

Attachment 04A.1

Legislative Program Committee

Accomplishments 2020

And

Principles

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

## PURPOSE

Established in 1991, the Legislative Program Committee is an advisory body to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors. A dynamic program of County sponsored legislative actions is developed and tracked by the Committee with the assistance of county departments and legislative advocates in Washington, DC and Sacramento. The Committee meets almost monthly and public comment is welcome. Committee membership includes two members of the Board of Supervisors appointed by the Board.

Each year, the Committee drafts a Legislative Platform of prioritized legislative principles, specific issues, projects and programs (priorities) that warrant targeted advocacy, funding requests and/or legislation. The proposed Legislative Platform is recommended to the Board of Supervisors for subsequent review and approval. Once the Legislative Platform is adopted by the Board, a variety of advocacy strategies are used to advance the identified principles and Legislative Platform Planks with regular reporting to the Legislative Program Committee. Pending legislation of interest to Santa Barbara County is tracked and updates of the status are provided continuously by legislative advocates to the Legislative Program Committee and the Board of Supervisors.

## 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Legislative Program for Santa Barbara County, in conjunction with its State and Federal advocates, successfully advanced the 2020 Platform Principles, including, but not limited to the following:

### Federal:

- Payments in Lieu of Taxes funding to the County of \$2 million.
- HUD funding to the County of \$5.48 million through programs such as Community Development Block Grants, including \$2.9 million provided for pandemic response.
- \$2 million in Continuum of Care awards for ongoing projects in the County serving the homeless.
- \$1.5 million for County of Santa Barbara Federally Qualified Health Centers for pandemic response.
- Legislation enacted to continue program authorizations for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and other safety net programs while Congress finishes up longer-term authorizations at the end of this year.
- H.R. 4334, the Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020, enacted to expand programs that support social and nutrition services for seniors and their caregivers.
- One-year reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program enacted.
- Enactment of the CARES Act to assist individuals and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic through direct payments, SBA forgivable loans and enhanced unemployment benefits.

### State:

#### Budget

- *CARES Act Funding* – The County’s main priority for the May Revise was to secure funding from the CARES Act. As part of the 42 counties with less than 500 thousand in population, the County did not initially receive any part of the federal funding in the CARES Act. The County took the lead in coordinating a letter with the other 41 smaller counties in an effort to receive a part of the funding to address the unprecedented demands to reduce and contain the spread of COVID-19. The Department of Finance and the Administration were not forthcoming in whether or not they would allocate any funding from the CARES Act until the May Revise officially came out, which included \$45,698 million for the County of Santa Barbara.
- *Realignment Backfill* – One of the other issues that came out of the May Revise was its failure to address the reduction of counties’ realignment funding, which would have equaled to about \$11.5 million loss for

the County of Santa Barbara. Along with CSAC, the County advocated for realignment backfill to be included in the final budget. The final agreement provided \$750 million to counties to backfill for lost realignment revenues, prioritizing support for health and human services, entitlement programs, and programs that serve vulnerable populations. The additional \$250 million was not provided to counties because sufficient federal funding was not received by the October 15, 2020 deadline. The final agreement was still an improvement over the May Revision, which didn't include any funding, and the Legislature's version of the backfill, which had \$1 billion, but had \$600 million dependent upon federal funding.

