes and communicates directly with property owners who are potentially impacted by changes, and ensure that any changes to flood insurance rate maps do not result in disproportionate rate increases to areas that have not historically been subjected to flooding. Seek federal funding to support flood control improvements in flood prone areas.
4. ***Improved Access to Health Care.*** Support efforts to expand health care coverage to all populations. Support efforts to maintain the Prevention and Public Health Fund in the Affordable Care Act as well as other federal efforts to require and/or fund evidence-based prevention strategies, including those in the National Prevention Strategy.

5. ***Federal Jobs Bill.*** Support efforts to enact the President’s proposed jobs bill or other legislative proposals that would spur economic growth and/or better ensure the benefits of such growth can be realized in a socially equitable manner.
6. ***Federal Farm Bill.*** Monitor federal efforts to reauthorize the Farm Bill. Support the incorporation of sustainable agriculture principles within the bill, including, but not limited to, any programs or reforms that will support local food production.
7. ***Indian Gaming.*** Ensure that the U.S. Secretary of the Interior has discretion to consider impacts to the local community before taking land into trust for gaming purposes. Because of the significant adverse off-reservation impacts of Indian gaming, local communities should have the opportunity for input and review of a tribe's plan for a major casino before land is taken into trust. Support legislation which balances tribal, local, state and federal concerns while protecting or enhancing state and local government authority to mitigate off-reservation impacts.

B. TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION REQUESTS

The following represent the County’s highest priority federal transportation reauthorization requests. The ‘Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users’ (SAFETEA-LU) was enacted August 10, 2005 and authorized federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety and transit for the 5-year period 2005-2009. It expired September 30, 2009 but is likely to receive continuations for some time until a new authorization bill is negotiated. The County supports the reauthorization of the bill. The new reauthorization bill includes the following transportation priorities:

1. ***Nonmotorized Transportation.*** Seek funds dedicated to nonmotorized transportation projects and programs included in the next federal transportation bill and any state transportation funding programs. Support continued funding for bicycle, pedestrian, and Safe Routes to Schools programs at the same level or greater as was appropriated in Federal Fiscal Year 2012. With its many partners, the County has successfully expanded the nonmotorized network throughout Marin through use of prior federal allocations and by leveraging complementary funding sources. While the original intent was to build a complete bicycle/pedestrian network, current estimates exceed \$200 million in order to complete this full scope of work.
2. ***Highway 101 “Marin-Sonoma Narrows” Multi-Modal Corridor Projects.*** Support the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) in seeking a reauthorization allocation of \$50 million for the “Marin-Sonoma Narrows” Project, including bike, pedestrian, light rail, and/or other multi-modal project elements along the U.S. 101 corridor from Highway 37 in Novato to Old Redwood Highway in Petaluma. Over \$300 million has been leveraged from various sources over the years, with much more needed for construction of the estimated \$700 million project. Construction of the first phase began in 2011.
3. ***Pacific Way Improvements at Redwood Creek.*** Seek funding to support a National Park Service project, in coordination with the County, to improve the crossing of Redwood Creek at Pacific Way for wetland and creek restoration at Big Lagoon in Muir Beach. Estimated cost is \$7 million for design and construction of the project as described in the completed EIR/EIS. In addition to wetland and creek restoration, construction of a new and longer bridge will also reduce flooding on Pacific Way, a County maintained road. The National Park Service and County are discussing alternative project options with a lower cost.

C. WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT (WRDA) AUTHORIZATION REQUESTS

The following represent the County's Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) federal authorization request(s). WRDA is legislation that authorizes flood control, navigation, and environmental projects and studies by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Unlike Transportation Reauthorization, WRDA authorization does not expire. Because WRDA does not appropriate funds for authorized projects, however, fiscal requests must take place annually as part of the federal appropriations process once a project is authorized. WRDA authorization for 2012 includes the following request(s):

1. ***Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project/Alternative to Todd Road.*** Support City of Novato efforts to seek WRDA legislation to authorize the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to fund the planning, design and construction of an alternative to Todd Road for access to the wetlands restoration project. Todd Road serves as the only access point to the Hamilton Airfield Wetlands Restoration Project, and is located just feet from a housing development. Because construction traffic to the site poses health and safety risks to nearby residents, an alternative to Todd Road is required to mitigate these health and safety risks while permitting the restoration project to proceed.

D. PRIORITY FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2013 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

The following represent the County's highest priority federal fiscal requests for 2012 (Federal Fiscal Year 2013). Many are continuing, multi-year fiscal requests in association with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) for projects already appropriated and/or authorized but requiring additional funding.

Given long-term climate change concerns and likely federal requirements associated with the anticipated rise in sea levels, staff would like to explore strategies to request funding for a more comprehensive Marin County flood control solution to document and prioritize individual levee segments most in need of repair or enhancement as well as other mitigation measures including wetlands restoration and vegetated buffer zones that provide a protective barrier between wetlands and adjacent land uses. These strategies would be consistent with flood control levee projects included below:

1. ***Breast Cancer Research.*** Seek continued funding to support a large scale research and risk reduction education project pertaining to the above-average rates of breast cancer in Marin County. The total request is for \$500,000 for FY 2013 (of a \$5.5 million research project). Incidence rates from 2006-2009 indicate that Marin County breast cancer rates are higher than the rest of the Bay Area, California and the U.S. overall. The intended result is to gain knowledge that will lead to a decrease in breast cancer rates locally and nationally.
2. ***Corte Madera Creek Flood Control.*** Seek funding for improvements to the existing portion, and completion of the final phase, of the ACOE Corte Madera Creek Flood Control Project. The total request is for \$350,000 for FY 2013. Although 75% of the ACOE Corte Madera Creek Flood Control Project has been constructed, it is less than 25% effective because the constructed portion has performed significantly below expectations; the yet-to-be-constructed final phase is needed to make the entire project work. After many years of investigation and the consideration of numerous alternatives, local communities have forwarded to the ACOE an agreed-upon Locally Preferred Plan for completion of the project. Continued support is required to fund design and

environmental review of the final phase, as well as improvements to already completed portions. In early 2007, residents voted to accept a local assessment/share of participation in the project.

