



# Memorandum

**Date:** September 10, 2012  
**To:** Legislative Program Committee Members  
**From:** Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO  
**Subject:** Development of 2013 Legislative Platform

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## Summary

This item is on the Legislative Committee agenda to provide an overview of platforms and priorities for the County of Santa Barbara's partnering associations, the California Association of Counties (CSAC), and the National Association of Counties (NACo) in order to facilitate a review of the County's adopted 2012 Legislative Principles. This information is provided to make any potential refinements to the principles for the upcoming session. The Legislative principles adopted by the County Board of Supervisors for 2012 included the following:

- Job Growth/Economic Vitality
- Efficient Service Delivery/Operations
- Fiscal Stability
- Inter-Agency Collaboration
- Local Control
- Protection of Safety Net Services
- Community Sustainability/Economic Stability

As the committee may recall, the job growth and economic vitality legislative principle was included in the platform for the first time in 2012.

The California Association of Counties is presently in the process of preparing their legislative priorities and platform for 2013. However, initial discussions seem to indicate that CSAC 2012 adopted principles will extensively inform that process. CSAC recognized that while there were many pressing legislative priorities, the most serious was addressing the states fiscal crisis. The principles outlined below guided their advocacy efforts during the 2012 session. These included:

### **CSAC 2012 State Advocacy**

- 2011 Realignment
- Pension Reform
- Regulatory Reform
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### **CSAC Federal Advocacy**

- New Authorization of the Nation's Surface Transportation Law (SAFETEA-LU)
- State Criminal Assistance Program (SCAAP)

- Property Assessed Clean Energy Program/Renewable Energy Policy
- Native American Affairs
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Reauthorization
- Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization
- Clean Water Act
- Levee Vegetation Management

The National Association of Counties focused on methods to hold counties harmless from state and federal mandates, while continuing to promote job retention and creation. Specifically the following key issues were spearheaded by NACo, and their board of directors and steering committees:

- Promote a balanced approach to deficit reduction. Protect county programs during budget deficit reduction and appropriation considerations. Balance includes looking at discretionary, defense and entitlement spending, and revenue enhancements.
- Support the reauthorization of the Farm Bill and Priority for Rural Development Programs.
- Work to eliminate the federal health benefits "inmate exception" for persons in county jails and detention centers who are in custody pending disposition of charges.
- Maintain the original federal-state-local partnership for financing and delivering Medicaid and social services, and oppose measures that will shift Medicaid and social service costs to counties.
- Maintain full funding for Payments in Lieu Of Taxes (PILT), Secure Rural Schools (SRS) programs and Community Self-Determination Act.
- Reauthorize aviation and surface transportation programs.
- Oppose unfunded mandates and preemptions.

## Recommendation

It is recommended that the Legislative Committee affirm the legislative principles set forth in 2012. These principles provide a guide to the County in developing positions on future state and federal legislation. Further, they address many of the key policy issues reflected in both NACo and CSAC principle priorities while simultaneously representing items unique to Santa Barbara County.

## Attachments:

- 2012 Legislative Principles
- 2012 County's Climate Change Guiding Principles
- 2013 Legislative Platform Process Timeline

# LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

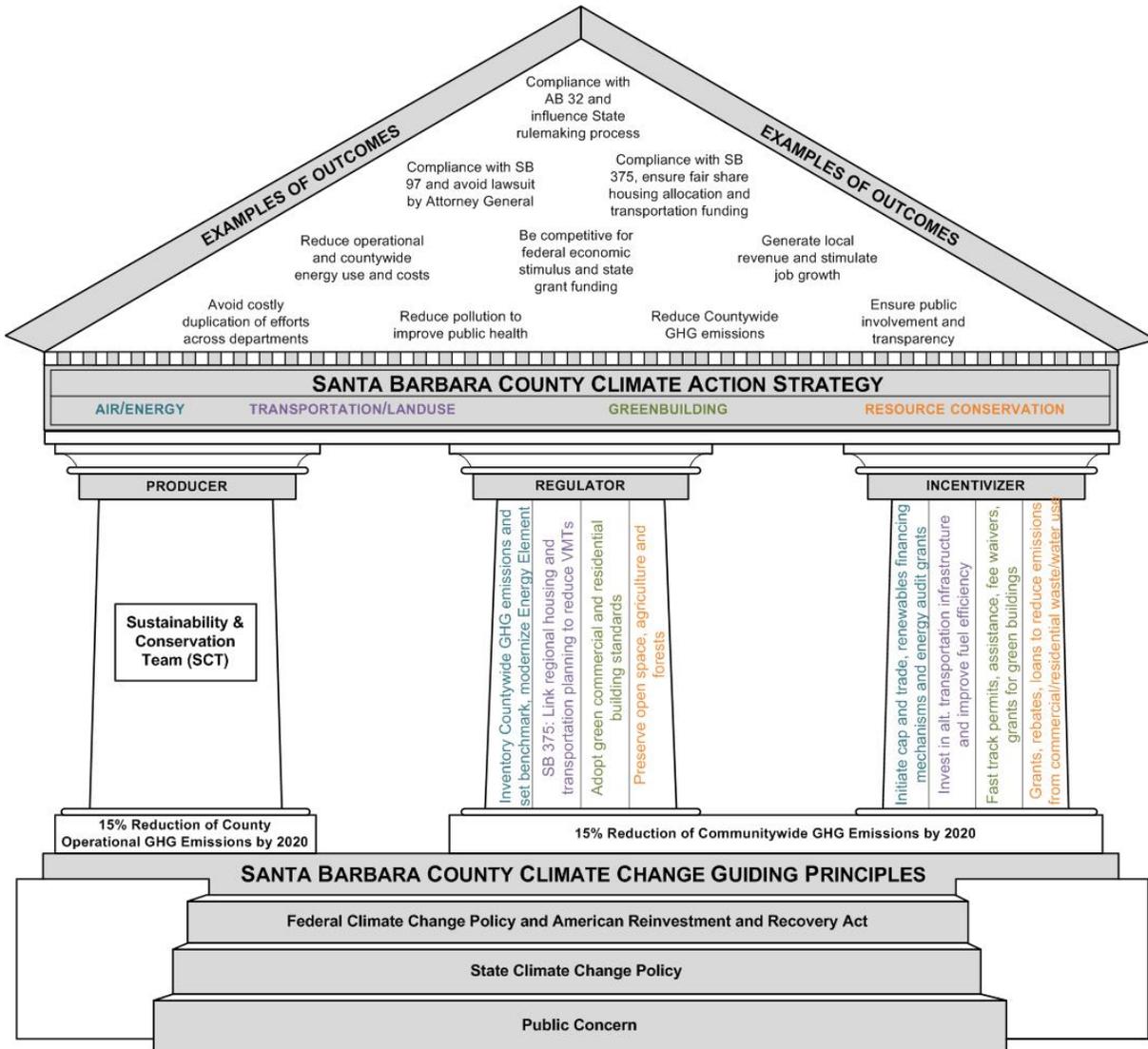
The Legislative Program adheres to the County's legislative principles, which serve as a guide for the County in developing a position on any forthcoming federal and state legislation.

- ❖ **JOB GROWTH/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. Foster interaction and dialogue with public, private, and nonprofit sectors, with a focus on the pursuit of and advocacy for economic vitality and innovation.
- ❖ **EFFICIENT SERVICE DELIVERY/OPERATIONS:** Striving to balance the diversity of needs countywide, support efforts to streamline processes and promote operational enhancements relevant to County departments' missions and core services by thoroughly evaluating legislation, and if warranted, consider opposition to legislation that creates undue fiscal and operation 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. 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 on infrastructure and other large-scale projects when possible. Support the advocacy efforts of such organizations as the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the National Association of Counties (NACO), Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), First 5 Santa Barbara, and other local and regional agencies. Collaborate with other institutions and entities on mutually beneficial issues such as 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 state pass-throughs. Support efforts to maximize local control to ensure safe and effective speed limits.
- ❖ **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 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; HIV/AIDS programs; maternal and children health; adult protective services; child welfare services; adoptions and foster care; food stamps 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:** Support efforts to foster communitywide sustainability by promoting economic stability and environmental 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. 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, coastal areas, and bio-diversity. These collective efforts aim to engender healthy communities by balancing social well-being, economic prosperity, and environmental responsibility.

# COUNTY'S CLIMATE CHANGE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Board of Supervisors adopted the County's Climate Change Guiding Principles on March 17, 2009 to establish a foundation for a climate strategy, as follows:

- (1) Protecting the community from the effects of climate change is a high priority;
- (2) The County recognizes the State's climate change goals, regulations, and requirements set forth by AB 32 to reduce Statewide GHG emissions and will implement programs to comply with these requirements;
- (3) The benefits of investing in actions to reduce GHG emissions can outweigh the costs in numerous ways, including: economic vitality, public health and safety, natural resource protection, and infrastructure stability;
- (4) In order to maintain long-term regional well-being, health and prosperity of current residents, as well as future generations of residents, the County will preserve and balance its shared social wellbeing, economic prosperity, environmental resources, and biodiversity;
- (5) The County recognizes that challenges associated with climate change are regional in nature and can best be addressed in partnership with both public and private sectors;
- (6) The County has three strategic roles to play in reducing GHG emissions as a producer, a regulator and an incentivizer;
- (7) The County will preserve its fiscal health by conserving resources and promoting renewable resources, thereby reducing costs;
- (8) The County will enhance its local economy through the incubation of clean technology, by attracting innovative firms and talent through private sector incentives, and by creating opportunities for local residents to attain jobs and training in the growing regional green economy;
- (9) A key component in a successful climate strategy is the development of an effective and inclusive decision making process that promotes the sharing of information and encourages diverse public input; and,
- (10) Through coordinated planning, measurement, evaluation, and reporting, the County will continue to address State requirements, capitalize on economic opportunities, and protect the regional quality of life while strategically progressing towards regional sustainability.



# Legislative Platform Process

2013

