

MONTEREY COUNTY

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



2013-14

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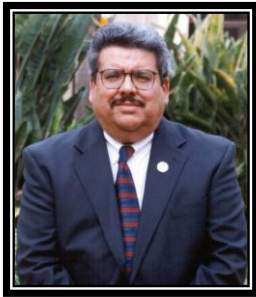
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2013-14 MONTEREY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



1ST DISTRICT - SUPERVISOR FERNANDO ARMENTA

168 W. Alisal Street, 2nd Floor, Salinas, CA 93901

(831) 755-5011 office / (831) 755-5876 fax / district1@co.monterey.ca.us

District includes the urban Salinas area.

- California State Association of Counties (CSAC) representative
- National Association of Counties (NACo) representative
- Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors Legislative Committee



2ND DISTRICT - SUPERVISOR LOUIS R. CALCAGNO

11140 Speegle Street / P.O. Box 787, Castroville, CA 95012

(831) 755-5022 office / (831) 633-0201 fax / district2@co.monterey.ca.us

District includes: Aromas, Boronda, Moss Landing, North Salinas, Castroville, Pajaro, Prunedale, Las Lomas, and Royal Oaks.



3RD DISTRICT - SUPERVISOR SIMON SALINAS

168 W. Alisal Street, 3rd Floor, Salinas, CA 93901

(831) 755-5033 office / (831) 796-3022 fax / district3@co.monterey.ca.us

District includes: East Salinas, Spreckels, Chualar, Greenfield, Gonzales, Fort Hunter Liggett, King City, Soledad, Lake San Antonio, and South County.



4TH DISTRICT - SUPERVISOR JANE PARKER

2616 1st Avenue, Marina, CA 93933

(831) 755-5044 office / (831) 384-1839 fax / district4@co.monterey.ca.us

District includes: Del Rey Oaks, Marina, Sand City, Seaside, and Southwest Salinas.



5TH DISTRICT - SUPERVISOR DAVE POTTER

1200 Aguajito Road, Suite 1, Monterey, CA 93940

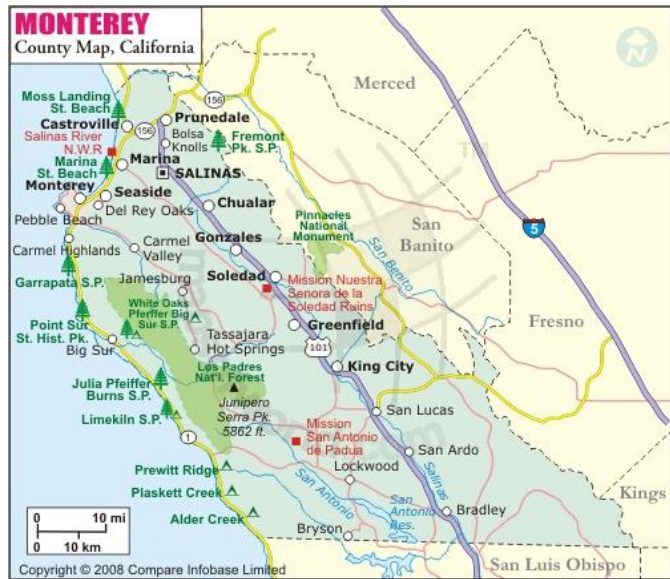
(831) 755-5055 office / (831) 647-7695 fax / district5@co.monterey.ca.us

District includes: Carmel, Carmel Valley, Big Sur, Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach, Monterey, Highway 68 and Las Palmas.

- Chair, Board of Supervisors Legislative Committee
- California State Association of Counties (CSAC) alternate representative.

ABOUT MONTEREY COUNTY

Monterey County is located on the Pacific coast of California, 125 miles south of San Francisco and 350 miles north of Los Angeles. The County is famous for some of the world's most beautiful coastline including Big Sur, California State Route 1, and 17-Mile Drive on the Monterey Peninsula - and the agriculturally prolific inland Salinas Valley. The County consists of 3,771 square miles (3,322 land & 449 water) and includes 12 incorporated cities and 16 unincorporated areas. The county seat is Salinas, the largest municipality. Created at the time of statehood in 1850, Monterey County was one of California's original counties.



KEY INDUSTRIES

Monterey County's economy is primarily based upon tourism in the coastal regions, and agriculture in the Salinas River valley. It also is home to an extensive array of education and research institutions which contribute greatly to the economy. The non-profit sector is also one of the largest business sectors in the County.

AGRICULTURE

Monterey County is one of the nation's top agricultural producers and is the county's largest sector in terms of economic output and employment. As such, it represents a vital link to both the county's cultural past and competitive future. A recent report "*Economic Contributions of Monterey County Agriculture*" showed that agriculture contributed \$8.2 billion and more than 73,000 jobs to the Monterey County economy in 2010. Agriculture touches nearly every facet of life in Monterey County. From lettuce in the Salinas Valley, artichokes in Castroville, berries in north Monterey County, or vineyards in Carmel Valley, agriculture shapes our lives. Unlike the majority of agriculture across the United States that is machine harvested, the crops grown in Monterey County are dependent upon a highly skilled labor force to produce the fresh fruits and vegetables that feed the nation and keep us healthy. The vast majority of agricultural companies based in Monterey County are family-owned and operated.

HOSPITALITY

Monterey County has long been a tourist destination attracting nearly 8 million visitors annually. Tourism is the second largest industry in the County, generating \$2 billion and supporting 22,000-27,000 jobs. The County has a worldwide reputation, with widely recognized destinations such as Big Sur, Pebble Beach, Carmel-by-the-Sea, and Monterey – and attractions such as Monterey Bay Aquarium, National Steinbeck Center, 17-Mile Drive, Cannery Row, Fisherman's Wharf, and the Monterey Wine Country. Visitors enjoy a wide variety of recreational activities including: golf, beaches, scuba diving, sailing, kayaking, whale watching, fishing, camping, horseback riding, skydiving, hiking, biking, art galleries, exhibits, music, and theatre. Nearly 300 special events take place in Monterey County annually, including AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am Golf Tournament, Monterey Jazz Festival, races at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, Concours d'Elegance, Big Sur Marathon and other food, wine, cultural and family festivals.

HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

Monterey County enjoys a strong concentration of research and higher education institutions, particularly related to marine research. The higher education and research institutions located within the Monterey Bay area have combined annual revenues of \$1.5 billion, including more than \$275 million in research and grant funding. More than 12,000 faculty, staff and researchers are directly employed by these institutions and some 65,000 students are enrolled annually.

MONTEREY BAY AREA HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS	
Brandman University	Monterey Bay Aquarium
Cabrillo College	Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI)
California Department of Fish & Game (CDFG) Marine Region	Monterey College of Law
California State University, Monterey Bay	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Central Coast College	Monterey Institute of International Studies
Defense Language Institute, Foreign Language Center	Monterey Peninsula College
Defense Manpower Data Center	Moss Landing Marine Laboratories
Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve	Pacific Fisheries Environmental Laboratory (NOAA)
Fleet Numerical Meteorology & Oceanography Center, US Navy	Panetta Institute for Public Policy
Gavilan College	National Weather Service (NOAA)
Golden Gate University	Naval Postgraduate School
Hartnell College	Naval Research Laboratory
Heald College – Salinas	U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Pacific Science Center
Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University	University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC)

NON-PROFIT SECTOR

The nonprofit industry plays a vital role in Monterey County's economic and social health. A strong economy requires a healthy, thriving community made up of individuals working and playing together – actively participating and engaged in improving their lives and the community as a whole. Nonprofits play a major role in building community; preserving culture and helping residents prosper. There are over 1,212 registered nonprofits in the County, 433 of which are large enough to meet IRS reporting requirements. The total economic impact of the nonprofit industry in Monterey County is \$1.5 billion, including direct and indirect effects, and provides over 12,000 jobs locally.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population: 415,057 (2010 U.S. Census)
55.7% Hispanic
32.9% White
6.7% Asian
2.4% African American
1.2% Native American, Pacific Islander & Other

GOVERNMENT

County Budget FY12-13: \$935.9 million
Monterey County Employees: 4,308

ECONOMY – (EDD September 2012)

Labor Force 233,400 *
Unemployed 20,000 * (8.6%)
* not seasonally adjusted

MONTEREY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS PROGRAM

Monterey County maintains a long-standing and successful Legislative Affairs program, ensuring that the interests of the County are well represented in both Sacramento and Washington, D.C. The program provides the County a voice in funding and policy decision-making in the state and national capitals, and ensures that County leaders are fully apprised of evolving state and federal initiatives impacting the County and its residents.

