



2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION PROGRAM



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Prepared by: County Manager's Office

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Introduction

The mission of the County of San Mateo is to protect and enhance the health, safety, welfare and natural resources of the community; and to provide quality services that benefit and enrich the lives of the residents of the County. To be effective in this mission, San Mateo County reviews and establishes priorities and policy statements at the beginning of each legislative year to help guide its advocacy activities at the state and federal levels. The 2014 Legislative Session Program outlines the County's priorities in the coming year and details the County's legislative policies—providing general direction for advocacy. The 2014 Legislative Session Program reflects the County's commitment to our Shared Vision 2025 of a healthy, livable, environmentally conscious and collaborative community.

Advocacy of the County's Interests

While this document attempts to cover the sum of all legislative issues that may have an impact on San Mateo County, it is not comprehensive, complete or final. Throughout the state and federal legislative sessions, the County will review and take positions on various policy and State Budget items. In consultation with its departments and County Counsel, the County Manager's Office (CMO) will provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on legislative and policy issues affecting County operations and programs. When a recommended position is consistent with existing County policy—as adopted in the County's Legislative Program—the CMO will prepare a County position letter for signature by the Board President.

If existing policy is not applicable to a particular legislative or State Budget item, the CMO will prepare an analysis, including fiscal, programmatic, and service impact to County operations and services, of the proposal for Board action. Items and positions approved by the Board will be added to the County's Legislative Program.

Before pursuing legislation or taking positions on bills, including those sponsored or supported by professional associations, County departments must first seek and secure approval from the CMO. The County Manager's Office will review the legislation and determine whether the position sought is consistent with existing Board-approved policy.

All legislation on which the County takes a position will be closely tracked by the CMO and reported to the Board of Supervisors and departments through the CMO's monthly Legislative Activity Report.

State and federal advocacy teams represent the County's interests based upon the policies contained in the Board-approved Legislative Session Program. In addition to County position letters, Board members and County staff may be asked to testify or meet with relevant legislators or members of the Executive branch to advocate on issues requiring heightened advocacy.

2013 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The following are the top legislative priorities for San Mateo County in the second year of the 2013-14 State Legislative Session:



State Budget/Future Realignments. *The County will continue to seek adequate and protected funding for programs operated on behalf of the state. Additionally, should future program realignments be considered, such proposals must include constitutionally guaranteed ongoing funding and protections, and counties must be provided the opportunity to actively participate in negotiations.*

Local Property Taxes. The County will strongly oppose legislative actions that change the existing property tax allocation laws in order to redirect local Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) dollars to the state for payment of state program/service obligations.

Public Safety Realignment—Funding Allocation. The County will strongly advocate for the establishment and adoption of equitable funding distribution formulas for public safety realignment in FY 2014-15 and beyond. *The County will also support and sponsor legislation that will assist it in the implementation of Assembly Bill 109 (Chapter 15, Statutes of 2011).*

Public Safety Realignment Legislative Reforms. *The County will work with the California State Association of Counties and public safety affiliates on a package of AB 109 reforms that will assist the County in the implementation of public safety realignment.*

Pre-school for All. *The County will support pre-school for all funding efforts at the state level that will advance the goals of the “Big Lift,” which seeks to design a model to deliver 2 years of high-quality preschool for all 3 and 4 year olds beginning in targeted communities.*

Health Care Reform Implementation. The County will continue to advocate for appropriate administrative and fiscal support to fully implement federal health care reform, specifically the enrollment of increased numbers of County residents into Medi-Cal, as counties take on this expanded responsibility. The County supports simplified eligibility rules, streamlined eligibility processes, strengthened leveraging of technology to provide consumer-friendly access and minimized consumer burdens in validating eligibility for facilitating renewal of health insurance coverage.