3. ***Pacific Way Improvements at Redwood Creek.*** Seek funding to support a National Park Service project, in coordination with the County, to improve the crossing of Redwood Creek at Pacific Way Bridge for wetland restoration at Big Lagoon in Muir Beach. Estimated cost is \$7 million for design and construction of the project as described in the completed EIR/EIS. In addition to wetland and creek restoration, improvements will also reduce flooding on Pacific Way, a County maintained road. The National Park Service and County are discussing alternative project options with a lower total cost.
4. ***Emergency Operations Facility.*** Seek federal funding to support engineering, design and/or construction or equipment required for the County's planned Emergency Operations Facility at the Marin Commons site.
5. ***Muir Woods Transportation Management.*** Explore options to identify additional partnerships or revenue opportunities that could provide funds intended to offset or partially offset the costs of transportation management associated with Muir Woods National Monument.
6. ***Las Gallinas Creek/Santa Venetia Levee.*** Seek a federal appropriation in FY 2013 to the ACOE for the restoration of Las Gallinas Creek flood control levees to protect the Santa Venetia area. This project was included in the 2007 reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act but requires funding. Phase I of the Feasibility Study is currently under way and includes geotechnical evaluation, hydrologic and hydraulic analysis and economic benefit cost analysis. Phase II includes development of conceptual design alternatives, determination of federal interest, and completion of the environmental review process. The estimated cost of Phase II is \$2-\$3 million; non-federal interests would be required to fund 50% of the feasibility study costs. Prior federal investments for this project include a \$100,000 Initial Assessment by the ACOE, and \$581,380 under a Cost Sharing Agreement for Phase 1. In addition, explore opportunities to address dredging, watershed restoration and pump station replacement/maintenance in the Las Gallinas Creek Watershed.
7. ***Tomales Bay Water Quality Programs.*** Seek federal assistance for infrastructure projects designed to improve water quality or the availability of potable water sources within the Tomales Bay watershed, including ongoing projects that would enable private property owners along Tomales Bay to upgrade failing and substandard on-site sewage disposal systems, or convert to small community waste treatment systems.
8. ***Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration.*** Seek federal assistance for the costs associated with the Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study and EIR/EIS.
9. ***Gnoss Field Airport Runway Extension.*** Support efforts to identify federal funds for study, design and construction costs related to a 1,100-foot runway extension and safety improvements to the County airport.

2012 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

A. SPONSORED BILLS

1. ***Require Board Approval for Ad Hoc COLAs for Retirees.*** Propose amendments to Section 31874.3 and/or other relevant sections of Government Code to require authorization from the Board of Supervisors prior to the effectuation of any ad-hoc Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) approved by the retirement board for existing retirees.
2. ***Add Flexibility to Required Employee Contributions for Pension System Costs.*** Propose amendments to Section 31485.10 and/or other relevant sections of the California Government Code adopted as part of AB 89 (2011) for San Mateo County. To permit maximum flexibility for negotiation of the application of retirement benefit formulas and the contributions required as a result of the application of the formulas, Marin seeks the same permissive statutory authority provided to San Mateo County in 2011.
3. ***Expand Health Care Plan Options for Local Governments.*** Explore amendments to relevant sections of the California Government Code to permit the County of Marin to participate in the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) health care coverage plan consistent with the terms of a County negotiated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The County could benefit from lower health care costs made possible by its participation in a larger coverage pool.

B. PRIORITY ISSUES

1. ***Pension Reform.*** Support efforts to implement pension reform in California. The County supports statewide reform efforts to make pensions more sustainable for local governments. Our overall goal to guide pension reform is to be fair to our employees and fiscally responsible to our residents. We welcome participation from all stakeholders to help us influence change at the State level to provide further options for the County to control costs.

We will monitor and advocate for statewide reform, as well as specific legislation that would benefit Marin County. Our support of pension reform includes, but is not limited to: creating lower cost hybrid defined benefit/defined contribution pension options; prohibiting unfunded retroactive pension increases; providing employers new options to exclude certain pay types from being pension-eligible to prevent pension spiking; prohibiting retirement systems from granting ad hoc COLAs to retirees without the support of the Board of Supervisors or the employer's governing board; exploring limits on so-called 'double-dipping' between other government agencies; and capping pension benefits to a certain percentage of pay or dollar amount.

Governor's 12-Point Reform Plan. The Board is supportive of the Governor's 12-Point Pension Reform Plan, as it contains many of the policy options for which we have been advocating to make pensions more sustainable. For example, the plan includes and the County in principle supports:

- a comprehensive statewide plan for all public employees to enable a fair and even playing field for recruiting future talent;
- options that would better share costs between the employer and the employee;
- prohibition on retroactive pension benefit enhancements that create unfunded liabilities;
- increases to the retirement age for new employees;
- three-year averaging for benefit calculations;

- limitations on pensions to base pay to control spiking;
- prohibition of “air-time” purchases of service credits and pension holidays.

However, other elements require further details in order to take a fully informed position. For instance, we need to better understand the estimated normal costs of the proposed hybrid pension plan for new employees, and the legal viability of requiring a 50-50 contribution split of normal costs for existing employees. Once these details are available from the Governor’s Department of Finance, we will review them to ensure they are consistent with the County’s goals.

Marin-Specific Legislation. Although we would prefer statewide solutions, we are willing and expect the need to pursue Marin-specific solutions, including efforts to:

- Require Board approval for ad hoc COLAs for retirees;
- Add flexibility to required employee contributions for pension system costs;
- Expand health care plan options for local governments; and
- Explore hybrid defined-benefit/defined-contribution plan options for new employees.

2. ***Watershed Management Efforts.*** Explore efforts to support future water bond legislation to include funding for urban stream, stormwater and flood management projects that would reduce the frequency and impacts from floods in watersheds that drain into San Francisco Bay, including communities throughout Marin County. Amendments should direct the State Department of Water Resources to prioritize funding toward communities recovering from extensive damage inflicted during severe floods, such as those that have resulted in both state and federal declarations of emergency. Giving priority to these areas would allow these counties to construct improvements to mitigate future losses in these frequently flooded watersheds.
3. ***Public Safety Realignment.*** Monitor state prison/parole reform efforts, including AB 109 (2011), or similar efforts that would transfer responsibility for potentially thousands of prisoners or parolees to local jurisdictions. Beyond obvious safety concerns, there are unfunded local mandate concerns as counties could be exposed to significantly increased demand for health care or social services in their communities. Support a constitutional amendment that would guarantee ongoing funding for any realigned programs or responsibilities.
4. ***Infrastructure Bond Package & Flood Protection.*** Continue to advocate for the inclusion and/or eligibility of local projects for funding through the state “Infrastructure Bond Package” (Propositions 1A-1E), a \$37 billion measure approved by voters in November 2006 to address the state’s deteriorating infrastructure. Support efforts under this or other potential state funding sources to improve or replace pump stations and/or to support dredging activities for restoration of Las Gallinas Creek flood control levees which protect the Santa Venetia area.
5. ***New or Additional Taxes/Fees on Alcohol, Tobacco and Soda.*** Support policies or new legislation that would levy taxes on alcohol, tobacco, and/or soda to reduce consumption and harm from these products. Such taxes may, for example, be imposed to fund related public health programs.
6. ***Climate Change, Clean/Renewable Energy, and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure.*** Support efforts to incent and promote alternative energy sources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions - including, but not limited to, solar and tidal energy, improved efficiency of county systems, Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), and electric vehicle infrastructure or clean fuel technologies. Explore additional avenues made possible by AB 32 (Nunez; 2006), “The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006,” a comprehensive program of regulatory and market mechanisms designed to achieve reduction of greenhouse gases. Support efforts to facilitate local government planning