The County's Legislative Affairs Program is managed and directed in accordance with a set of Legislative Principles, which are crafted to follow and support the County's Strategic Initiatives. The Strategic Initiatives lay out a forward-looking vision for planning and managing use of County resources across programs to secure maximum return and benefit for County residents.

With full recognition of the current era of limited and uncertain federal, state and county budgets brought on by a national recession, Monterey County recognizes the need to plan, seek out, and manage resources to achieve County goals. Toward that end, the Board of Supervisors Strategic Initiatives are intended to provide a framework to guide overall County operations. The Board's Initiatives are periodically reviewed and revised to adjust and balance the County's ever-changing priorities and challenges with available resources.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

The Strategic Initiatives are closely tied to the County's legislative priorities that, by necessity, adjust with the ever-changing political and legislative landscape of Sacramento and Washington, D.C. In turn, the priorities are framed by legislative principles that guide the County's goals and strategies for legislative action.

With a strategic blueprint to address major issues within the County, the Legislative Committee and the Board of Supervisors review, decide on, and in some cases, initiate legislative measures and budget actions that impact the County and the constituents they represent, and further the implementation of the Strategic Initiatives.

After another year of difficult budget decisions and legislative uncertainty focused on attempts throughout 2012 to bring the State's spending into balance with its continually lagging revenues, 2013 offers another year of budget challenges. In light of these factors, Monterey County must act decisively, taking responsible and appropriate measures to safeguard the County's fiscal and economic well-being. During this time of resource scarcity and increased need for services, it is more important than ever to support strong and effective partnerships among agencies with shared missions.

2012-13 STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Actively engage in appropriate economic development to ensure a Countywide perspective in support of a diversified economy, higher paying jobs, and an expanded revenue base for local government services, while preserving and protecting the County's agricultural, tourism and education economic base.

ADMINISTRATION

Streamline County operations for greater accountability and efficiency of service delivery and cost savings.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Improve health and quality of life through County supported policies, programs and services.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Plan and develop a sustainable physical infrastructure that improves the quality of life for County residents and supports economic development initiatives. Promote the use of alternative energy sources and related best practices that benefit the environment.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Realign the relationship and approach within criminal justice services and the courts to improve service integration and impact on the people served. Provide effective law enforcement and improve public safety infrastructure, local homeland security, and methods for reducing gangs and drug problems.

LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

To ensure that we support, defend, or oppose any legislative or budget actions that impact County resources, operations, or the goals of the Strategic Initiatives, our decisions and actions will be guided by the following legislative principles:

1) QUALITY OF LIFE FOR MONTEREY COUNTY RESIDENTS

Support efforts that promote the County's ability to enhance the quality of life, well-being, health, safety, livelihood, art, culture, and education of Monterey County residents. Support policies and programs that protect consumers and help families achieve self-sufficiency. Support job training, and public or private efforts, to stabilize and enhance jobs and economic growth. Support policies and programs that safeguard the preservation of prime agricultural lands, improve the environment and protect environmentally sensitive areas.

2) FEDERAL / STATE / COUNTY GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIPS

Support efforts to reform or improve the federal/state/county fiscal and functional relationships. Support reform efforts that restore the fiscal stability of the federal and state government. Support efforts to restore local authority and control over revenues, governance, and service delivery as well as protect the County against state mandates that constrict its ability to manage its own affairs. Support efforts to provide funding or reimbursement at the actual cost of doing business for County administered programs, projects and responsibilities. Assure that adequate protections are in place to provide for needed public health, safety, and social service programs.

3) GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & FISCAL STABILITY

Support efforts that preserve the County's autonomy as the fiscal manager, administrator, and policy-making entity with regard to County funds. Support efforts to secure predictable and stable revenue sources through the existing federal and state relationships or with expanded authority to generate voter approved revenues at the local level. Support efforts that increase revenues to the County, protect funding sources, and increase the direct pass-thru of federal and state funding. Support efforts to modernize the governance structure of County divisions and agencies to improve efficient delivery of government services.

Support efforts to streamline operations, enhance access and use of digital and other information technologies, and add flexibility and discretion for counties to manage programs in the most cost effective manner possible. Protect constitutional rights, network neutrality, open access to information in any format, and attorney-client privilege. Support full funding for mandated programs and oppose unfunded mandates and the imposition of unreasonable or unnecessary legislative or regulatory burdens that add costs or risks to County and local operations.

4) PRESERVE THE HEALTH CARE SAFETY NET

Support efforts to fund, expand, coordinate and improve the health care safety net system in Monterey County. Oppose any further cuts. Encourage and support the State's efforts to negotiate renewed waivers with the federal government that enhance matches or provide additional Medicaid funding to counties. Support reform efforts to fully fund comprehensive health care programs, providers and facilities for every resident, without adversely affecting the local economy and business community. Support policies that assure parity for mental health and addictive disorder prevention and treatment. Support policies and funding that preserve and expand core public health functions.

5) ESTABLISH SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY

Support legislation, policy development, and regulatory efforts to foster social equity for health access, education, and disease management needed to make healthy choices and lead healthy lifestyles, with a specific focus on early childhood development, childhood obesity and youth violence. Support legislation, policy development, and regulatory efforts to promote Health in All Policies, especially pertaining to reducing and eliminating social, economic, and physical environmental inequities, shaped by increased community engagement.

6) PRESERVE AND ADVANCE SOCIAL SERVICES

Support efforts to preserve and advance social services by providing the authority and resources required to promote the social and economic self-reliance of individuals and families, and for the protection of children, elders, and dependent adults. Support efforts to restore funding and clarify state/county responsibilities for county provided social services. Encourage and support the State's efforts to secure funding and federal waivers resulting in additional resources for counties and community-based social service providers. Support efforts to provide funding and policies to address the unique needs of our veterans and their families.

7) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WORKFORCE INVESTMENT & HOUSING

Support efforts to fund and develop regional countywide economic development plans that balance environmental and economic considerations in furtherance of jobs key to the primary sectors of economic development in the County: agriculture, tourism, small business and education/research. Support efforts to promote a strong state and county economy, and provide a healthy environment for small business attraction, growth, and retention. Support legislative, policy or regulatory efforts that provide local governments with economic and community development tools and encourage compliance with state-mandated regional planning strategies. Support the continued existence of the Naval Postgraduate School and Defense Language Institute should they be threatened by future base closure and realignment actions of the Federal government. Support base reuse activities at the former Fort Ord.

Support efforts to fully fund workforce development initiatives, including ongoing youth and veterans' employment and leadership programs, to insure the continuity of employment and training programs to stimulate economic growth through the creation of a trained and skilled workforce. Support efforts to better prepare youth for future self-sufficiency and prevent youth violence and crime.

Support efforts to provide funds for the creation of affordable housing, and to streamline processes which create barriers or delays to affordable housing projects.

8) TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE & THE ENVIRONMENT

Support efforts to fund Monterey County transportation, water-related, renewable energy/conservation-related, and housing and community infrastructure projects, to obtain regulatory approvals, and to streamline the process for permit acquisition and project implementation. Support efforts to fund repairs, upgrades, and modernization of wastewater collection and disposal systems, particularly in areas where the associated infrastructure is aging and there is insufficient financial capacity to fund necessary improvements. Support efforts to reform environmental processes such as CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) in order to retain environmental protections while reforming the legal process to reduce abuses. Support efforts to align state and federal requirements (e.g. federal ADA/state accessibility requirements). Support efforts to preserve the County's authority over desalination ownership in Monterey County.