The County will advocate that the Essential Health Benefits scope of coverage for California Covered and newly eligible Medi-Cal populations must support adequate medical, dental, and behavioral healthcare and community-based supportive services capacity for the covered

population, including adequate networks for all essential services within each geographic community. Given the prominent role of key safety net providers in serving the Medi-Cal population, it is critical for these providers to remain financially sustainable to serve an expanded Medi-Cal and subsidized population and to serve those not included in the federal reform law's provisions. *The County will continue to work towards the successful implementation of Health Care Reform to ensure that the County's health system meets the demands of the newly insured population as well as those individuals who will remain uninsured.*

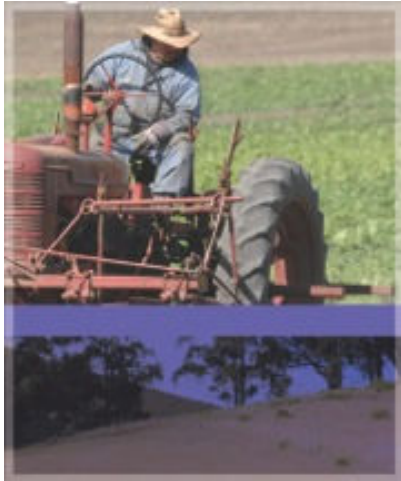
Preventing Health Issues. The County supports the development and sustainability of communities through changes in the social and physical environments that promote health. The County supports changes that maximize opportunities for every day physical activity, for improved nutrition, reduced violence, reduced access to alcohol and other drugs, increased social connections, and for smoke-free environments. To reduce health inequities driven by wealth disparity and a history of discrimination, the County supports stable incomes and housing opportunities for wealth creation, educational attainment and economic development particularly in under resourced communities. In order to protect our natural resources for future generations, the County supports measures that protect and improve air and water quality and mitigate land toxicity.

The County will advocate for systems that prioritize more active and sustainable transportation modes such as walking, biking, and public transit; improving access to fruits and vegetables, especially locally-grown produce; reducing the availability of high calorie and low nutrient foods, especially sugar-sweetened beverages. The County will also advocate to reduce access to tobacco and the abuse of alcohol, especially by youth.

CEQA Reform. The County will support efforts to improve the CEQA process while maintaining authority at the local level.

Mandate Reimbursement. *The County will oppose future efforts to eliminate the mandate reimbursement provisions from existing law and will support efforts to clarify that any future changes to the California Public Records Act should be analyzed for the cost impact to local governments and allow for reimbursement of any potential new costs. The County supports efforts to require the state to pay the mandate reimbursements currently owed to counties.*

COUNTY LEGISLATIVE POLICIES



Agriculture/Weights and Measures

The County Supports:

1. Preservation of the County's prime agricultural lands through State Budget proposals that provide funding for long-term protection of these lands and restoration of Williamson Act funding.
2. The economic viability of the County's agricultural industry through State Budget proposals that provide funding to growers to develop innovative solutions to new industry challenges, including testing a broader variety of crops. The County also supports legislation that encourages new farmers to enter the industry.
3. Local access to fresh and healthy foods for the County's residents, specifically legislation and budget proposals that promote and or support local agriculture, community and school gardens and farmer's markets.
4. Continued funding of Pest Prevention Program activities at the state level. Specific programs include, Pest Exclusion, Pest Detection Trapping and Survey Activities, Rapid Response, Pest Management and Eradication, and public education outreach.
5. Legislative and budgetary proposals that provide long-term stable funding for county
6. pesticide regulatory activities, such as that established in Senate Bill 1049 (Chapter 741, Statutes of 2003) for county agricultural commissioners but never funded by the state.
7. Funding for Weed Management Area groups for the control of harmful non-native, invasive weed pests.
8. Legislation that supports weights and measures programs integrity statewide.

Child Support

The County Supports:

1. Allocation of funding to local agencies that takes into account the differences in the cost of doing business in the state's diverse counties.
2. Realignment of the Child Support Program to the County.
3. Changing the rate of interest charged on unpaid child support. Currently, California charges 10 percent per year on a simple basis on any unpaid child support, which is high in today's loan market.