and implementation measures to comply with SB 375 and related legislation. Support efforts to include health-related concerns and strategies (“Health in All Policies”) as a part of SB 375 implementation.

7. ***Improved Access to Health Care.*** Support efforts to successfully implement federal healthcare reform, including expansion of children’s health insurance and efforts to expand Medi-Cal coverage to currently uncovered populations.
8. ***San Quentin.*** Monitor State plans for infrastructure development/reuse at the San Quentin correctional facility, and actively engage with the Governor’s office and state legislators to forge a partnership with the State, which owns the land, and the County, in which the land is located, for a potential shared use of the site that would be advantageous to both - as well as the public.
9. ***Realignment and Cost-Shifts.*** Monitor any efforts to re-examine the state's tax laws, and oppose any proposals that would further restructure, realign, or otherwise shift the cost of state programs to local government without a constitutionally guaranteed, ongoing revenue source. Support efforts to improve the stability of current county revenue sources.
10. ***Regional Housing Needs.*** Support efforts to permit counties to collaborate with their cities to create more affordable housing opportunities, including a broader range of options that would be eligible to receive state housing element credits. Explore efforts to establish a greater voice for local governments with respect to the share of regional housing needs allocated to them by the state. Allocations should be more consistent with local infrastructure limitations, and with countywide plans. Explore strategies to effectively comply with and utilize new housing element requirements per SB 375 (Steinberg; 2008), which incorporates regional transportation planning and CEQA requirements for housing developments that are consistent with a ‘sustainable communities’ strategy – potentially including strategies to better connect SB 375 sustainable community plans with the Regional Housing Need Assessment (RENA) process at the state level.
11. ***Highway 101 “Marin-Sonoma Narrows” Multi-Modal Corridor Projects.*** Support the Transportation Authority of Marin in seeking additional funding for the “Marin-Sonoma Narrows” project, including bike, pedestrian, light rail and/or other multi-modal project elements along the Highway 101 corridor. This project would alleviate congestion on the U.S. 101 corridor in Marin and Sonoma Counties from Highway 37 in Novato to Old Redwood Highway in Petaluma, and is the final of seven phases for the widening and improvement of U.S. 101 in Marin and Sonoma counties. Approximately \$300 million has been leveraged from various sources over the years with much more needed for construction of the estimated \$700 million project.
12. ***Nonmotorized Transportation.*** Support efforts to demonstrate the extent to which bicycling and walking can carry a significant part of the transportation solution in Marin County, with significant environmental, mobility and health benefits. Support continued funding for bicycle, pedestrian, and Safe Routes to Schools programs at the same level or greater as was appropriated in Fiscal Year 2011-12.
13. ***Public Transit Services.*** Support efforts to increase funding for a more robust public transit shuttle system countywide.
14. ***AB 2121/Water Appropriation Rights.*** Seek an extension from the State Water Resources Control Board of the AB 2121 (2004) compliance grace period for agricultural growers, and in particular, affected growers who were not actively notified of the legislation’s new requirements for the protection of fish and aquatic populations, or directly invited to participate in planning or implementation discussions.

15. ***California National Guard Armory.*** Explore the potential for modification of the County lease with the California National Guard Armory, located adjacent to the Civic Center Campus. Such a modification would require legislation.

COUNTY OF MARIN 2012 LEGISLATIVE POLICY GUIDELINES

Attachment A represents the 2012 Legislative Policy Guidelines. These guidelines are designed to (a) provide standing authority to take action on pending legislative matters when time constraints preclude bringing such matters to the Board of Supervisors in advance, and (b) provide our lobbyists a better understanding of the Board's policy preferences regarding a variety of intergovernmental issues that might arise during the course of the year. The guidelines include updated items from previous years that remain a priority for the county, as well as several proposed policy additions.

A. GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. ***County Revenue Sources and Local Authority.*** Oppose attempts to decrease, restrict or eliminate county revenue sources, or to restrict local authority with respect to issues that affect local communities. In particular, monitor any efforts at the state level to retain additional vehicle license fee or local property tax funds for state purposes. Explore statutes for potential amendment which currently require that fee and fine revenues - for Marin County Open Space violations, for instance - be dedicated to the Court Operations. Local agencies should receive a greater percentage of locally-generated infraction revenues to offset their cost of doing business.
2. ***State and Federal Mandates.*** Oppose state or federal mandates, or the transfer/realignment of state or federal programs to the county, unless adequate on-going revenues are provided. Support efforts to establish a date certain for the payment of deferred S.B. 90 reimbursements to counties, or efforts that would reform the current mandate reimbursement process to be more cost efficient, predictable and fair. Support efforts to streamline access to, and use of, federal and state funds.
3. ***Workers' Compensation & Disability Retirement Reform.*** Support efforts to reform the state workers' compensation program and similar efforts regarding disability payments to control costs and to reduce potential abuse, including disability presumptions.
4. ***Privacy Rights.*** Support efforts to ensure the privacy rights of individuals, including the ability to maintain the confidentiality of personal records - including medical records and records that include health information. Support efforts to require that individuals must actively agree to any release of their records or confidential information.
5. ***State & Local Government Reform.*** Monitor and assess various efforts and proposals to reform the state's constitution, and/or efforts to change state/local government relationships and funding mechanisms, to determine whether any such efforts should be supported by the County.
6. ***SmartMeter Opt-Out Legislation.*** Support legislative efforts that would enable residents to opt-out from Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) deployment of SmartMeter grid infrastructure. Oppose efforts to charge customers substantial fees to opt-out of SmartMeter installation or have previously installed SmartMeters removed.
7. ***Regionalization Opportunities.*** Support efforts to allow counties to consider regionalization of key state/local functions in order to achieve more efficient and cost-effective services.

B. ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

1. ***State Elections Reimbursement.*** Support election reform efforts that do not result in costs for elections being passed on to local governments with no realistic method for reimbursement. Continue to work with CSAC to provide state reimbursement of S.B. 90 claims, and other reimbursements, for elections costs for which counties cannot adequately prepare or budget.
2. ***Administrative Contracting.*** Explore amendments to the California Public Resources Code to raise the contract amounts from \$10,000 to \$25,000 for professional services and goods and trade services for which the general manager may administratively bind the Marin County Open Space District.
3. ***Reducing Elections Costs.*** Support efforts to provide permissive authority for local jurisdictions to explore ways of reducing the local costs of elections, including changes to the requirements governing polling place locations and/or vote-by-mail opportunities
4. ***Property Tax Postponement Program.*** Support AB 1718 and/or other similar legislation that would facilitate restoration of the State's property tax postponement program, which allowed seniors, blind and disabled owners to postpone the payment of property taxes until death or upon sale of their property under certain eligibility and income limits. Support an installment payment plan with a lower rate of interest (from the current 18% to 12% per year) on any unpaid balance, again with eligibility and income limits. Support legislation that would allow individual counties to enact similar programs on a voluntary basis.
5. ***Regulations Governing the Assessment of Renovated Property.*** Work with State Board of Equalization or other relevant agencies to ensure that the County can continue to appropriately assess remodeled or improved property.
6. ***Corporate Personhood.*** Monitor efforts at the federal level, including any proposed constitutional amendments that would eliminate corporate "personhood", a concept that permits certain rights and privileges to corporations as if they were persons.
7. ***United States Federal Reserve.*** Monitor federal legislation that would reform the Federal Reserve System.

C. TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS

1. ***Multi-modal Transportation.*** Support efforts to incent commuters to use modes of transportation alternative to single-occupancy vehicles, possibly to include employer-sponsored incentives, and potential exploration of a personal rapid transit system. In concert with the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) and the Marin County Transit District, oppose efforts by the State to redirect funding from the Public Transportation Account (PTA), for non-transportation purposes, including the State Transit Assistance (STA) program that provides the sole source of state funding for local transit operations and capital purchases. Support efforts in concert with TAM, MTC, MCTD, SMART, the Golden Gate Transit District and others to give these funds constitutional protection.
2. ***Public Transit Services.*** Support development of a robust public transit shuttle system linking schools and recreation areas throughout the County. Explore efforts to identify ongoing State and/or Federal funding for public transit services to National and California State Parks, as well as rural transit services in West Marin. Additional ongoing transit funding to service parks and public lands would reduce congestion and positively affect climate change efforts.

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3. ***Design-Build Contracting.*** Support efforts to extend the option for counties to employ design-build contracting and project delivery for applicable projects. Current law (PCC §20133) sunsets January 1, 2012. Design-build, in which the owner contracts with a single entity to both design and construct a project, may for example allow for more cost-effective and timely development of an emergency operations facility on the Civic Center campus.
4. ***Local Road Funding.*** Support efforts to preserve and, where possible, enhance local road maintenance funding for counties. Support 'safe routes to schools' initiatives, enhanced accessibility and mobility initiatives for persons with disabilities, and protection of gas tax revenue and Proposition 1B regional allocations. Support the allocation of the remaining Proposition 1B funding made available through the Public Transportation Modernization and Service Enhancement Account program for the purchase of rolling stock and capital projects. Support initiatives to provide additional funding for road maintenance, such as an increase in – or annual indexing of - state gas taxes, or lowering the threshold for local transportation taxes from 2/3 to 55%.
5. ***Congestion Relief through Buses.*** Seek legislation to reduce congestion by supporting programs for buses to transport passengers more effectively, including improved right-of-way on public roads for buses, improved interactive signage, and discount bus programs for school-age children, seniors, and large employers.

D. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

1. ***Health Care Reform.*** Support revisions to the National Health Care Reform bill as may be necessary to preserve the Act. Where feasible, support increased inclusion and maintenance of prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery support services in health care legislation including evidence-based prevention strategies such as those outlined in the National Prevention Strategy. Support efforts to provide meaningful addiction and mental health benefits in the full continuum of health care services, improving coordination and integration of available mental health and addiction services, as well as interventions with demonstrated effectiveness that take a community health approach to prevention and wellness.
2. ***Continuum of Comprehensive Health Services.*** Support improving coordination and integration of available physical health, mental health and addiction services, including prevention, screening and early intervention, treatment and recovery. Work to secure additional funding from private, state and federal sources that support the integrated implementation of prevention, treatment and recovery services; especially primary prevention services and ancillary support services.
3. ***Medicaid Reimbursement.*** Work with CSAC and the Governor's Office to alter the federal formula for Medicaid matching dollars to become more equitable for California. Oppose efforts to cap Medicaid dollars to states, or to restructuring Medicaid such that it would result in reduced coverage or funding. Support efforts to include medical respite as a Medicaid-reimbursed treatment. Medical respite has been shown to reduce repeated ER/hospital stays, but there is currently no reimbursement to cover the medical costs of caring for the homeless after release from the hospital.
4. ***Medicare charges to recipients.*** Explore efforts to address problems associated with increasingly expensive Medicare co-payment requirements for prescription medications, particularly among low-income residents with multiple medication needs.
5. ***Private Insurance Reimbursement for Psychiatric Emergency Services and for Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services.*** Support efforts to require insurers to reimburse Counties for psychiatric emergency services, and/or require that insurers provide alcohol and drug treatment services. State

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and federal law require that insurers pay for emergency medical care; a similar provision should be adopted for emergency psychiatric services.

