



December 11, 2018

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Honorable Board of Supervisors  
Marin County Civic Center  
San Rafael, CA 94903

**Re: 2019 LEGISLATIVE PLAN AND GUIDELINES**

Dear Supervisors:

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve, with modifications as deemed appropriate by your Board, the proposed:

- 2019 Federal Legislative Plan;
- 2019 State Legislative Plan; and
- 2019 Legislative Policy Guidelines contained in Attachment A

#### **OVERVIEW**

We bring to your Board the proposed legislative plan for the 2019 calendar year. As always, your Board retains the opportunity to amend the plan at any time during the year to reflect new or emerging priorities.

This plan, including input from staff, our federal and state lobbyists, the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM), Marin Transit District, Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) and your Board, gives staff the opportunity to react quickly to legislative issues consistent with your Board's priorities and policy guidelines. We will be highlighting our proposed legislative priorities in 2019 consistent with your Board's priorities.

We anticipate the federal platform to remain largely defensive in nature. However, with healthy budget reserves, a growing economy and a new governor, this may be a year in which we can reasonably look forward to some new growth in state spending, particularly in the areas of disaster preparation/vegetation management and preschool for the economically disadvantaged.

#### **FEDERAL PLATFORM**

Priorities at the federal level remain fairly similar to those of last year as we approach the Trump Administration's third year in office. A new Democratic majority in the House is likely to affect the Administration's policy aims. With an increased Republican majority in the Senate, however, our proposed federal platform retains a defensive posture.

Recall that approximately \$40 million of our County budget is comprised of federal revenues. In particular, our exposure to federal health care proposals is magnified when considering state matching requirements or the pass-through of federal funds through the state. We will work with Health & Human Services and other County departments during the year to assess potential impacts should additional legislative or regulatory efforts be introduced in any policy area. We will also be prepared to return to your Board with any significant policy issues as may be necessary throughout the coming year.

#### **2019 Federal Platform Highlights**

In acknowledgement of continued fiscal challenges at the federal level, including a ban on earmarks since 2011, federal funding for local projects remains severely constrained.

However, the draft legislative plan continues to indicate our top fiscal priorities in case any opportunities should arise, including the following:

- Supporting **equity and income inequality** by preserving access to affordable health care and safety net funding, including preservation of the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid and Medicare programs, as well as opposing immigration policy changes that would eliminate a pathway to equal citizenship, violate immigrants' legal rights, or that would break up families;
- Preserving efforts and partnerships that would **mitigate the effects of climate change and enhance climate resilience**, including funding for wetland restoration projects, infrastructure investment in levee reconstruction or similar structural resilience measures, and flood control or watershed protection efforts;
- With lessons learned since the wildfires of 2017 and 2018, supporting federal and state **disaster preparedness** efforts around fire prevention and suppression, including identifying funding for vegetation management and tree mortality;
- Consistent with efforts to preserve **affordable housing**, supporting efforts to protect federal HUD, CDBG, HOME and Section 8 funding, while also supporting revitalization of Golden Gate Village public housing in Marin City; and
- Retaining local government authority over **telecommunications and 5G wireless broadband** zoning, siting and placement within local jurisdictions.

**STATE PLATFORM**

The State's financial position remains in remarkably good shape. In its FY 2019-20 California Fiscal Outlook, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) projects Budget Stabilization Account reserves at \$14.5 billion by fiscal year-end (up from \$13.7 billion). It's also projected that the Legislature will have an additional \$14.8 billion in Special Fund for Economic Uncertainties resources available (the state's discretionary reserve) to allocate in FY 2019-20, either building more budget reserves or making new one-time and/or ongoing budget commitments.

With Governor-Elect Newsom taking office in January, and with healthy reserves and a growing economy, this may be a year in which we can reasonably look forward to some new growth in state spending - particularly in the areas of disaster preparation and vegetation management, as well as preschool for the economically disadvantaged. CSAC will also be focused on IHHS realignment reform, attempting to reduce the county share of funding to reflect counties' limited control of such expenses.

We will report to your Board in early January after the Governor-Elect releases his Proposed Budget for FY 2019-20. While we likely will not see significant change next month, as the Proposed Budget will largely have been written by Governor Brown's Department of Finance, the new Governor is likely to significantly influence what appears in the May Revision.

**2019 State Platform Highlights**

While we are not recommending any 2019 Marin County sponsored bills in Sacramento, we anticipate focus in the following areas:

- Working with CSAC to **mitigate the 7% annual IHSS maintenance of effort** applied to counties beginning FY 2019-20, which otherwise will significantly increase local costs of the IHSS program.
- Addressing issues of **equity and income inequality** by supporting quality and more universal pre-school and expansion of California's transitional kindergarten program, increased day care slots and child care reimbursement rates;

- **Emergency preparedness, disaster prevention and response**, including enhanced funding for fire prevention, vegetation management and disaster planning/notification;
- Enhancing efforts to **mitigate climate change and adapt to sea level rise**, including support for clean/renewable energy and funding for planning and infrastructure for sea level rise adaptation; and
- **Preserving and expanding affordable housing**, including work with regional stakeholders to help find solutions to homelessness in Marin and the Bay Area; and opposing any regional or state efforts to tie transportation funding allocations to affordable housing production.

With your Board's approval, including any amendments, we will work with our state and federal delegations to ensure they are aware of your Board's priorities and concerns going into 2019. While our plan includes initiatives that may not be achievable in the short-term, as opportunities arise the plan provides policy direction to guide our legislative program in a manner consistent with your Board's long-term vision for the County.

Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions or concerns.

**Submitted by:**



Melissa Crockett  
Management & Budget Analyst

**Reviewed by:**



Daniel Eilerman  
Assistant County Administrator