Environment

The County Supports:

1. Maintenance of adequate open space/park lands through increased funding for development easements, needed restoration and rehabilitation activities.
2. Efforts to protect, conserve, restore, and enhance the environmental resources of the County, its coast and adjacent waters for environmentally sustainable and prudent use by current and future generations, *including funding for ASBS (Areas of Special Biological Significance), specifically the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.*
3. Changes in policies and practices that result in a net reduction in global greenhouse gas

emissions; increased energy efficiency and conservation efforts that reduce the state's per capita need for energy including electric and fossil fuel; increased production and use of renewable energies that grows the renewable energies "market share" of the state's energy consumption profile; and when necessary, nonrenewable energy development that meets environmental reviews, that maintains or exceeds current environmental and/or emission controls, and that best protects our natural environments and offshore areas.

4. Implementation of Assembly Bill 32 (Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006), the Global Warming Solutions Act that establishes the goal of reducing, by 2020, the state's emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) to 1990 levels.
5. Exploration of new funding sources to implement local or state government programs that benefit the environment such as: watershed protection, GHGs reduction, National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) compliance, *Areas of Special Biological Significance compliance* and development of alternative energy sources.
6. Implementation of Proposition 39, the Income Tax Increase for Multistate Businesses. The County also supports prioritizing local governments to receive funds for installation of green energy projects.
7. *Diversion of waste from landfills and mandatory recycling through implementation of Assembly Bill 939 (Chapter 809, Statutes of 1989) and Assembly Bill 341 (Chapter 476, Statutes of 2011).*



Health and Hospitals

The County Supports:

1. Implementation of climate changes laws, policies and programs at the federal, state and regional levels that incentivize or require physical changes that promote active transportation, such as walking, biking, and public transit, over more sedentary and less environmentally-friendly forms of transportation. This includes aggressive greenhouse gas emissions targets, performance-based policy standards in funding allocation, as well as regional approaches to implementation, *and adaptation and sea level rise planning.*
2. *Implementation of economic development strategies and funding to provide affordable housing.*
3. Taxes and other measures to reduce the attractiveness and availability of high calorie, low nutrient foods, such as sugar-sweetened beverages, portion size limits on sugar- sweetened beverages, a reduction in subsidies for commodity crops (particularly corn), and financial support for the provision of produce to low-income residents and publicly-funded settings such as schools, childcare sites and after school programs, as well as for publicly funded food security programs such as WIC and food stamps.
4. Taxes and other measures to reduce the attractiveness and availability of alcohol, particularly for youth, such as a tax or fee on alcoholic beverages and limitations on the siting of stores selling liquor.
5. *Efforts to strengthen the Smokefree Workplace Act by closing specific loopholes in order to protect more employees.*

6. Taxes and other measures to reduce the attractiveness and availability of tobacco, particularly for youth, such as increased taxes or fees on tobacco products and limitations on the siting of stores selling tobacco and on smoking in public places.
7. Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that would allow local jurisdictions to establish healthy food zones, allowing in only businesses that offer for sale whole or lightly processed foods with no tobacco or alcohol sales.
8. Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that improve the quality and scope of environmental health programs through the state and promote uniformity in implementing such programs.
9. Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that support the principles of Product Stewardship (also known as Extended Producer Responsibility) that directs all participants involved in the life cycle of a product to take shared responsibility for the environmental and human health impacts that result from the production, use and end of life handling of a product.
10. Implementation of laws regulations and programs that provide a uniform approach to the phase out of polystyrene, plastics and packaging of consumer products.
11. Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that promote food safety and food worker rights to health care, paid sick leave and insurance.
12. *Implementation of laws and standards that promote a living wage.*
13. Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that promote the safe use and sale of produce from small community and school gardens in retail food facilities, farmers markets and schools.
14. Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that promote a philosophy of a Green Chemistry initiative to develop a consistent means for evaluating risk, reducing exposure, encouraging less-toxic industrial processes, and identifying safer, non-chemical alternatives. A Green Chemistry initiative should ensure a comprehensive and collaborative approach to increase accountability and effectiveness of environmental programs across state and local government.
15. Implement laws and regulations which require health as an equally shared consideration in all General Plan development.
16. Funding high-quality medical, dental and mental health supports to families, particularly families with small children.
17. Providing stable funding for home visiting and other case management services for families at risk for poor health and social outcomes *and reauthorizing and increasing funding for Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program.*
18. Reducing costs, increasing revenue and providing flexibility in the use of state and federal funds for the Health System. Some current examples are the Managed Care Plan and Hospital Fee legislation, opportunities associated with the state's 1115 Medicaid waiver, opportunities offered by the Affordable Care Act and increased flexibility in the rules for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and Older Americans Act.
19. Improving care for elderly and disabled residents by:
 - Implementing the Coordinated Care Initiative by giving San Mateo the flexibility to spend money on long-term support services in ways that most benefit the client, as is being pursued through serving as a pilot for a coordinated and system of supports for older adults and persons with disabilities with Medi-Cal coverage within the duals pilot.
 - Continuing the Nursing Home Diversion Program. This grant program has helped older Americans and veterans remain independent and to support people with Alzheimer's