6. ***Reimbursement for Mental Health Services to Severely Emotionally Disturbed Children.*** Support efforts to ensure comprehensive and ongoing reimbursement to County Mental Health Departments for services to seriously emotionally disturbed children, and/or that County Offices of Education (COE) reimburse counties to the extent that the state provides monies to the COE for this purpose.
7. ***Coverage Expansion Projects.*** Support efforts to explore participation in the State's Medicaid 1115 Waiver Coverage Expansion Projects, including participation as a member of Partnership HealthPlan, or as a member of the County Medical Services Program (CMSP).
8. ***Long Term Care Funding.*** Support discussion of restructuring long term care programs, focusing on better addressing chronic health care problems and encouraging independence as long as possible. Support the protection of funding for the In-Home Supportive Services program. Support efforts to more flexibly define the Medicaid hospice benefit, allowing patients to remain beyond six months if the physician recertifies that the patient is terminally ill.
9. ***AIDS Funding.*** Support additional funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), which allows low-income people with HIV/AIDS who are uninsured or underinsured to purchase life-preserving medications. Oppose additional patient co-pays, the establishment of waiting lists, reductions to the existing formulary - or other mechanisms that would disrupt a patient's ability to receive medications through the program, including incarcerated patients. Support efforts to maintain federal allocations for Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act funding to the San Francisco Eligible Metropolitan Area, which includes Marin County.
10. ***Social Services Funding.*** Work to protect funding and to simplify eligibility and enrollment processes for social services programs including, but not limited to, Child Support, Child Welfare, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and Food Stamp programs.
11. ***Child Care & Child Welfare.*** Support increased federal and state funding for childcare facilities, and for the training and retention of child care workers. Support efforts to improve the child welfare system, including updating the baseline for workload standards; advocate for increased flexibility of funding sources to include early intervention and prevention strategies; and advocate for increased attention and resources for youth leaving foster care, including supports to help them make permanent connections to adults and successfully transition into adulthood. Support efforts to restore funding for Stage III childcare, which was reduced by gubernatorial veto as a component of the FY 2010-11 State Budget.
12. ***Older Adult Programs.*** Support efforts to obtain more funding for senior programs – especially older adult transportation and housing, including volunteer driver programs and older driver education efforts – as Marin County has a large and growing number of older adults. Support efforts to better prevent senior/elder abuse and work to protect funding for the Adult Protective Services program.
13. ***Collaborative Efforts to Reduce County Detention Medical Expenses.*** Support efforts to seek federal and/or state reimbursement for local detention medical expenses.
14. ***Drug and Alcohol Residential Rehabilitation.*** Without discriminating against those seeking recovery, support efforts to require local notification/input with regard to converting residential homes, particularly multiple contiguous parcels, into drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers in residential areas. Currently, the State Department of Alcohol & Drug programs may permit

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development of contiguous residential parcels into a recovery complex or compound, which generate complaints about noise, parking, traffic and other problems in residentially-zoned areas.

15. **Older Adult Services:** Support efforts to better prevent senior/elder abuse and work to protect funding for the Adult Protective Services program.
16. **Strengthen and Promote the Reauthorization of the Federal Older Americans Act (OAA) and Older Californian's Act (OCA).** Support efforts to strengthen the federal OAA and OCA by advocating for increased federal and state funding; by assuring that future funding is tied to growth of the population of older adults; by restoring funding for OCA community based services programs (Linkages, Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Center, Brown Bag and Senior Companion); and by allowing flexibility and capability for local autonomy in providing services. As Marin's older adult population is projected to increase substantially in coming decades, increased funding will be necessary to keep pace with anticipated service demands. Support vulnerable elder and dependent adults in order to keep them safely in their own homes.
17. **Community Based Treatment and Recovery Maintenance.** Support Medicaid Home and Community-based waivers that would apply to California and Marin County in a way that maximizes opportunities for Marin's senior and disabled population to preserve their independence as long as possible and to receive community and/or home-based treatment wherever possible.
18. **Foster Children & Their Families.** Support legislation that promotes services to meet the needs of current and former foster children and their families/caregivers involved in the Child Welfare System, including proposals that allow for continued movement towards meeting State-mandated outcomes for foster children, accountability, and establishment of best practices.
19. **Medical Treatment for Traumatic Brain Injury Victims.** Support legislation that provides for state review of the increasing incidence of organic brain syndrome for victims of brain injury or other serious neurological impairments.
20. **Preventive Healthcare:** Support efforts to maintain prevention as a part of the continuum of services across all County programs and services. Support the implementation of evidence-based strategies in all County prevention services contracts. Support the integration of prevention across all of the priorities of the National Prevention Strategy, including:
 - a. **Tobacco Free Living:** Support local, state and federal efforts to expand smoke-free business and residential environments.
 - b. **Promote Healthy Eating and Physical Activity across the Lifespan.** Support efforts to address overweight and obesity issues among children and adults wherever possible including through nutrition and physical activity education; standards and policies; safe routes to schools, healthy foods and beverages (including locally grown foods); ally with nutrition and physical activity efforts in schools and in the community.
 - c. **Promote Healthy Habits across the Lifespan for Adults.** Support efforts to promote healthy lifestyles, including policies that reduce or prevent harm; promotion of safe sex; improved nutrition; and increased physical activity.
 - d. **Preventing Drug Abuse and Excessive Alcohol Use.** Support state efforts to reduce problems associated with youth alcohol and other drug use and related community problems. Statistics from the California Healthy Kids Survey document that Marin County's alcohol and drug use rates are higher than state and national averages.
 - e. **Medical Marijuana.** Monitor efforts to create a statewide framework for the regulation of medical marijuana, and/or the implementation of local conditions that