Monitor the potential Federal lease of lands for oil and gas exploration and the potential effects of these activities on water quality and dam safety. Support efforts to ensure appropriate oversight and funding for State regulation and monitoring of energy extraction activities (e.g. hydraulic fracturing). Support efforts and funding to allow Monterey County to manage an adequate renewable energy program (e.g. fees on oil, commercial solar, etc.).

Support efforts to protect and preserve the federal, state, county and regional parks within Monterey County, including the promotion of park designations and the preservation of resources of historical and/or cultural significance. Maintain and protect agricultural and rural resources, coastal areas, and bio-diversity.

Support efforts to protect and preserve prime agricultural lands in Monterey County (e.g. Williamson Act funding). Support efforts to protect and promote agriculture, farm worker health and safety, the protection of public health and the environment, and the assurance of a fair marketplace. Support efforts to provide agricultural research and education activities.

Support efforts that assist in military base reuse, specifically those efforts that redevelop the former Fort Ord lands to replace jobs lost as a result of the base closure. Support efforts to establish the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery at the former Fort Ord. Oppose the closure of military institutions located within Monterey County which may be included in future BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) proposals. Support efforts to transfer the Tidball Store property to the County. Support efforts that promote eco-tourism opportunities.

9) PUBLIC SAFETY

Support collaborative efforts to maintain and increase public safety, prevent and reduce the frequency, severity, and impact of criminal behavior on the community, and the long-term effects of violence and trauma. Support evidence-based approaches and services for the rehabilitation of juvenile and adult offenders, and strategies to deter criminal behavior and promote law-abiding lifestyle choices, as well as a healthy family environment. Support efforts to recognize and protect victim's rights and the restoration of justice while promoting healing. Support efforts to fund County and collaborative efforts aimed at reducing gang violence and other law offenders, recognizing a public health approach to the prevention of violence and in support of the strategies outlined in *Monterey County's Comprehensive Violence Prevention, Intervention, Suppression, and Reentry Framework (October 2009)*, and the Monterey County Gang Violence Strategic Plan (expected completion in 2013). Support efforts to fund public safety facilities and equipment.

10) COLLABORATION, REGIONAL EFFORTS, INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

In those matters where legislative pursuits align or are consistent with the interests of Monterey County, support other agencies' efforts. Collaborate with neighboring cities, counties, and other agencies on large-scale projects or regional planning efforts. Maintain effective relationships with the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and National Association of Counties (NACo).

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES - SUMMARY

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & FISCAL STABILITY		
CA		REALIGNMENT OF STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT <i>Support efforts to more equitably distribute constitutionally guaranteed realignment funds to counties for realigned public safety, health and human services programs.</i>
CA	US	LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING <i>Support efforts to secure existing and enhance additional State and Federal revenues for local government operations and programs.</i>
PRESERVE THE HEALTH CARE SAFETY NET		
CA	US	HEALTH CARE REFORM <i>Support efforts to implement comprehensive health care reform, stabilize and strengthen the local health care safety net, expand access to insurance programs, and preserve funding to counties for essential services provided to uncovered individuals – in a manner that does not adversely affect the local economy or business community.</i>
CA	US	CHRONIC UNDERFUNDING - MEDI-CAL & MEDICARE <i>Support efforts that provide for higher Medi-Cal and Medicare reimbursement levels for inpatient and outpatient services.</i>
CA	US	MEDICAID SECTION 1115 WAIVER IMPLEMENTATION <i>Support the State’s implementation of the Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver that goes beyond safety net hospital financing to stabilize all aspects of providing quality care.</i>
CA	US	MEDICAID DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE HOSPITAL (DSH) PAYMENTS <i>Support efforts that prevent reductions in Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funding to meet the cost of care for Medicaid beneficiaries until the fruits of health care reform – fewer uninsured and higher levels of compensation for care – are realized.</i>
	US	EQUITABLE MEDICARE PHYSICIAN REIMBURSEMENT <i>Support efforts to remedy inequitable Medicare physician reimbursement formulas among California counties.</i>
	US	ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD DEVELOPMENT <i>Support efforts to provide funding for electronic health records implementation so health information efforts can expand.</i>
ESTABLISH SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY		
CA	US	EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT <i>Support efforts that provide funding to foster the healthy development of all children from the prenatal stage through age five; and support interventions that protect the health, social-emotional well being and basic needs of children in this age group.</i>
PRESERVE SOCIAL SERVICES		
CA		PRESERVE HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES AND SUPPORTS FOR SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES <i>Support efforts to provide home and community based long term services and supports critical to the health and wellness of seniors and people with disabilities.</i>
CA	US	PRESERVE THE SAFETY NET FOR LOW-INCOME CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS <i>Support efforts that preserve safety net services for low-income children, families and individuals; and provide critical resources for the most vulnerable in our community.</i>
CA	US	HONORING VETERANS <i>Support efforts to expand services to returning veterans to honor their valor, promote successful reintegration into civilian life, and assure access to services needed to address injuries. Support efforts to establish the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery.</i>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING & WORKFORCE INVESTMENT	
CA US	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Support efforts to fund and develop regional economic development activities that will attract living-wage jobs compatible with the environmental resources of the region.
CA US	HOUSING Support efforts to provide affordable housing for Monterey County residents.
US	WORKFORCE INVESTMENT Support efforts to reauthorize and expand funding of the Workforce Investment Act.
US	BUILDING OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH Support efforts to fully fund summer youth employment and training programs on an ongoing basis and expand funding for year round youth employment and leadership in order to better prepare youth for future self-sufficiency and prevent youth violence and crime.
TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE & THE ENVIRONMENT	
CA US	TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE Support efforts to fund capital, maintenance, safety, and operations of the transportation infrastructure including local roads, bridges, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, transit, and rail.
CA US	WATER INFRASTRUCTURE – FLOOD & STORMWATER MANAGEMENT Support efforts to fund flood and stormwater management projects, obtain regulatory approvals, and streamline the process for permit acquisition and project implementation.
CA US	SAFE SECURE DRINKING WATER SUPPLY Support efforts aimed at providing safe drinking water supplies to Monterey County residents (e.g. Granite Ridge Water Supply Project), and for the continued monitoring of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin.
CA US	AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES - QUAGGA AND ZEBRA MUSSELS Support efforts aimed at protecting Monterey County’s waterways from infestation by aquatic invasive species (Quagga & Zebra mussels), and provide additional tools to aid in vessel tracking and inspection.
PUBLIC SAFETY	
CA US	GANG VIOLENCE Support efforts aimed at reducing gang violence including the Silver Star Resource Center, the Monterey County Joint Gang Task Force, and other community-wide collaborative efforts. Support Monterey County’s participation in the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention sponsored by the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education and other federal agencies.
CA	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE Support efforts aimed at reducing violence in the family and home environment, mitigating the long-term effect of violence induced trauma, and promoting efforts and services to stabilize families, increase their self-sufficiency, and provide a healthy environment for child development.
CA	JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITIES & PROGRAMS Support efforts to fund juvenile detention facilities and programs including: the construction of a new juvenile hall; a secure facility for serious youth offenders; and adequate educational, therapeutic, rehabilitative and restorative programs to prepare juveniles for their successful reentry into the local community upon their release.
CA	JAIL HOUSING ADDITION Support efforts to provide funding for county jail construction and/or expansion.
CA US	EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & DISASTER RESPONSE Support efforts to provide funding for emergency preparedness and response– and to decrease the percentage of costs borne by local government related to state/federal declared disasters.

REALIGNMENT OF STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Support efforts to more equitably distribute constitutionally guaranteed realignment funds to counties for realigned public safety, health and human services programs.

