

December 10, 2019

Matthew H. Hymel  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Daniel Eilerman  
ASSISTANT COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATOR

Angela Nicholson  
ASSISTANT COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATOR

Marin County Civic Center  
3501 Civic Center Drive  
Suite 325  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
415 473 6358 T  
415 473 4104 F  
CRS Dial 711  
[www.marincounty.org/cao](http://www.marincounty.org/cao)

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

**Re: 2020 LEGISLATIVE PLAN AND GUIDELINES**

Dear Supervisors:

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve, with any Board modifications, the proposed:

- 2020 Federal Legislative Plan;
- 2020 State Legislative Plan; and
- 2020 Legislative Policy Guidelines contained in Attachment A

**OVERVIEW**

We bring to your Board the proposed Legislative Plan for the 2020 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. Key priorities headed into next year include the following:

- **Emergency and disaster preparedness** – including efforts to hold Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) accountable for costs associated with its deenergization events, and mitigating the risks associated with future such events;
- **Continuing integrated Whole Person Care** pilot safety net services for our most vulnerable residents given planned federal Medi-Cal waiver expiration December 31, 2020;
- **Mitigating climate change and enhancing resilience**, including a new focus on efforts to ensure the Army Corps of Engineers is more responsive to Sea Level Rise and supporting clean/renewable energy, including enhanced electrification of transportation infrastructure; and
- **Preserving or enhancing affordable housing opportunities.**

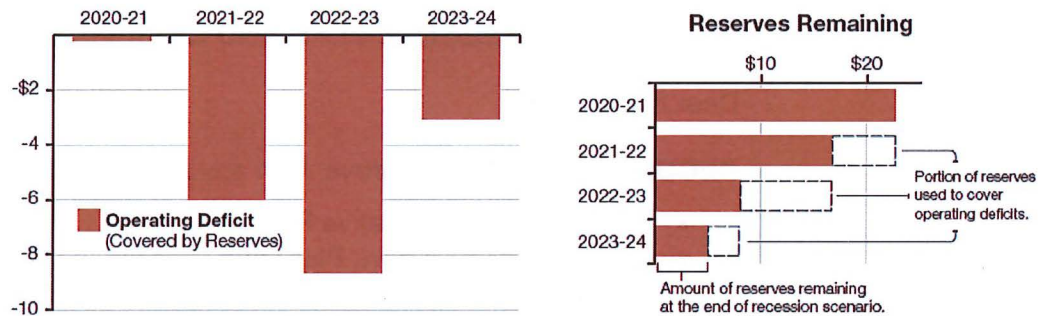
Based on input from staff, our federal and state lobbyists, the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM), Marin Transit District, Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) and your Board, the plan gives staff the opportunity to react quickly to legislative issues consistent with your Board's priorities and policy guidelines.

**2020 STATE PLATFORM**

The State's fiscal position remains in remarkably good shape. In its FY 2020-21 California Fiscal Outlook, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) projects sufficient revenues to cover budget year obligations plus a \$7 billion surplus, \$3 billion of which would be ongoing under current law. After a decade of economic expansion, coupled with legislative action to put the budget on better footing, the LAO forecasts an \$18.3 billion balance in the state's rainy day fund by the end of 2020-21.

With some signals suggesting the potential for weaker economic performance, the LAO recommends only \$1 billion of the projected surplus be dedicated to ongoing purposes next year. A recession scenario projects revenue growth would slow in 2020-21 and then decline year over year by close to \$8 billion in 2021-22. Reserves are anticipated to be sufficient to cover deficits, however, as illustrated below:

**Without Significant New Spending, California Could Weather a Typical Post-WWII Recession**  
*Scenario Assumes Automatic Program Suspensions Are Not Operative (In Billions)*



LAO

We'll report to your Board in mid-January after the Governor releases the Proposed Budget for FY 2020-21. The Governor may propose significant new one-time, or potentially even ongoing, spending next fiscal year.

**State Highlights**

We anticipate significant focus in the following areas:

- **Supporting efforts to hold PG&E accountable** for costs associated with its deenergization events. Because Marin faces disproportionate risk given its geography, PG&E must harden its grid infrastructure, improve its redundancy and segmentation, and implement effective vegetation management to mitigate deenergization events and wildfire risk. Staff will also explore alternatives to the current investor-owned, private utility with more accountability, public input and consumer protection;
- **Enhancing emergency/disaster preparedness**, including funding for fire prevention; vegetation management and disaster planning and notification; climate adaptation and resilience measures; access to homeowner's insurance; and working to require telecommunications providers to ensure adequate backup power to cell tower sites and access to subscriber data for improved alert and warning purposes;
- **Modifying and funding Whole Person Care Services** to create an ongoing program to address the most vulnerable in our community. While one-time state investments have been welcome, counties need funding for services to allow the most vulnerable to *stay* housed – which includes state and federal advocacy for a continued federal waiver;
- **Mitigating climate change and adapting to sea level rise**, including support for clean/renewable energy, funding for seal level rise adaptation, and enhanced electrification of transportation infrastructure – including additional charging stations for EVs; and
- **Preserving and expanding affordable housing**, including efforts to incentivize and fund affordable housing opportunities at the local level; working with regional stakeholders to find solutions to homelessness; and

opposing efforts to tie transportation funding to affordable housing production, or restricting local discretion; and

**2020 FEDERAL PLATFORM**

Priorities at the federal level remain similar to those of last year as we approach the Trump Administration’s fourth year in office. While a new Democratic majority in the House has affected the Administration’s policy aims, a Republican majority in the Senate keeps our proposed federal platform in a largely defensive posture.

**Federal Highlights**

With continued fiscal challenges at the federal level, including a ban on earmarks since 2011, federal funding for local projects remains constrained. The draft plan continues to indicate our top fiscal priorities in case opportunities should arise, including the following:

- **Preserving and improving safety net services**, including efforts to renew the federal Medi-Cal waiver to continue integrated Whole Person Care services to the most vulnerable in our community; preservation of the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid and Medicare programs; and opposing immigration policy that would eliminate a pathway to equal citizenship, violate immigrants’ legal rights, or break up families;
- **Mitigating the effects of climate change and enhancing resilience**, including a new focus on efforts to ensure the Army Corps of Engineers is more responsive to Sea Level Rise, potentially including a pilot program to fund feasibility studies to construct flood control projects;
- **Supporting disaster preparedness**, including fire prevention and suppression and funding for vegetation management and tree mortality; and
- **Supporting affordable housing** by protecting federal HUD, CDBG, HOME and Section 8 funding; and

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 2020. 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:**

Daniel Eilerman  
Assistant County Administrator

**Reviewed by:**

Matthew Hymel  
County Administrator