disease to remain in their homes and communities.

20. Establishing inflation and caseload adjustments for the federal Older Americans Act so this funding stream can keep pace with increases in cost and demand.
21. Modifying laws and regulations so that people with sex offender labels who are no longer a threat to the community can be placed in appropriate care facilities.
22. Improving care for children with special health care needs by unifying California Children's Services (CCS) Administration program with the Health Plan of San Mateo using a CCS waiver for pilot programs (San Mateo/HPSM selected as one of five pilots), and providing outgoing funding for the CCS Medical Therapy Program.
23. Modifying eligibility requirements so that those formerly incarcerated on drug charges are eligible for Medi-Cal, food stamps and other public benefits.
24. Providing financial relief for correctional health responsibilities, such as Medi-Cal-related cost containment/revenue generation methods.
25. Promoting funding for technology and local capacity for outreach and enrollment and retention of health care coverage programs, including funding to support successful enrollments in Medi-Cal.
26. *Promoting appropriate information sharing between state and local government entities to streamline administration of public health coverage programs, such as facilitating information sharing among Covered California, the Department of Health Care Services and Counties that offer locally supported health coverage programs for those in-eligible for Federal/State programs.*
27. *Implementation of laws or regulations that promote streamlined and "no wrong door" processes for consumers to be screened and enrolled in public benefits programs such as Medi-Cal and subsidized health coverage through Covered California to maximize coverage and reduce reliance on scarce safety net healthcare resources.*
28. *Modifications in statute that would allow paramedics to be used and reimbursed for their services in alternative health care settings and would allow them to be involved not only in evaluating and transporting patients to emergency departments, but in the provision of care or transportation to the most appropriate destination, including alternate destinations when medically appropriate.*
29. *Legislation and regulatory measures that maintain or strengthen the authority and governing role of Counties and their Local Emergency Medical Services Agencies, or LEMSA's, to plan, implement and evaluate aspects and components of the EMS system.*
30. Modifications in statute that would allow paramedics to be used in alternative health care settings and allow them to be involved not only in evaluating and transporting patients to hospitals but in the provision of home care or transportation to alternate destinations when medically appropriate.
31. Providing stable funding and increased access for mental health and drug and alcohol services through full implementation of state and federal mental health and drug and alcohol parity laws.
32. Providing stable funding for children enrolled in special education programs who require mental health services as well as for alcohol and other drug services.
33. Providing stable funding for locked long-term care and ancillary services for people with behavioral health problems, *including Mental Health Rehabilitation Centers under 16 beds.*
34. Promoting integration of mental health and alcohol/drug services with primary care services through opportunities presented by the state's Medicaid waivers.

35. Providing stable funding for the local healthcare services and programs that will continue to be needed even after health care reform is fully implemented.
36. Providing support to local healthcare services and programs that will continue to be needed even after health care reform is fully implemented.
37. Providing support to local healthcare services and programs that serve clients in the criminal justice system.
38. Providing stable funding for alcohol and other drug services through California alcohol and other drug services through a California alcohol tax.
39. Providing regulatory protection for the confidentiality of After Action Reports developed in response to an emergency incident to ensure reports are honest and comprehensive without fear of public retaliation or law suits.
40. Increasing options for adult mediation as a strategy for jail diversion including confidentiality protection similar to that provided for juveniles.
41. Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that support affordable and culturally competent health services.
42. Modification in the Brown Act such that people with disabilities who are homebound can participate via technology.