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- affect medical marijuana dispensaries. Oppose federal actions that interfere with state's rights.
- f. **Promote Health Equity.** Support efforts to address conditions that contribute to health disparities and inequities, including development of regional strategies that supplement and support local work, strategies that help change the organization and culture of government agencies to make work on health inequities part of their missions, and approaches that foster the conditions in which people are most likely to be healthy- up to and including efforts to reduce poverty statewide.
 - g. **Impact of Menthol on Public Health:** Explore efforts to restrict the use of menthol in tobacco products by potentially requesting the FDA to include menthol with the other 13 specific flavorings in cigarettes that are already banned.
 - h. **Workplace Protections:** Support state legislation to eliminate most of the exemptions in the existing statewide smoke-free workplace law (Labor Code 6404.5) to close loopholes and protect all workers from the dangers of secondhand and third hand smoke.
21. **Family Planning, Access, Care and Treatment Program.** Advocate for continued renewal of a federal waiver under which California operates its Family Planning, Access, Care and Treatment Program. The federal government has threatened non-renewal of this waiver because of the way the State administers eligibility standards, and federal concerns that federal money is being used for services to undocumented persons.
22. **Local EMS Governance.** Current statutes regarding Emergency Medical Services vests authority for local EMS system planning, implementation and evaluation with the County. Oppose any statutory or regulatory change that restricts or overrules local determination made by elected officials regarding Marin's EMS system design, funding, policy development, medical control or governance.
23. **Environmental Toxins.** Seek funding for studies on the health effects of exposure to environmental toxins, and support biomonitoring efforts to monitor the presence of human exposure to natural and synthetic chemicals. Lack of labeling and information prevents customers from being informed about these chemicals in the household.
24. **Reinstatement of Federal Benefits to Jail Inmates.** Support efforts to amend federal regulations to require the federal government to reinstate benefits for jail inmates. Inmates charged with a crime and incarcerated while awaiting trial currently lose eligibility for Medicare and Medicaid benefits, Social Security and other federal benefits. Suspension of these benefits often leaves counties to bear the full cost of providing medical services to these inmates.
25. **California Cancer Research Act.** Support the Act that will provide more than \$500 Million per year to find new ways to detect, treat, prevent and cure cancer or other tobacco-related illnesses.
26. **Volunteer Corps.** Support the expansion of volunteer organizations such as Citizen Volunteer Corps, AmeriCorps VISTA, Medical Reserve Corps, or other similar organizations engaged in community service.
- United States Department of Peace.** Monitor efforts to establish a United States Department of Peace, the purpose of which would be to provide practical, non-violent assistance and solutions to the problems associated with domestic and international conflict.

E. NATURAL RESOURCES & COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. ***Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project.*** Support the California Coastal Conservancy in seeking additional federal appropriations to the ACOE for the Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project, which has received WRDA authorization to expand the project to include Bel Marin Keys Unit V (adjacent to the Restoration Project). The area has subsided and was diked from San Pablo Bay; this project would restore tidal and seasonal wetlands.
2. ***San Pablo Bay Watershed Restoration.*** Explore efforts to advance one large wetlands restoration area along the San Pablo Bay from Novato Creek (including Hamilton Field south to China Camp) to protect property, repair and protect valuable riparian and aquatic habitat, and to improve water quality.
3. ***McInnis Wetland Restoration.*** Seek funding through WRDA 2007 Section 5053 and other state and federal sources to develop a Detailed Project Report, to be prepared by the ACOE. Estimated cost is \$750,000. Because the ACOE has not been able to secure an initial project allocation, the project has not moved forward.
4. ***Miller Creek Watershed Restoration.*** Explore funding opportunities to support watershed-wide measures to enhance riparian habitat and steelhead salmon populations, and pursue funding consistent with these goals. The estimated local cost is \$800,000 in order for County Services Area (CSA) No. 13 to implement restoration design and begin work along 2.5 miles of Miller Creek and its tributaries to reduce sediment and enhance habitat.
5. ***Lower Novato Creek Restoration Planning and Design.*** Seek funding to support restoration of lower Novato Creek through WRDA 2007 Section 5053 and other State and Federal sources. Past flooding events have caused millions of dollars of property damage and damaged riparian and aquatic habitat, affecting several species on the federal Endangered Species Act list.
6. ***Municipal Storm Water Discharge Permit.*** Support inclusion of provisions in the Phase II National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems that allows the Regional Water Board Executive Officer to authorize a municipal stormwater management program that is equally or more effective at reducing pollutant discharges than implementation of the requirements of the adopted General Permit.
7. ***Sudden Oak Death.*** Explore opportunities to identify additional funding for federal, state, and local agencies dedicated to the research and management of the Sudden Oak Death problem in Marin and other coastal California counties. On-going funding is required to maintain federal, state, and local activities focused on regulatory enforcement; monitoring/early detection; and education, outreach and training. Investigate opportunities to redirect some federal funding to state and local governments to assist with costs relating to tree removal and disposal, fire protection, public education, and financial assistance to homeowners.
8. ***Mill Assessment Fee Reimbursements.*** Support amendments to Section 6393, or other relevant sections of the California Government Code in order to ensure that agencies like Marin County who minimize the usage of pesticides are not unfairly penalized in the apportionment of Mill assessment fee reimbursements.
9. ***Product Take-Back & Other Zero-Waste Policies and Practices.*** Support efforts to enhance and fund programs which advocate zero-waste practices, recycling and/or Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs among retailers and grocery stores for products which can be recycled, including pharmaceuticals. EPR is the extension of the responsibility of producers for environmental impacts of their products to the entire product life cycle - and especially for their

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take-back, recycling, and disposal. This added responsibility may incent more environmentally friendly means of production.

10. ***Water Conservation Efforts.*** Support water conservation efforts, including efforts to develop uniform standards for the use of “gray” water – as well as native plant and low-water demonstration gardens and other efforts to cultivate water conservation in the community.
11. ***Endangered Species Act.*** Protect the Endangered Species Act from attempts to constrain the federal government’s ability to protect critical habitat for plants and animals; oppose efforts to require compensation for landowners if government blocks their development plans to protect certain species.
12. ***West Marin Emergency Services.*** Seek increased federal funding for providing emergency services for the visitors of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and southern and western Marin. The funding for this activity has remained unchanged at approximately \$90,000 since the program’s inception in the early 1970s, and is important especially during seasonal high-use periods.
13. ***Protect Endangered Fish in Coastal Streams.*** Explore efforts with the State Water Resources Control Board and others to balance the needs of coastal agriculture while also protecting native fish in coastal streams within the Endangered Species Act. Seek greater and more consistent funding for fishery restoration, particularly for fish which live in the ocean but return to freshwater to spawn, such as salmon.
14. ***Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund Reauthorization.*** Work closely with other local government, water district and state officials to support Congressional reauthorization of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, and other measures which balance the needs of Coastal agriculture and environmental concerns/habitat preservation.
15. ***State Funded Water Projects.*** Explore opportunities through the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program for projects to protect communities from drought, protect and improve water quality, and improve local water security by reducing dependence on imported water. The IRWM is funded through Proposition 84, the “Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Act,” passed by voters in 2006, as well as Proposition 50 (the “California Water Quality, Supply and Safe Drinking Water Projects, Coastal Wetlands Purchase and Protection Bond”), passed by the voters in 2002.
16. ***Water Conservation and Delta Issues.*** Monitor water conservation and funding issues for impacts to the Delta/Bay region.
17. ***North Bay Water Reuse Program.*** Support efforts to enable a Bureau of Reclamation partnership with the North Bay Water Reuse Authority and other regional partners to achieve water supply, water quality, and environmental restoration objectives - including reclamation projects with the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitation District and Novato Sanitary District.
18. ***Housing Authority Assistance to Remediate Home Health & Safety Code Violations.*** Continue efforts with the State Water Resources Control Board to establish a revolving loan fund which would accommodate grants or low interest loans in excess of \$25,000 to people of low income to address health and safety code violations in their homes. Funded projects could include the upgrade or conversion of failing or substandard on-site sewage systems.
19. ***Tomaes Bay Water Quality Programs.*** Seek state assistance for infrastructure projects designed to improve water quality or the availability of potable water sources within the Tomales Bay watershed, including ongoing projects that would enable private property owners along Tomales Bay to upgrade failing and substandard on-site sewage disposal systems, or convert to small community waste treatment systems.