SUMMARY

As part of the 2011-12 State Budget, the Legislature realigned certain state program responsibilities and revenues to local governments. In total, the realignment plan provides funding to local governments (primarily counties) for court security, adult offenders and parolees, public safety grants, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, child welfare programs, adult protective services, and California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) in 2011-12, and ongoing funds for these programs annually thereafter.

The 2011 Realignment is funded with a dedicated 1.0625% of the state sales tax; a dedicated \$12 of the Vehicle License Fee; and a one-time shift of \$763 million from the Mental Health Services Fund (Proposition 63) for support of the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program and Mental Health Managed Care Program. On November 6, 2012, California voters approved Proposition 30, giving constitutional guarantees to the funding that supports realignment and safeguards against future program expansion without accompanying funding.

IMPACT / COST

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors has adopted a 2011 Public Safety Realignment Implementation Plan and Post Release Community Supervision strategy as recommended by the Community Corrections Partnership. The plan contains recommendations for implementation based on projected funding allocated by the State. The long term success of local realignment is closely linked to the system change toward evidence-based practices, and to adequate funding to carry out the plan.

Despite constitutional protections, current funding does not adequately provide for the County's obligations to detain, supervise, and provide rehabilitative and support services to the realigned programs. There is also concern that the current state distribution appears to favor some jurisdictions.



REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

- 1) Support efforts to enhance revenues to counties in support of realigned programs.
- 2) Support efforts to more equitably distribute realignment funding among counties.

CONTACT: Manuel Real, Chief Probation Officer
(831) 755-3913 / realm@co.monterey.ca.us

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Support efforts to secure existing and enhance additional State and Federal revenues for local government operations and programs.

SUMMARY

Monterey County continues to utilize prudent fiscal management strategies in an overall weak economy that is marked by high unemployment and reduced consumer spending. Related impacts include dramatic declines followed by a flattening of the County's primary sources of discretionary revenue – property, sales, and transient occupancy taxes (TOT).



Despite the County's sound and strategic actions to reduce spending and protect cash balances, the continued volatility and unpredictability of State and Federal funding for local programs creates increasing burdens on local governments to adapt to the service needs of our community.

Despite some optimistic signs of economic growth, forecasts for increased local government revenues remain sluggish and prolonged as the country recovers from one of the worst recessions since World War II. Throughout this recessionary period, the Board of Supervisors, Department Heads, and the entire County workforce has demonstrated a strong commitment to maintaining essential government services within the limits of shrinking resources. In the face of yet another year of significant budget reductions, County departments continue to reflect this commitment.

LOCAL IMPACT / COSTS

More than half of the County's FY 2012-13 General Fund revenues are derived from Federal and State aid. Local health and public assistance programs receive the bulk of their funding from Federal assistance passed down through State agencies along with matching State funds.

The County's social services and health programs are the largest recipients of Federal and State aid, relying heavily on these funds as the primary means of supporting the costs of the services they provide. Funding levels to counties for requirements to deliver State services have not kept pace with the related local costs.

Monterey County's FY 2012-13 Budget includes \$270.2 million from Federal and State aid, \$21.2 million (7.3%) less than the previous fiscal year. The bulk of this reduction occurs in reimbursements for County administration of public assistance programs.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

Support legislative and budget proposals and grant opportunities that would secure existing or enhance additional revenues for local government operations and programs.

CONTACT: Dewayne Woods, County Budget Director
(831) 755-5309 / woodsd@co.monterey.ca.us

HEALTH CARE REFORM

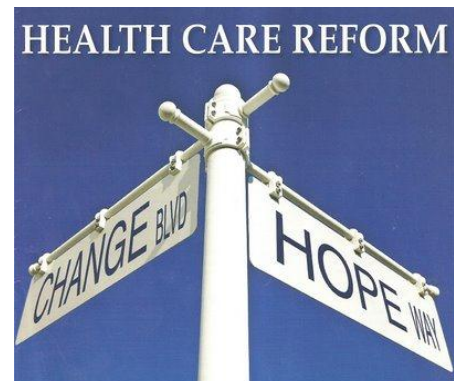
Support efforts to implement comprehensive health care reform, stabilize and strengthen the local health care safety net, expand access to insurance programs, and preserve funding to counties for essential services provided to uncovered individuals – in a manner that does not adversely affect the local economy or business community.

SUMMARY

California's public hospitals and health care systems are committed to implementing comprehensive health care reform and providing equitable access to affordable, safe, medically necessary, high quality care. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) is the most sweeping federal health care reform legislation since Medicare was created in 1965. The ACA will cover millions of Californians and is a strong foundation on which to build lasting reform meaning the difference between good health and poor health for millions of Americans – and for a great many people, the difference between life and death. Millions more Americans will have timely access to health care. Such access will result in healthier outcomes and less reliance on avoidable – and costly – emergency visits and hospital stays.

Provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA):

- Expands coverage to 32 million people through a combination of private and public-sector insurance expansion. In Monterey County, it is estimated that 20,000 residents will be newly eligible under Medi-Cal and 35,000 will be eligible for subsidies to purchase insurance through a state-based exchange.
- Includes an individual mandate obligating every legal resident to obtain qualified health insurance or pay a penalty. Low income uninsured individuals are exempt from the mandate penalty.
- Allows states to opt out of Medicaid expansion (per the Supreme Court decision).
- Offsets part of the cost of expanded coverage by making significant cuts to Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payments to safety net providers on the assumption that coverage expansion of Medicaid will lessen the burden on hospitals of providing uncompensated care.
- Guarantees a health benefit package that provides at least the essential health benefits to newly eligible people.
- Establishes health benefit exchanges at the state level to increase the number of insured Californians, improve health care quality, lower costs, and reduce health disparities through an innovative, competitive marketplace that empowers consumers to choose the health plan and providers that give them the best value.
- Provides tax credits to small businesses who offer health insurance to employees.
- Closes the Medicare Part D “donut hole” improving drug coverage for seniors.
- Puts in place insurance reforms.
- Simplifies administrative requirements.
- Includes delivery system reforms.
- Takes significant steps to shift the focus of health care toward prevention and wellness.
- Undocumented individuals will continue to be ineligible for non-emergency Medicaid.



IMPACT

Successful health care reform will result in equitable access to health care for all people; promotion of individual and community health status; continuous improvement of quality and efficiency within the delivery and financing components of the system; and reasonable predictability and stability.

COST

The California Department of Health Care Services projects that health care reform will result in nearly \$600 million in State General Fund savings in FY 2018-2019, for a number of individuals in current State programs who will transition to the federally-subsidized exchange and will offset the cost of the anticipated Medi-Cal expansion. These estimates assume 100% enrollment of newly eligible individuals in Medi-Cal and in the exchange as a result of the mandate.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

Support efforts to implement comprehensive health care reform, stabilize and strengthen the local health care safety net, expand access to insurance programs, and retain funding to counties for essential services provided to uncovered individuals – in a manner that does not adversely affect the local economy or business community.

CONTACT: Harry Weis, CEO, Natividad Medical Center
(831) 783-2553 / weish@natividad.com

CHRONIC UNDERFUNDING - MEDI-CAL & MEDICARE

Support efforts that provide for higher Medi-Cal and Medicare reimbursement levels for inpatient and outpatient services.

SUMMARY

California's public hospitals and clinics provide inpatient and outpatient primary, specialty, and preventive care that is an important part of the health care infrastructure and safety-net system. Care is provided to anyone in need, regardless of their ability to pay. However, underpayment by Medi-Cal and Medicare programs poses a threat to the health care delivery infrastructure.



Medi-Cal, California's Medicaid program, is the main source of health care insurance for 6.7 million people. The program services the state's most vulnerable citizens – children, their parents, seniors, and non-elderly adults with disabilities. It is the single largest source of health insurance coverage in the state, yet the Medi-Cal program currently has the lowest spending rate in the nation resulting in tremendous growth in uncompensated care.