Housing

The County Supports:

1. Solutions and funding for the region's housing crisis that address the needs of homeless, lower-income residents, emancipated youth, transitional age youth, CalWORKs participants and at-risk populations including the housing needs of farmworkers, people with disabilities and the elderly.
2. Efforts to preserve affordable and accessible housing and the development of new affordable and accessible housing through additional funding for local housing trust funds, funding of the state housing trust funds, and efforts to increase the amount of multi-family housing in San Mateo County.
3. Smart Growth efforts and other land use decisions that facilitate appropriate mixed-use developments along efficient public transportation corridors.
4. Examination of current rules and standards that benefit lower density development (over high density development) and vehicular movement at the expense of pedestrian traffic and safety. While the County supports development incentives for Smart Growth related activities, the County opposes efforts to diver or restrict funding usage to specific programs.
5. Preserving land use authority of local governments by allowing jurisdictions that have adopted inclusionary zoning ordinances, such as San Mateo County, to take the intended and predictable effect of the ordinance into account when calculating availability of adequate zoned capacity to meet their Regional Housing Needs Allocation.
6. Adopting legislation that would expressly authorize cities and counties to establish inclusionary requirements as a condition of housing development.
7. Expansion of the California Assisted Living Waiver Pilot Project so that senior low-income residents of the County may use Medi-Cal benefits to pay for affordable assisted living services in a residential setting.
8. The implementation and funding for affordable transportation for low-income youth and families.



Human Services

The County Supports:

1. Preservation and increased funding for human service programs realigned to counties in 1991.
2. Adjustments to county human service fund allocations that account for the cost differences among California counties in providing services.
3. Increased flexibility for the administration of CalWORKs. Flexibility in the CalWORKs program should include income eligibility standards for childcare.
4. Preservation of children's protective services, participation and funding.
5. Maximum flexibility to institute innovative practices in child welfare and foster care such as "wrap around" services and multi-discipline service approaches.
6. Increased funding and greater funding flexibility for foster care services, which are critical to adequately protect children in need.
7. Elimination of reductions to penalties related to the failure to meet the work participation rate in CalWORKs.
8. Allowing for county flexibility in the work component and permissible activities that contribute to work participation rates in Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
9. .Removal of the eligibility requirement that prevents drug felons from receiving CalFresh and CalWORKs when otherwise eligible.
10. Programs and services targeted toward transitional aged youth, commercially sexually exploited children, and pregnant and parenting youth regardless of legal status.
11. *Ensure counties have the financial, personnel and information technology system support that is required to maintain ongoing mandate of the Affordable Care Act.*
12. *Elimination of the Maximum Grant Rule in the CalWORKs program.*
13. *Elimination of the Face-to-Face interview requirement for the CalWORKs program*

Public Safety and Justice

The County Supports:

1. Constitutional protections that provide guaranteed and adequate state funding for counties' new responsibilities related to Public Safety Realignment.
2. The development of a permanent and equitable Public Safety Realignment funding formula that rewards strategies to reduce recidivism.
3. Preservation of funding for local public safety efforts, including inmate housing, security, programming, health, juvenile probation and prevention programs, mental health and drug and alcohol programs.
4. Preservation of funding and, in the future, seek additional funding for *an expanded, more robust and comprehensive drug court.*
5. Full state funding for court security costs provided by the County.
6. Full funding for the cost of booking and processing of persons arrested by public

entities in the County as authorized in Government Code 29553(b).

7. Increased *funding and* regulation *for* domestic violence *and prohibited persons compliance* firearms programs.



8. Efforts to facilitate the construction and operation of adult correctional facilities or youth services facilities, such as increased or reallocated state funding for correctional facilities that are ready for immediate construction or operations.

9. *Efforts to protect the County's autonomy to operate an inmate phone system that allows for increased Inmate Welfare Fund revenue and continues its ability to protect the safety of jail staff, the inmate population and the public.*

10. Increased funding for inmate management, programming, supervision, and substance abuse treatment, mental health services, and other inmate services.

11. *Continuing laws and regulations that oppose the legalization of marijuana in California.*

12. *Legislation to amend PERS regulations that dis-incentivize consolidation and contracting out of police services.*

13. Continued review of the alignment of Chief Probation Officer selection, appointment and retention authority with funding. The County also supports cautious review of any potential separation of adult and juvenile probation activities.