- *340B Program* – The Governor's May Revision proposed to withdraw the January's proposed investment of \$52.5 million to create a supplemental payment pool for the pharmacy services for non-hospital 340B clinics. The final agreement in the State Budget restored, by rejecting the withdrawal of the January budget proposal, \$52.5 million (\$26.3 million General Fund and \$26.3 million federal funds) to provide supplemental payments to nonhospital 340B clinics. These payments are intended to replace lost revenue from implementation of Medi-Cal Rx, which DHCS intends to do on January 1, 2021. Trailer bill AB 80 also required DHCS to establish a stakeholder process to develop and implement the methodology for distribution of payments from the 340B supplemental payment pool, including the eligibility criteria for receipt of payments, the aggregate amount of pool funding, the criteria for apportioning the funding, and timing of payments. The County has been a part of the stakeholder process and has been in contact with the Administration, CA Department of Finance, our local Delegation, Legislative budget staff, the California Health and Human Services Agency and the Department of Health Care Services to insist that the County gets a correct share of the funds.
- *CaleVIP* – Successfully supported California Energy Commission's (CEC's) budget request for a one-time expenditure for electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The funds were included in trailer bill SB 115, which included \$51 million in funding for the electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support increased Zero-Emission Vehicle adoption and deployment in California. SB 115 was signed into law on September 9<sup>th</sup>.
- *AB 107 (Committee on Budget)* – Successfully supported trailer bill AB 107, which includes language to extend the deadline for decisions in pending assessment appeals cases beyond the Governor's Executive Order to March 31, 2021, and provides explicit statutory authority to conduct assessment appeals hearings remotely. These important provisions will allow counties to safely conduct assessment appeals hearings and ensure that boards are able to finalize rulings on appeals that are nearing the statutory deadline. AB 107 was signed by the Governor on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

*Delegation* – Worked directly with the County's Legislators on legislation that would directly affect the County, including:

- *AB 3214 (Limon)* - Successfully supported *AB 3214 (Limon)*, which doubles specified maximum and minimum financial penalties for specified violations, including failing to notify specified state and federal agencies of the discharge of oil and the discharging of oil into waters of the state, it also authorizes the court to impose upon a person convicted of violating specified provisions of the Lempert-Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act a fine of up to \$1,000 dollars per gallon spilled in excess of 1,000 gallons of oil. The Governor signed AB 3214 (Limon) on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

*Legislation* – Reviewed and assessed all of the introduced legislation and worked with the County to determine which legislation fit in the County's Platform. Below is legislation that the County was successful in:

- *AB 6 (Reyes)* – Successful in opposing AB 6 (Reyes), which would have authorized the Attorney General to enter into a settlement agreement with opioid manufacturers on the state's behalf and would have blocked local governments from suing the companies responsible for the opioid crisis. The County, CSAC and other local governments strongly opposed AB 6 in the last few days of session. The Legislature adjourned without

taking up AB 6, while AB 6 was heard in Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee Saturday, it was not voted on and no further action was taken to move the bill from the Committee.

- *SB 217 (Portantino)* – Successful in opposing SB 217 (Portantino), which would have required a person who operates an organized or recreational camp to obtain a license issued by a local health agency (LHAs). The bill had an opposed unless amended position by the County and CSAC. This bill failed deadline and died in the Assembly.
- *Worker’s Comp* - Santa Barbara opposed three worker’s comp bills in alliance with the California Coalition on Worker’s Compensation (CCWC), CSAC and a large number of other organizations. AB 196 (Gonzalez) was the most concerning bill, it would have established an overly-broad legal presumption that employers are liable for the COVID-19 infection of every “Essential Critical Infrastructure Worker” in California and had no sunset date. AB 664 (Cooper) created a presumption for COVID-19 for specifically defined categories of police officers, fire fighters, and health care workers. Both AB 196 and AB 664 did not move off the Senate Floor and are dead for the year. The coalition remained in substantive opposition to SB 1159, which codifies the Governor's Executive Order (N-62-20) that created a rebuttable presumption that "essential employees" who contracted COVID-19 were infected on the job, and establishes the scope and terms of a similar presumption for infected employees outside of the Executive Order. SB 1159 was signed by the Governor on September 17th. The Coalition was not opposed to the contents of Sections 1-3 of SB 1159, which includes research on COVID claims through the Commission on Health and Safety and Workers’ Compensation, a codification of the policy contained in Governor Newsom’s Executive Order, and a temporary and rebuttable COVID-19 presumption for police, firefighters, healthcare workers, IHSS workers, and home health workers that contains necessary protections and a reasonable sunset date, but opposed the idea that a presumption is necessary for workers who are not in Section 3 of SB 1159. The Coalition will be looking to do clean-up legislation in 2021.