Medicare is a federal program that provides health insurance coverage to Americans age 65+ and for those with certain disabilities. Medicare payments to California hospitals and other providers have fallen far below the rising cost of providing care. Hospitals and other providers' inability to receive payments for services that meet their costs have led to negative Medicare margins.

IMPACT

California's public hospitals and clinics are the core of the state's health care safety net, delivering care to all who need it, regardless of ability to pay or insurance status. Public health care systems provide nearly half of all hospital care to the state's uninsured population, almost 30% of the care provided to California's Medi-Cal population within the hospital setting, and 35% of Medi-Cal visits in outpatient settings. Additionally, 43% of new doctors in the state are trained at public hospitals. With the cost of providing care exceeding Medicare and Medi-Cal payments, public hospital health care systems are concerned about their ability to continue to support communities and implement health care reforms.

COST

Despite the crucial roles that Medi-Cal and Medicare play in California's health care system, these programs face significant challenges. Federal and state officials are turning to Medicare and Medi-Cal spending reductions to address budget deficits. Low payments to hospitals and other providers are putting them at further financial risk. The County strongly supports an expansion of coverage for low-income individuals and families and seniors through the Medi-Cal and Medicare programs. However, without an increase in provider rates the ability to provide care is compromised.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

Support legislation that provides higher Medi-Cal and Medicare reimbursement levels for inpatient and outpatient services.

CONTACT: Harry Weis, CEO, Natividad Medical Center
(831) 783-2553 / weish@natividad.com

MEDICAID SECTION 1115 WAIVER IMPLEMENTATION

Support the State's implementation of the Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver that goes beyond safety net hospital financing to stabilize all aspects of providing quality care.



SUMMARY

In November 2010, the State of California and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced an agreement on a new Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver. Through this five year agreement, California will receive approximately \$10 billion in federal funds to invest in its health delivery system to prepare for national health care reform.

The Waiver presents the opportunity to stabilize the healthcare safety net system and - in the context of national and state health care reform goals - expand health care coverage and access, and support efforts to improve the coordination of care, particularly to millions of uninsured Californians. The vision for the Waiver is to: strengthen the financial stability of safety net providers, and improve the coordination of care through new integrated delivery systems. The new Waiver offers a crucial opportunity to prepare for health care reform's expected 2014 mandated Medicaid expansion in California.

IMPACT

California's public hospitals and clinics are the core of the state's health care safety net, delivering care to all who need it, regardless of ability to pay or insurance status. Public health care systems provide nearly half of all hospital care to the state's uninsured population, almost 30% of the care provided to California's Medi-Cal population within the hospital setting, and 35% of Medi-Cal visits in outpatient settings. Additionally, 43% of new doctors in the state are trained at public hospitals. The Waiver has served as the primary support for the services provided by California's public hospital systems to millions of Californians.

COST

Underlying support from the Waiver components of the Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program and other supplemental payments have kept safety-net hospitals open. Natividad Medical Center receives \$23 million in Waiver funding annually. The Waiver is essential to maintain hospital services for Medi-Cal, uninsured, pediatric and other vulnerable patients, and to stabilize the safety net. The Waiver presents the opportunity to utilize hospital and other key providers to improve the safety net public hospital system and allow it to provide patients in need with greater access to coordinated, high-quality health care and expanded coverage. However, expansion of a Waiver cannot be pursued at the expense of public safety-net health care systems.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

Support the State's implementation of the Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver that goes beyond safety net hospital financing to stabilize all aspects of providing quality care.

CONTACT: Harry Weis, CEO, Natividad Medical Center
(831) 783-2553 / weis@natividad.com

MEDICAID DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE HOSPITAL PAYMENTS

Support efforts that prevent reductions in Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funding to meet the cost of care for Medicaid beneficiaries until the fruits of health care reform – fewer uninsured and higher levels of compensation for care – are realized.

SUMMARY

Natividad Medical Center (NMC), like all California public hospitals, relies on Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funding to help offset the cost of care for the uninsured, address inadequate Medicaid rates, provide care to the undocumented, and provide essential community services. NMC services include: emergency care, neonatal intensive care, primary and specialty care for children, women, and families, acute rehabilitation, behavioral health, and a graduate medical training program in family medicine through affiliation with the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) expands health coverage for low-income Americans, partly by increasing eligibility in Medicaid to those with incomes below 133% of the federal poverty level. To partly offset expanded coverage cost the ACA significantly cut DSH payments - assuming all coverage provisions would be implemented, lessening the burden of uncompensated care on hospitals. However, while the ACA mandated DSH cuts remain at their original levels, a Supreme Court ruling effectively made the coverage expansion voluntary for states, which means high levels of uninsured may remain.

The imbalance between a voluntary Medicaid expansion and guaranteed DSH cuts is unjustified and will have disastrous consequences. The significant decrease in safety net hospital funding and continued high levels of uncompensated care will limit patient access to lifesaving services. Health Care Reform is expected to reduce the number of uninsured, but the reductions affect only one purpose of DSH funding. Deeper DSH reductions should not be made without certainty that health care reform will adequately cover overall uncompensated costs at public hospitals.

IMPACT

Public hospital systems strongly support federal health care reform and health coverage for all. After reform, the public hospital systems will continue to be part of the solution to achieving health care reform and should be strengthened in reform efforts. The Medicaid DSH funds are crucial to Natividad Medical Center and all public hospitals in order to provide a comprehensive range of services to all those in need in our community, both insured and uninsured.

COST

NMC will receive DSH funding of \$12 million in Fiscal Year 2013. With DSH and other supplemental funding, NMC, like all public hospitals, has uncompensated costs for which it receives no reimbursement. In the absence of adequate resources for the safety net, DSH funding is critical to maintain NMC's essential services.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

Support efforts that prevent reductions in Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funding until the number of uninsured and level of uncompensated in the safety net is reduced and Medicaid rates are increased to meet the cost of care for beneficiaries.

CONTACT: Harry Weis, CEO, Natividad Medical Center
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EQUITABLE MEDICARE PHYSICIAN REIMBURSEMENT

Support efforts to remedy inequitable Medicare physician reimbursement formulas among California counties.

SUMMARY

Health care providers in more than a dozen of California counties, including Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties, are being inaccurately compensated for Medicare procedures, making it difficult for county residents to find physicians willing to accept Medicare patients. In 1966,



Medicare reimbursements rates were based on a formula known as the Geographic Practice Cost Index (GPCI) with counties designated as either “rural” or “urban” with higher reimbursement rates paid to physicians in urban counties based on higher costs associated with providing care. It was the expectation that those designations would be updated every few years. That never happened, and as a result, doctors in counties that have experienced dramatic increases in the cost of living are compensated 20% less than their counterparts in adjacent counties. Adding to the

problem is the fact that private insurance companies tend to base their reimbursement rates on Medicare rates, which means they reimburse physicians in the impacted counties at significantly lower rates.

A legislative solution would direct the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to update the geographic designations immediately and again every three years to keep reimbursements in line.

IMPACT

A change in the Medicare reimbursement policy will improve seniors’ access to medical services and enhance the ability to recruit and retain physicians in Monterey County.

COST

As costs have risen in Monterey and many of the other “rural” counties, Medicare reimbursements have not kept up resulting in fewer physicians willing to serve Medicare patients or physicians moving their medical practices to surrounding higher reimbursed counties. More Medicare beneficiaries are relying on safety net hospitals and clinics including Natividad Medical Center’s Emergency Department and Specialty Clinic and the Health Department primary care clinics. The current reimbursement policy which has not been updated to meet current needs exacerbates the national crisis both for locating much-needed providers in “rural” areas, as well as in escalating health care costs.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

Support efforts to remedy inequitable Medicare physician reimbursement formulas among California counties.

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ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD DEVELOPMENT

Support efforts to provide funding for electronic health records implementation so health information exchange efforts can expand.