14. Efforts to align law library costs, including facilities maintenance, with trial courts rather than the County.

15. Corrections reforms established within the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) that are developed through collaboration of state and local governments and criminal justice agencies that are adequately funded to build upon successful, existing programs. Full state funding for any new requirements imposed on the Community Corrections Partnership.

16. State funding for local jail construction projects, which recognize the importance of inmate programs and services such as educational, vocational and treatment services and provides flexibility that meets the unique characteristics of each county.

17. The implementation and increased funding for support services for juvenile probation and prevention programs, such as tattoo removals and job training.

18. Alternatives to youth incarceration, such as restorative justice programs.

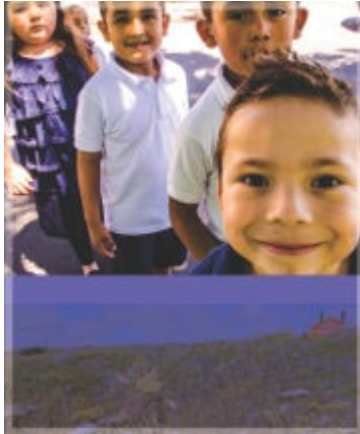
Public Works

The County Supports:

1. Statewide policies that ensure rehabilitation, operation and maintenance of local infrastructure as priorities.
2. Balanced with the need for environmental protection, the streamlining and coordination of regulatory requirements so that routine projects can be processed without delay, expectation for routine work can be established and the costs of both initial construction and ongoing operations and maintenance of local infrastructure can be

effectively reduced.

3. *Funding for regulations on storm water management required by the State Regional Water Quality Control Board and legislation confirming the authority of the County's joint power authority (the City/County Association of Governments) to pursue local funding through special taxes or a property related fee in order to fund activities consistent with municipal stormwater permit requirements.*



4. Exploring additional funding sources for continued implementation of the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan. The current funding (Assembly Bill 939, Chapter 1095 and Statutes of 1989) is from fees imposed per ton of solid waste disposed in the County. As disposal of solid waste decreases and materials recycled or composted increases, assessment of fees on recycled or composted materials should be considered.
5. Coordinating regulatory agency permitting requirements for maintenance and capital improvement projects to avoid conflicting requirements from state agencies and streamlining delivery of projects.
6. *Funding to support implementation of California Air Resource Board regulatory mandates relating to diesel powered construction equipment.*
7. *Permanent authority to use the Design-Build and Construction Manager (CM) At Risk project delivery methods.*
8. *Allowing the use of the "Integrated Project Delivery" (IPD) method for delivering construction projects over \$1 million.*

State Budget

The County Supports:

1. Timely and full funding for state-mandated and partnership programs, increased flexibility and the elimination of programs not properly funded by state and/or federal funds.
2. The principle that reliable, predictable and equitable funding should be provided to local governments, including schools, cities, special districts and counties. This support includes the proper allocation of existing tax revenues.
3. In concept, the reduction in funding for various programs and activities only when the concomitant requirement to provide such programs and activities is relieved. The Board has not considered what specific programs would be acceptable for reductions in funding and expressly reserves its ability to take a position on this issue should it arise during the current legislative session and any pertinent special sessions.
4. Restoration of historic reductions in local government funding and increased flexibility in implementing and administering services.
5. Full funding for social service programs, specifically Child Welfare Services, Food Stamp Administration, In-Home Supportive Services Administration, and Adult Protective Services to eliminate the Human Services Funding Deficit. Funding for these services is frozen at 2001 cost levels.
6. The existing 1991 realignment funding allocation formula. The County also supports a careful and cautious analysis of any efforts to alter the current system given the state's current budget challenges.

7. Improvements to the Senate Bill 90 (Chapter 1406, Statutes of 1972) mandate reimbursement process that simplify the claiming requirements, expedite the process, and provide sufficient reimbursement to counties. The County also opposes the practice of mandate suspension as a state budget solution. Local governments should be provided the opportunity to comment on proposals to suspend mandates and then be provided adequate time to end program services.
8. Increases in alcohol taxes as well as changes in state government's business practices that lead to greater economies and improved program outcomes, should timely and full funding for programs not be maintained.
9. Performance based budgeting at the state level.