## 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

The Legislative Platform aligns with the County’s legislative principles. These principles serve as a guide for the County in developing a position on any forthcoming federal and state legislation.

❖ **JOB GROWTH AND ECONOMIC VITALITY:** Continue to support the development of employment opportunities, and support efforts to promote local business and job growth in an endeavor to decrease the unemployment rate and heighten individual and community economic vitality. Support federal funding for local education and workforce training investment that matches the requirements for growing and emerging industries. Champion equity-oriented workforce development strategies that dismantle structural, economic and cultural barriers to employment. Foster interaction and dialogue with public, private, and nonprofit sectors, with a focus on the pursuit of and advocacy for economic vitality and innovation. Support necessary infrastructure development projects as a job creator and economic engine that increases economic vitality across multiple industries and markets.

❖ **EFFICIENT SERVICE DELIVERY AND OPERATIONS:** Striving to balance the diversity of needs countywide, support efforts to streamline regulatory processes and promote operational enhancements relevant to County departments’ missions and core services, including disaster prevention & response, by thoroughly evaluating legislation, and if warranted, consider opposition to legislation that creates undue fiscal, regulatory and operational burdens on individual departments.

❖ **FISCAL STABILITY:** Support efforts to generate new intergovernmental revenue and/or enhance existing revenue/reimbursement levels and oppose the loss of, or redirecting of, existing revenue and/or the creation of additional unfunded mandates to the County. This may include specific direct federal funding to local governments to address issues across multiple departments. Such efforts also include supporting a majority state budget vote requirement and a timely adoption of the state budget before the new fiscal year begins.

❖ **INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION:** Partner with neighboring cities, special districts and other local agencies on infrastructure and other large-scale projects when possible. Support the advocacy efforts of such organizations as the: California State Association of Counties (CSAC), National Association of Counties (NACO), Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), First 5 Santa Barbara, and other local, regional and federal agencies/associations. Collaborate with other jurisdictions, institutions and entities on mutually beneficial issues such as disaster prevention, response and recovery, transportation, housing, protection of children, the elderly and other “at risk” populations while upholding the principles of efficient service delivery and operations, fiscal stability and local control.

❖ **LOCAL CONTROL:** Ensure local authority and control over governance issues, land use policies and the delivery of services, including flexibility and customization in designing and implementing policies and services that are responsive to the community’s preferences. Secure where appropriate, direct distribution of federal funds to local governments rather than a state/regional pass-through.

❖ **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES:** Support efforts to maintain and enhance “safety net” services that protect the most vulnerable within a community, including children, the elderly, individuals with disabilities, homeless and other “at risk” populations. Such services in the area of health and human assistance include, but are not limited to, preventive and emergency health care to the uninsured and underinsured; mental health and substance use services; HIV/AIDS programs; maternal and children health; adult protective services; supportive housing; dependent care; child welfare services; adoptions and foster care; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and unemployment assistance and workforce development. The County supports collaboration

between the federal, state and local governments in the delivery and funding of such services. The County opposes the further erosion in federal and state funding of these vital services.

❖ **COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:** Support efforts to foster communitywide sustainability by promoting economic stability and environmental protection and stewardship through participation in the growing green economy. Continue to engage in federal and state deliberations to ensure that local government receives the economic and financial benefits associated with new policies including disaster prevention, response and recovery and pandemics. Support efforts to catalyze community renewal, redevelopment and reinvestment, incubate and support innovative businesses, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and incentivize energy efficiency, water conservation, and the use of renewable energy. Recognize the need to promote mutually beneficial partnerships with public, private, and nonprofit sectors to maintain and protect agricultural and rural resources, housing, coastal areas, and bio-diversity. Support actions to secure sustainable water supplies throughout the region through ensuring both reliable quality and quantity, and promoting best practices for water conservation measures. Encourage actions to address climate change, reduce pollution, prevent & respond to disasters, protect the environment, develop new revenue sources for today's fossil fuel-based revenue, and build countywide resiliency to prepare for future potential disaster or climate impacts. These collective efforts aim to engender healthy communities by balancing social well-being, economic prosperity, and environmental responsibility.