SUMMARY

Hospitals and other provider groups are moving away from paper-based records to electronic medical records (EMR) and electronic health records to retain patient-care data. Natividad Medical Center (NMC) and the Monterey County Health Department share the goal of integrating a robust EMR that links patient health information for the exchange of data among all County health services. The integration will reduce redundant patient information gathered at multiple sites, increase continuity of care opportunities, and provide a safe electronic environment for coordinated care while maintaining all privacy protections. Achieving meaningful use of an EMR as defined by the Medicare and Medi-Cal programs, is consistent with the health care reform goals. Following implementations of EMR, phase two is the capture and availability of secure patient-care data through the use of health information technology (HIT) across the continuum of care, as a tool to enhance patient safety, promote information for preventative health and reduce health care costs.

Benefits to patient safety gained by EMR implementation include electronic prescribing, prevention of medical errors, clinical decision support, order tracking, population management, uniformity of care, and eventual on-line patient access to personal health information. Comprehensive and timely integration of patient health information between NMC and the Health Department will greatly enhance both patient care and patient satisfaction.

The federal goals for electronic health record implementation include transforming care delivery, personal health, and support through the access to and use of electronic health information. There are federal financial incentives which started in 2011 for implementation and meaningful use of an electronic health record, with mandated implementation and penalties for failure to do so by 2015. When integration and implementation are complete, medical providers can have immediate access to a patient's inpatient, outpatient, behavioral health and community health records, which supports comprehensive, safer, and more effective medical care.

IMPACT

The development of systems to assure the availability of patient data at the point of care and across the care continuum critical to hospitals and health care systems will lead to cost reductions, enhanced patient outcomes, and reduced treatment delays and safety issues.

COST

The estimated cost of an EMR at NMC with integration of Health Department and NMC record systems is \$13.5 million, including purchase of EMR systems that meet the meaningful use standards in a variety of medical specialties, and integration so providers can access patient health information from all points of care.



REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

Support efforts to provide funding for electronic health records implementation so health information exchange efforts can expand.

CONTACTS: Harry Weis, CEO, Natividad Medical Center (831) 783-2553 / weish@natividad.com Ray Bullick, Director of Health (831) 755-4526 / bullickr@co.monterey.ca.us

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Support efforts that provide funding to foster the healthy development of all children from the prenatal stage through age five; and support interventions that protect the health, social-emotional wellbeing and basic needs of children in this age group.

SUMMARY

Early childhood is the developmental stage that begins with the prenatal period and continues to age five. Positive early childhood development occurs through the synergy of physical health, social and emotional wellbeing and the fulfillment of basic needs, such as food and safety. In Monterey County the Public Health Department, First 5 Monterey County and the Department of Social and Employment Services, along with their community partners, are funded to assure that these essential elements exist for all young children; and to offer quality interventions when one or more of these essential elements are lacking.

In March of 2012, Monterey County business and community leaders heard Dr. James Heckman, Nobel Laureate in Economics, describe the advantages of investing in early childhood development in order to provide a strong foundation for healthy and competent adulthood. Dr. Heckman states that intervention during early childhood, particularly with those of low socioeconomic status, yields the most significant, long term results.¹ These targeted interventions to improve physical health, social and emotional well-being and the availability of basic needs in early childhood offers a greater

return on investment than interventions offered later in life. This less expensive early intervention prevents more costly adult problems, including increased risk of chronic disease, academic achievement gaps and limited parenting skills resulting from a childhood of neglect and abuse.

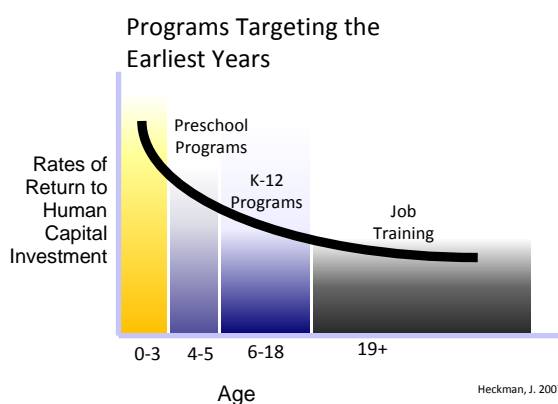
The Monterey County Children's Council began a county-wide early childhood initiative to maximize existing and future resources to support all parents, families and young children during this critical period of their development; and to intervene with socioeconomically disadvantaged groups lacking access to primary health care, parent and early childhood education and supports, basic needs, such as protection from abuse and food security, and the benefits derived from growing up in a healthy community.

IMPACT

In Monterey County, almost one in ten County residents are under the age of five (38,100). According to the 2011 American Community Survey of the Census, 28% of Monterey County's children under five lived in poverty.² In addition, in 2010, 71% of infants were born into low-income families in our County. Without quality early intervention, this sizable cohort will experience adverse consequences into adulthood, resulting in higher costs related to health care, a poorly educated workforce and lifelong dependence on public assistance.

COST

Dr. Heckman's work indicates that the return on investment in quality early childhood programs is approximately 10%. Investing in young children is an essential component for the development of a



thriving local and national economy. Without an early investment in prevention for all and intervention with those who face socioeconomic disadvantage, early gaps widen to become more costly problems in a sizable group of children who are

- 40% more likely to become a teen parent;
- 50% more likely to be placed in special education; and
- 70% more likely to be arrested for a violent crime.³

REQUESTED ACTION/STRATEGY

In order to maximize the potential of every child, Monterey County seeks to preserve and expand funding and to support legislation that promotes the physical health, social and emotional well-being and the fulfillment of basic needs essential to positive early childhood development. This early childhood development initiative seeks to promote policies that strengthen quality early childhood education opportunities in communities and to promote parents' knowledge of developmentally appropriate care at home. Legislative priorities at the Federal level include preservation of funding for the Public Health Fund of the Affordable Care Act, EPSDT (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment), the Child Care and Development Block Grant, Head Start, including Early Head Start, the Social Services Block Grant (Title XX) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). At the State level, legislative priorities include increased funding for child care and preschool programs in general and the elimination of the recently implemented parent fee for part-time preschool programs funded by the California Department of Education. This early childhood development initiative further supports the restoration and preservation of funding for Medi-Cal, Targeted Case Management (TCM) reimbursement, and realignment funds previously committed to the County for public safety, health, and human services programs.

CONTACT: Ray Bullick, Director of Health
(831) 755-4526 / bullickr@co.monterey.ca.us

¹ Heckman. "The Heckman Equation" <http://www.heckmanequation.org/heckman-equation> Accessed September 28, 2012

² US Census, American Community Survey. Accessed September 28, 2012
http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_DP03&prodType=table

³ Ounce of Prevention Fund. "Why Investments in Early Childhood Works"
<http://www.ounceofprevention.org/about/why-early-childhood-investments-work.php> Accessed September 28, 2012

PRESERVE HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES AND SUPPORTS FOR SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Support efforts to provide home and community based long term services and supports (LTSS) critical to the health and wellness of seniors and people with disabilities.

SUMMARY

State and federal funding for older Americans, people with disabilities and their family caregivers has not kept pace with inflation or the growing population of individuals in need of services. Years of funding erosion has taken a toll on service capacity and the threat of further cuts further strain the ability of local agencies to help seniors and people with disabilities in their community. The over 60 population is growing at the fastest pace in our nation's history. This demographic shift is



accompanied by a corresponding rise in the demand for fiscal, health, and social supports to ensure a sound quality of life for millions of seniors and people with disabilities. Long term services and supports (LTSS) help individuals with functional impairments to remain living successfully and independently in their homes and communities. Threatened reductions in funding for home and community based long term services and supports would only serve to hurt those most challenged by age, illness, and disability.

IMPACT

The economic downturn makes it increasingly difficult for the Aging Services Network to maintain existing services. Demand for services is rising while families are struggling to support and care for older relatives, and more older adults are struggling to make ends meet. Estimates show increasing poverty rates for older adults living in Monterey County from 7.1% (2010) to 9.2% (2011). The Federal Poverty Level (FPL) does not reflect the cost of living differences across the country. The Elder Economic Security Standard Index (Elder Index) more accurately estimates the County's senior poverty at three times the FPL, 27.6%. The fear of poverty and outliving one's resources is a primary concern for many older adults. Seniors are discovering that they lack ample resources in retirement. Out of pocket medical expenses, lack of sufficient assets, rising housing costs, depreciating housing values, and fixed budgets are major causes of increased economic insecurity.