Tax and Finance

The County Supports:

1. Preservation of existing revenues and revenue authority. The County opposes efforts to expand Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements, as MOEs tend to penalize more progressive counties that implement programs before the statewide program.
2. Maintenance of property tax revenues directed to local government. The County opposes efforts to direct property tax revenues away from local government.
3. The existing *property tax allocation laws which return surplus* Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) *dollars to local taxing entities*. The County strongly opposes *legislative actions which would utilize ERAF for payment of state program/service obligations*.
4. Efforts to allocate funding through block grants, which allow for maximum flexibility in the use of funding within designated programs.
5. Federal funding mechanisms that allow funding to flow directly to local governments rather than through state government.
6. Increased ability to utilize state or local matching funds to draw down additional federal funds.
7. Economic development efforts that grow the California and local economy in a sustainable (environmental and economic) fashion.
8. Increased funding for county infrastructure needs, should such funds be available.

Transportation

The County Supports:

1. Allocation of formulas that ensure the County receives its fair share of infrastructure bond funding by reflecting, in part, the variation in the cost of living and doing business among the state's diverse communities
2. The protection from diversion or borrowing of the federal or state gas tax.
3. Prohibitions on the delayed pass-through of state transportation funding (HUTA) to counties caused by state budget delays.
4. Consideration of additional and/or dedicated statewide ongoing revenue sources that support local operations and maintenance of existing and future infrastructure needs.
5. Updating, adjusting and/or indexing the current gas tax.

6. The Legislative Analyst's Office recommendation to require a statewide transportation needs assessment every five years, if the assessment has no fiscal impact on County funds or revenues.

2014 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The following are the top federal legislative priorities for San Mateo County in the 113th Congress, 2nd Session:



Overview: *As Congress enters this election year cycle (November 2014) budget deficits, debt ceiling and sequester will continue to be the important issues for the first six months of the 2nd Session of the 113th Congress. Added to this portfolio of financial issues will be other topics including but not limited to: reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and MAP-21 (the transportation bill), immigration reform, the Farm Bill, and implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA or “Obamacare”). With this backdrop, the overall federal goal of the County remains—to secure additional resources to augment the County programs and services. To that end, aggressive, proactive efforts to secure both public and private sector grant funding will continue.*

Federal Budget/Sequester & National Debt. *Although the national deficit decreased slightly over the course of 2013, the Obama Administration and the Congress remain focused on reaching a \$1.2 trillion deficit reduction by 2021. With this as a goal, federal appropriations for FY 2014 will be reduced and sequestration will continue. Congress and the Administration agreed to come up with the mix of cuts through sequestration by mid-January. This pending outcome will determine the final spending for FY 2014 and may permit federal departments to prioritize reductions in lieu of across the board cuts. Regardless how cuts are determined, several federal programs will be constricted in a way that ultimately adversely impacts counties across the country.*

While some programs are not subject to the budget/deficit decrease, including many of importance to the County such as Medicaid, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Child Support Enforcement. Other domestic discretionary programs are: Workforce Investment Act programs, Ryan White HIV/AIDS grants, Section 8 housing vouchers, Byrne Justice Assistance grants, and State Criminal Alien Assistance Program.

While passage of a current budget/deficit reduction/appropriations deal in mid to late January 2014 will scope the rest of the federal fiscal year’s spending reductions, it likely will kick the long term solution can down the road for the national debt ceiling, tax and entitlement reform, as well as a long-term plan to balance the nation’s debt and revenue. Each delay in reaching Congressional consensus on tax and spending policies, which led to a federal government shutdown in 2013, could harm the nation’s economic recovery. As a result, the County supports a balanced approach to addressing the budget deficit and avoiding across-the-board sequestration cuts in order to protect the County’s key safety net programs.