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20. **Coastal Commission.** Support efforts to adequately fund the California Coastal Commission to facilitate more effective and timely partnership with coastal cities and counties regarding planning and regulatory issues affecting land and water in the coastal zone.
21. **Routine Flood Control Maintenance.** Support amendments to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act in order to provide exemption from onerous federal permitting requirements for routine flood control maintenance activities such as the removal of sediment, debris and vegetation from channels and basins.
22. **Restoration of San Francisco Bay.** Support efforts to amend the Clean Water Act to provide funding to state and local agencies and other organizations for restoration projects and habitat improvement for fish, waterfowl, and wildlife that advance the goals and objectives of the comprehensive management plan for the San Francisco estuary as described in the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act, s.97 2011/2012.
23. **CEQA Streamlining.** Monitor proposed efforts to streamline the California Environmental Quality Act to ensure an appropriate balance between environmental protection and efficient processing of development applications.
24. **Plastic Shopping Bags.** Support legislation that would prohibit stores statewide from providing customers with plastic carryout shopping bags (while allowing the distribution of paper shopping bags subject to a nominal deposit or fee). Support efforts to encourage the use of re-usable shopping bags.
25. **Genetically Modified Foods.** Support statewide legislation that would require explicit product labeling of genetically modified foods.

F. LAW ENFORCEMENT & PUBLIC SAFETY

1. **Disaster Prevention and Recovery.** Seek additional funding, and expand the definition of programs eligible for grant funding, for disaster recovery/prevention – including efforts to better prevent and respond to oil spills on and around Marin’s coastline, bay front and waterways. Support reform of California’s public health and safety net system to allow state and local governments to better plan and prepare for potential public health disasters; and to facilitate their availability to County and community-based organizations.
2. **Therapeutic Courts.** Work to restore funding for therapeutic justice programs, such as the Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction (MIOCR) grant programs administered by the State Board of Corrections. Support legislation providing increased or continued funding for adult and juvenile drug courts, and expansion to pre-plea drug court programs.
3. **Domestic Violence Court Funding.** Seek state or federal funding to assist with the continuation of the Family/Domestic Violence Court, particularly the therapeutic treatment aspect of the court’s operation. The Domestic Violence Court is a comprehensive approach toward case resolution, increased offender accountability, victim safety, and integration of the delivery of social services.
4. **Court Funding.** Oppose any increase in Trial Court Funding Act county maintenance of effort levels above the agreement reached in A.B. 233 (1997-Escutia) and subsequent actions providing maintenance of effort relief. Support legislation to expand California Rule of Court 810 regarding Court operations to include all Court-related costs currently paid by counties. Support enactment of a court facilities bond that would allow counties to make needed renovations to local trial court facilities. Oppose efforts to restrict counties from recovering their costs for providing security services to Courts.

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5. ***Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Funding.*** Advocate for reinstatement, to FY 2007-08 state funding levels, of U.S. Department of Justice COPS funding opportunities. COPS provides grants to law enforcement agencies to hire and train community policing professionals, acquire and deploy cutting-edge crime-fighting technologies, and develop and test innovative policing strategies.
6. ***Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act Funding (JJCPA).*** Advocate for reinstatement, to FY 2007-08 state funding levels, for juvenile justice programs under the auspices of the Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (AB 1913) – as well as Juvenile Probation and Camps Funding. These funds have historically been legislatively tied to federal COPS funding; in FY 2006-07, the State restored JJCPA funding to nearly original 2001 levels but funding has been threatened ever since.
7. ***Adult & Juvenile Probation Funding & Safety.*** Support legislation and/or budget proposals that maintain or enhance funding for adult and juvenile probation services programs, as well as legislation or a ballot measure that would fund local juvenile hall and jail construction or remodeling. Support efforts to change state law to allow an intercept on federal income tax returns so that adults on probation pay victim restitution, fines and fees for their criminal behavior; such authority already exists for state returns. Support efforts to ensure a smooth jurisdictional transfer of adult probationers to the county of permanent residence, consistent with Penal Code Section 1203.9. Support efforts to maintain the local distribution of collected fines and fees.
8. ***Jessica’s Law.*** Support efforts to identify funding for unfunded local requirements associated with enforcement of Jessica’s Law, including costs associated with lifelong registration for sex offenders and GPS monitoring, and to defray local costs to defend persons arrested for violations. Voters approved Proposition 83 in November of 2006, increasing penalties for violent and habitual sex offenders and child molesters in California.
9. ***State Crime Labs.*** Support funding for local governments to contract out work needed to reduce DNA testing backlogs. Because of backlogs, many local governments outsource at their own cost to resolve cases; local governments should be reimbursed for these costs.
10. ***Local Booking Fee Authority.*** Monitor the booking fee alternative per AB 1805 (Budget Committee: 2006) to ensure County costs are sufficiently recovered. AB 1805 altered booking fee authority (charges imposed on cities, special districts, school districts, colleges and universities to recover costs associated with booking persons into the county jail) by directly appropriating funds, subject to annual appropriation by the state, to a local detention facility revenue account.
11. ***State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP).*** Monitor and advocate to preserve federal SCAAP payments to states and localities that incur correctional officer salary costs for incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens with specified criminal convictions.
12. ***Standards and Training for Corrections.*** Support continued Standards and Training for Corrections (STC) funding, which focuses on job classification requirements, as well as recruitment and training standards for probation officers, juvenile (Juvenile Hall) and jail correctional officers. State general fund contributions to counties and cities were restored in FY 2006-07; the County should advocate for continuation of funding as STC improves quality of services to the community and reduces potential liability.
13. ***Fire Operations and Equipment.*** Support efforts to identify and apply for federal or state funds to augment County funds for fire station, fire engine or related equipment; master planning; or other fire safety/prevention efforts, including vegetation management and fuel reductions.
14. ***Marin Emergency Radio Authority (MERA).*** Coordinate with MERA to support application or award of funds to supplement or augment MERA’s emergency communications infrastructure.