REQUESTED ACTION/STRATEGY

- 1) Support funding for programs and services which help older adults and people with disabilities to live successfully, independently and safely at home, where they can eat well, stay healthy, and avoid unnecessary and costly institutional long term care.
- 2) Support reauthorization of the federal Older American's Act to ensure vital senior services continue, preserving local flexibility for service planning.
- 3) Support funding of \$21.5 million for the Elder Justice Act and \$16.5 million for Adult Protective Services.
- 4) Support efforts to prevent the automatic sequestration of vital human needs programs from undermining the health and wellness of seniors.
- 5) Support reauthorization of transportation programs to improve the availability and accessibility of transportation services for seniors and people with disabilities.

CONTACT: Elliott Robinson, Director, Department of Social & Employment Services
(831) 755-4448 / robinsone@co.monterey.ca.us

PRESERVE THE SAFETY NET FOR LOW-INCOME CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS

Support efforts that preserve safety net services for low-income children, families and individuals; and provide critical resources for the most vulnerable in our community.

SUMMARY

In Monterey County 24.5% of children live in poverty and the overall poverty rate is 17.4% (2011) - a large increase over pre-recession poverty levels of 12.3% (2008) and 11.6% (2007). In recent years the impact of poverty on child, family and community well-being is exacerbated by reductions in safety net programs such as CalWORKs, Child Care, IHSS and Medi-Cal. Threats to service levels continue through State budget deliberations. Additional reductions to safety net services will cause further harm to those most challenged by the recession.

IMPACT

Children living in poverty face well documented difficulties with hunger, health, and educational achievement. The steep growth in child poverty bodes future difficulties with our economic competitiveness and the costs of health care. Data shows that the very experience of poverty has long term consequences on health outcomes, educational attainment and employment¹.

National, State and local efforts to support the well-being of children and their families through to a full economic recovery are important ingredients to health in our community, economic competitiveness and long-term cost savings. Support for families looking for work and building skills while receiving temporary assistance helps stabilize the disruptions too many children face. Supporting child care for working parents provides children with early childhood education to prepare them for school and gives parents with confidence that they are cared for and safe. Assuring basic needs such as adequate nutrition, housing and health care gives children the footing they need to grow and thrive.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

- 1) Support preservation of California's CalWORKs program, the State's implementation of the Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program.
- 2) Support improvements to TANF by incorporating inflationary measures to account for increased costs to communities that serve families thrown into poverty as a result of the recession.
- 3) Support improvements to TANF that revise work participation requirements to recognize part time work efforts by families caring for their children and expand opportunities for parents to pursue vocational education and literacy on the path to self-sufficiency.
- 4) Support expanded funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant nationally and restoration of funding for local child care in California.
- 5) Support current levels of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and expanded resources to assist eligible individuals apply for assistance to California's CalFRESH program, including support to maximize opportunities for integrating eligibility of CalFRESH with expanded Medi-Cal under Health Care Reform.
- 6) Support funding for Community Action Programs and HUD Homeless Assistance programs.



CONTACT: Elliott Robinson, Director, Department of Social & Employment Services
(831) 755-4448 / robinson@co.monterey.ca.us

¹<http://www.urban.org/uploadedpdf/412126-child-poverty-persistence.pdf>, <http://www.firstfocus.net/sites/default/files/r.2009-5.12.ff.pdf>

HONORING VETERANS

Support efforts to expand services to returning veterans to honor their valor, promote successful reintegration into civilian life, and assure access to services needed to address injuries.

Support efforts to establish the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery.

SUMMARY

Veterans step forward to make the ultimate sacrifice for the protection of our country and the well-being of people facing tragedy and injustice around the world. Support is needed to improve veterans' access to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits and for expanded services to local veterans facing difficulties upon their return home.



IMPACT

The VA estimates more than 22,000 veterans reside in Monterey County. The 2011 Monterey County Homeless Census found that 13% of homeless individuals over the age of 18 surveyed were veterans. Applying this percent to the estimated 3,472 homeless identified in the County yields an estimate of approximately 450 homeless veterans in our community – 450 too many.

Veterans returning from theaters of combat come home only to face new challenges. They often face difficulties reintegrating into civilian life, changed family dynamics, gaining employment, and dealing with disabilities like traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress. Veterans from other wars, conflicts, and peacetime service may also experience challenges.

Expanded local resources that provide multidisciplinary approaches to reaching veterans and their families are critical to helping service men and women successfully return to civilian life. Efforts to streamline access to VA benefits and to improve advocacy for those facing challenges are essential parts of the national imperative to recognize our heroes. Additionally, building local and accessible programs to reach veterans and their family members and provide counseling and support is essential to achieving more successful homecomings.

COST

Monterey County's budget for its Military and Veterans Affairs Department is \$750,836. Investments in Stand Downs, veterans' drop-in centers, and community mental health projects offset larger costs incurred for health benefits after health and mental health problems go untreated.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

- 1) Support efforts to streamline access to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits and establish an integrated automated claims processing system to reduce delays in accessing benefits.
- 2) Support funding to establish a Veterans Drop-In Center in Monterey County, strengthening the capacity of local Military and Veterans Services Offices and provision Veterans Stand Down events in communities with a concentration of homeless veterans.
- 3) Support the addition of California and Monterey County to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Community Behavioral Health Pilot Projects.
- 4) Support efforts to establish the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery at former Fort Ord.

CONTACT: Thomas Griffin, Director, Military and Veterans Affairs Office
(831) 647-7613 / griffint@co.monterey.ca.us

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Support efforts to fund and develop regional economic development activities that will attract living-wage jobs compatible with the environmental resources of the region.

SUMMARY

A recent Economic Development Strategy Report prepared by the Stanford Research Institute (SRI) identified major areas of focus for future development in Monterey County as agriculture, tourism, small business and education/research - based on the County's existing major job creation engines, and fitting with the vision and historical development pattern of the area.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is the cornerstone of prosperity in Monterey County, and support for prime agricultural lands is critical to the economic vitality of the region and the State. The Salinas Valley is known as the "salad bowl" of the nation and produces strawberries, lettuce, artichokes, broccoli, carrots, onions, cauliflower, tomatoes, chilies, kale, Brussels sprouts and many other row crops. The County is also a major producer of high quality varietal wine grapes. Only 5% of grapes are processed into wine under a Monterey County brand; the rest are shipped out of county or crushed locally and sold for blending with other juice. This reduces the potential value added from in-county wine production and devalues the grapes since locally branded wines sell at higher prices. Tourism related to wine activity depends on local wine production, tasting facilities, and visitor serving facilities, which are lacking.

A key strategy identified in the SRI report for enhancing job creation and investment in the County is the creation of a Salinas Valley Wine Corridor. The Wine Corridor would support both the County's agricultural and tourism industries by encouraging the local vintners to create on-site commercial locations for wine tasting, and perhaps dining, thus expanding their market, attracting new buyers and benefiting the hospitality sector by providing a destination activity of touring local vineyards.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

- Support efforts to promote the creation of the Wine Corridor, including funding of necessary transportation infrastructure, viticulture best practices, and the continuance of Williamson Act protections for prime agricultural land.
- Monitor the federal Farm Bill reauthorization and state legislation affecting agriculture and agritourism.

SMALL BUSINESS INITIATIVES

Enterprise Zones

The Salinas Valley Enterprise Zone, encompassing Castroville, Salinas, Gonzales, Soledad, Greenfield and King City, offers numerous advantages for businesses (e.g. tax credits, improved opportunities for financing, bid preferences for state contracts). Monterey County supports efforts that strengthen and improve of the state's Enterprise Zone Program as a tool for local economic development.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

- Support the continued existence of the State Enterprise Zone program, and efforts to provide appropriate oversight of zone requirements that enhance current Enterprise Zones benefits.