Medicaid. *As one of the big three federal entitlement programs, Medicaid will inevitably be a target for savings in the any future Congressional negotiations. The federal Medicaid program*

provides the critical funding for health care safety net, reimbursing providers and hospitals for what would otherwise be unreimbursed medical care. *Any substantial cuts to Medicaid would reduce patient access to services and decreased funding to the San Mateo County Medical Center at the same time the County is implementing the Affordable Care Act.* The County will oppose efforts to cut Medicaid, including implementation of a block grant, and institution of a blended FMAP rate, *and urges alternative funding mechanisms to meet the critical goal of establishing balance in the federal budget.*

Health Care Reform Implementation. The County supports full funding for its administration and programs, specifically comprehensive primary care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, among others.

Health & Human Services. The County will advocate for the advancement of preventative health care demonstrations to support wellness across multiple areas such as nutrition, schools, transportation and other infrastructure, conservation, housing, and the built environment. This includes federal proposals and initiatives to update and advance:



- State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIPP)
- Older Americans Act
- Second Chance Act
- Safe and Complete Streets Act
- Livable Communities Act
- Local Farms, Food and Jobs Act
- Clean Air Act

In the area of human services, the County will advocate for increased funding for Title XX Social Services Block Grant for foster care and child welfare services and seek modifications to Title IV-E, the Federal Foster Care program, to delete “imminent” as a characterization of at-risk youth; and restoration of federal matching funds for child support incentive programs; and continued exemption of Child Support Enforcement (CSE) spending from any sequester of domestic funding.

TANF Reauthorization. The County will support the reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program which is critical to the provision of income support and other services to low-income families in the County. The program may be reauthorization in 2014. The County supports great TANF flexibility and increased funding particularly block grants that reflect current purchasing power and index future funding.

Farm Bill Reauthorization. The County will advocate for no further reductions in funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or CalFresh, which provides food subsidies to some of the neediest residents in the County. The County will also advocate for program improvements, including simplification of eligibility that could serve to expand enrollment to those who need the nutritional assistance, *and will oppose onerous additions to eligibility requirements.*

The County will advocate for increased funding for invasive pest exclusion and pest prevention programs, an issue of interest to the County’s Agriculture, Weights and Measures Commissioner.

The County will also support elements of the Farm Bill that invest in public health and nutrition education, particularly providing health school foods, *as well as those that support, promote and advance emerging young independent farmers, next generation farmers, farmers' markets, and urban gardens.*



Housing. The County supports *current funding levels for* affordable housing programs, including the Community Development Block Grant, HOME, Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG), Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA), and Sustainable Communities among others.

Public Safety. The County will continue advocacy for funding for all justice programs including Byrne grants, COPS, SCAAP, Homeland Security grants, and Justice Assistance Grants.

Taxes. The County supports the extension of commuter benefits, which provide parity between public transportation and parking; and proposals to adopt Internet sales tax and collection requirements that provide for proceeds to be directed to local governments.

***Immigration Reform.** Given the County's growing immigrant population, and the number of departments directly or indirectly impacted by aspects of the proposed legislation, immigration reform is a major issue for the County. The County urges Congress to continue to work towards a comprehensive immigration reform bill which creates a path to citizenship; reinforces that immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility; and provides reimbursement to counties for services provided to immigrants.*

In addition to these federal legislative priorities, the County will seek discretionary grant funding in the following areas:

Education & Training. Funding for community college collaborations to advance economic development research, as well as workforce development funding opportunities within the federal sphere.

Food & Nutrition. The County will advocate for and support proposals to increase healthy eating among all communities—schools, seniors, homeless, veterans and low income residents. The County will advocate for increases in new urban/suburban farming and farmers markets.

Infrastructure. Funding for major County transportation *projects*, water resources, and conservation construction projects such as *Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Area of Special Biological Significance compliance projects*, Clean Water *Act and* National Pollution Discharge *Elimination System* stormwater *compliance and* needs, San Bruno Flood Control District repairs, *small water system infrastructure needs, funding for diesel construction equipment emission compliance,* and Sharp Park Golf Course development.

Planning. Funding for innovative agricultural economic development from the Fish and Wildlife and Park Services within the U.S. Department of Interior; the National Resources Conservation

Services within the U.S. Department of Agriculture; the Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency among others.

Public Safety. Funding for additional support for re-entry assistance for men, women and youth ex-offenders.