G. HOUSING AND LAND USE

1. **Indian Gaming.** Support efforts to provide local government greater authority with respect to Indian gaming. Compacts with California tribes – including those for newly accepted or acquired lands for Indian gaming purposes – should include a mandate for judicially enforceable agreements between tribal and local governments, such that Indian gaming tribes comply with state environmental standards, and localities should have more authority to mitigate the significant adverse off-reservation impacts of Indian gaming.

Work with stakeholders and regional partners to ensure that any casinos proposed for development in Marin or in neighboring jurisdictions: 1) do not create significant local adverse off-reservation impacts, and/or 2) that Marin communities have a voice in such negotiations and are provided sufficient authority and funding to mitigate any such impacts.

2. **Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS).** Continue to work with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to monitor and support SCS initiatives that balance the need to protect local government revenues with sound land use planning by local communities – i.e. incorporating new ideas in the areas of growth management, transportation, health, commerce, housing (including affordable housing), and open space to create more livable communities.
3. **Homelessness.** Work with regional stakeholders to develop regional solutions to homelessness in the Bay Area. Support efforts to change State law to exempt faith-based organizations from Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requirements to incent the creation of ad-hoc homeless shelters. Concerns regarding liability/litigation have prevented churches from opening their doors to the homeless. Advocate for, as part of the annual HUD-McKinney grant allocation, a more fair allocation of ‘bonus’ funding that does not disadvantage suburban or rural communities. Explore efforts to allocate Proposition 63 Mental Health Services Act funds to new housing opportunities.
4. **Affordable Housing.** Support efforts to maintain or increase funding for Section 8 vouchers to strengthen and stabilize the system; simplify the rent-setting process; emphasize housing mobility and choice; encourage increased earned-income by residents; support affordable housing opportunities for veterans; and authorize new vouchers. Work to revise and expand 202 and 811 programs serving very low income seniors and people with disabilities. Advocate for McKinney-Vento/HEARTH distribution formulas which are more equitable to affluent suburban areas with increasing homeless rates.
5. **Predatory Lending Practices.** Support legislation that would prevent predatory lending practices; set standards for assisting homeowners seeking loan modifications; or provide resources to victims of improper foreclosures.
6. **Eminent Domain.** Monitor potential legislation or any ballot measures regarding the use of eminent domain by public entities for private use. Eminent domain should be used for clearly public interest and benefit, such as to battle economic and physical blight, and to provide important public infrastructure. Work to ensure that efforts to protect private property do not compromise the use of eminent domain for legitimate public purposes, and do not compromise open space.
7. **County Fees for Workforce Housing.** Explore efforts to amend state legislation to authorize a county to charge a document or transfer fee with proceeds dedicated to a revolving fund that could finance affordable/workforce housing projects. A \$1 per-page document fee for county documents, for example, could generate approximately \$500,000 per year in additional revenues.

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8. ***Housing, Land Use and CEQA.*** Work to ensure that any state efforts to develop housing and infrastructure appropriately balance affordable housing needs with environmental concerns, including appropriate CEQA review, and protect local regulation of housing and land use issues. Work to alter State Housing and Community Development (HCD) funding formulas to more fairly consider affordable housing needs in high-cost and non-urban areas of the state.
9. ***Affordable Housing Preservation/Rehabilitation/Development.*** Explore the possibility of increased funds for affordable housing preservation, rehabilitation and/or development, including costs associated with ADA compliance.
10. ***Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Housing Programs.*** Protect federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program funding, including the CDBG program. The Marin Housing Authority's Section 8 voucher program, for example, serves over 2,000 households and still has in excess of 1,000 households on a waiting list.
11. ***Long Term Care/Assisted Living Facility Opportunities.*** Seek funding for, or support efforts to facilitate, the construction of long-term care/assisted living facility opportunities for low and moderate income segments of Marin's aging population.
12. ***Local Government Regulation of Housing & Land Use Issues.*** Oppose efforts to further restrict local governments' ability to regulate housing and land use issues, including development of second unit housing and any attempt to preempt state and local authority regarding the siting of gasoline refineries. Local land use authority should remain local.
13. ***Brownfield Remediation.*** Support efforts, as appropriate, to identify and remediate abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities to assist developers and property owners interested in reusing the sites for new retail, commercial, residential and industrial purposes.
14. ***Portable Toilets at Seasonal Camps.*** Explore regulatory changes that would facilitate the use of portable toilets at seasonal camps. Current state-wide environmental health regulations do not authorize their use at such facilities.

H. CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL

1. ***Transaction Based Reimbursement Program.*** Seek to enhance funding in the Transaction Based Reimbursement (TBR) Program in the state library budget. The TBR program permits the state library to reimburse local libraries for non-resident use of their materials to promote open library use.
2. ***Public Library Fund.*** Seek to restore funding in the Public Library Fund (PLF) in the state library budget. The PLF is a program to assist local library jurisdictions in maintaining library services for residents of California.
3. ***Library Bonding Capacity.*** Support efforts to amend state education code to permit the Marin County Free Library to issue General Obligation bonds for capital improvements.
4. ***State Funding for Public Library Construction or Renovation.*** Support efforts to place on the ballot a measure that would provide funds to construct new - or renovate existing - public library facilities in California.
5. ***Telecommunications.*** Monitor state legislation (AB 2987; Nunez; 2006) which allows providers of cable television/video services to receive franchises from the State Public Utilities Commission rather than from cities and counties through local franchise agreements. Support federal legislation that would apply to telephone or other companies the same federal laws and regulations as are currently applied to cable television providers, and oppose any legislation that would restrict local

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franchising authority, including collection of franchise fees at the local level. All video providers using public rights of way, regardless of program content or delivery method, should be subject to the same statutory regulations and requirements. Providers should also be encouraged to invest in all communities and neighborhoods, and be required to pay a local franchise fee.

6. ***Volunteer Labor.*** Explore efforts to permit volunteer labor on public works projects or organic farms. Explore the viability of AB 2690 or similar legislation (Hancock; Chaptered 2004).