Micro-business technical assistance

A successful small business strategy includes support in the areas of retention, expansion and capacity building. Micro-businesses (businesses with five or fewer employees) make up 88% of all businesses in the U.S. and California. Working with organizations to foster business mentoring, technical assistance, financial education, and knowledge of best business practices - improves credit worthiness of borrowers and strengthens overall management of micro business enterprise.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

- Support efforts to reduce regulatory burdens on small business and micro-enterprise developments and to fund small business technical assistance.

Broadband Service

One of the main challenges identified in the SRI study as an impediment to high-tech business attraction is the lack of reliable broad band blanket coverage in Monterey County. The Central Coast Broadband Consortium is a broadly based, ad hoc group of local governments and agencies, economic development, education and health organizations, community groups and private businesses. It is dedicated to improving broadband availability, access and adoption in Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties. It is in the best interest for the County to take a lead role in expanding broad band service in the region.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

- Support efforts to fund the extension of broadband service to underserved areas of the County.

EDUCATION/RESEARCH/TECHNOLOGY

Monterey County is home to some of the leading researchers in the fields of marine biology, computer security, and international policy. A number of education resources including California State University Monterey Bay, University of California Santa Cruz, Monterey Institute of International Studies, Monterey College of Law, Golden Gate University, Monterey Peninsula College, and Hartnell College are also located in Monterey County. Nurturing these research and academic resources is important to developing the County's economic development strength.

California Homeland Security Consortium (CHSC)

The CHSC is an experiment to determine if technology developed by the Department of Defense using the intellectual expertise of the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) can discover and adapt Federal government innovations to directly benefit first responders and to determine the potential for a national model. The CHSC was formed by NPS with the support of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Directorate of Science and Technology.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

- Support efforts which provide for the commercialization/transfer of technology to emergency response organizations nationwide.
- Support continued efforts to fund the California Homeland Security Consortium (CHSC).

United States Public Service Academy (West Coast)

The United States Public Service Academy is envisioned as the civilian counterpart to the military service academies. It will recruit top students and faculty from across the nation and the world, offer an intensive undergraduate education focused on leadership development and public service, and place graduates in public sector jobs to address critical national needs. Academy students will receive full scholarships that will cover all their expenses during their four undergraduate years. In return, Academy graduates must commit to spending five years serving their nation by working in public

institutions in health care, law enforcement, emergency management, and other essential fields at the local, state, and national levels. They will be placed in areas of critical need and positions of strategic importance. The Monterey area is proposing to become the location for the West Coast U.S. Public Service Academy.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

- Support efforts to develop and establish a U.S. Public Service Academy in Monterey County.

TOURISM

Monterey County has an abundance of open, undeveloped space with a number of unique natural environments. With proper packaging and marketing, these assets can attract visitors to stay longer and come back more often, with related benefits of increased visitor spending on lodging, food, retail and services in the County. In addition, attraction of recreation enthusiasts will encourage the establishment of manufacturing and retail/service businesses catering to the equipment needs of the visitors and residents who participate in such activities as hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, diving, boating and backpacking.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

- Support efforts which promote eco-tourism, sustainable-tourism, and cultural/heritage tourism.

Laguna Seca Recreation Area

Laguna Seca is a significant physical and entertainment asset for Monterey County, but additional types of business activity could create more continuous employment opportunities as well as boost visitor trips and length of stays in the County. Enhancing existing facilities and events and developing new business opportunities would help to attract visitors and jobs and better utilize assets at the park.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

- Support efforts to fund improvements at Laguna Seca Recreation Area.

Transportation Improvements

Traffic congestion acts as a deterrent to tourists interested in visiting Monterey County. A highway widening project of State Route 156 would help to address this issue by adding two new lanes in both eastbound and westbound directions between US 101 and Castroville Boulevard. Such a project would increase road safety and capacity, particularly to accommodate weekend visitor traffic. The existing highway would function as a frontage road for more direct access to shopping, services and jobs in Prunedale and Castroville.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

- Support efforts to create funding for a State Route 156 highway widening project.

CONTACT: Economic Development Director
(831) 755-5390 / torresk@co.monterey.ca.us

HOUSING

Support efforts to provide affordable housing for Monterey County residents.

SUMMARY

Housing is an integral part of the health and well being of Monterey County residents and an important element for economic development. The County supports the role and responsibility of the state Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) in assisting local governments to finance housing efforts. Keeping HCD's focus on the facilitation of the production of housing is of prime importance. The County supports these efforts in lieu of onerous planning and compliance processes that impede local governments in their efforts to fund and facilitate housing production.

IMPACT

Studies have shown that a lack of safe adequate housing can impact mental and physical health, nutrition, ability to learn and even a person's career. These adverse factors have a continuing effect on those sectors of the County's economy related to the future costs of healthcare, the economic effects of an under educated work force, and higher demands on government services.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

A comprehensive approach to addressing housing needs will encourage and facilitate the production of housing that meets the needs of the County and the State. Essential elements of meeting the County goals include:

- 1) **Support efforts to reform housing element law and the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) process.** Support efforts to redirect HCD priorities from undertaking and meeting extensive state law planning requirements to obtaining financing to enable production. RHNA fair share allocations set by state and regional agencies typically exceed the County's ability to meet those needs. Support the allocation of housing needs consistent with infrastructure investment within the County, taking into account local planning factors and constraints.

Support uniform and measurable performance standards based on reasonable goals for housing construction, preservation, and rehabilitation which take into account the needs of homeless, those with special needs, and the supply of land. Performance standards need to go hand-in-hand with streamlining of state and federal laws, regulations and practices in order to promote the County's flexibility and creativity in regard to its housing element, housing strategies and other complimentary plans and programs.

- 2) **Generate new financing resources and subsidy mechanisms for affordable housing.** With the reduction of both federal and state assistance, new financing sources need to be developed to address housing needs. The need for housing units at all income levels far outnumbers the number of new units supported by government financing and subsidies. Funding is needed to ensure production of new units and provide adequate housing subsidies for households. Policies that support the flow of capital to market rate ownership housing are necessary to assure an adequate supply of low-cost down payment mortgage assistance for qualified buyers. Support efforts to educate the private building and financial sectors on affordable housing opportunities to encourage new investment.



- 3) **Revise federal and state tax incentives for the provision of affordable housing.** In order to provide stimulus to produce affordable housing, tax codes and financial industry regulations need to be revised, particularly for very low, low, and median income households. Additionally, existing incentives for household-based assistance such as the current mortgage credit certificate should be extended to all types of affordable housing.

CONTACT: Economic Development Director
(831) 755-5390 / torresk@co.monterey.ca.us

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT

Support efforts to reauthorize and expand funding of the Workforce Investment Act.

SUMMARY

The National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB), and Monterey County's Local Workforce Investment Board (WIB), urge the Congress to develop guiding principles for the reauthorization of federal engagement in workforce development, similar to its actions with respect to the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) and final rule of 2000.

Within our local community, the WIB coordinates and leverages workforce strategies with education and economic development stakeholders to ensure that local workforce development and job training programs meet the needs of employers. These investments in workforce development create a comprehensive system to provide our community with a highly skilled workforce that competes in the local, regional and global economy.

The nation's workforce is on the front lines of our economic recovery, helping workers get the assistance and training they need to return to the workforce. WIA-funded programs assisted nearly ten million jobseekers this past year alone and despite nearly double-digit unemployment, over half of adult and dislocated workers participating in WIA gained employment and became taxpayers once again, instead of requiring additional federal assistance.

In Monterey County, WIA is making a real difference for both jobseekers and employers. Just one year ago the unemployment rate was at 11%, but has currently dipped to 9.2%. Over the last year more than 12,000 people came into the One Stop Career Center seeking assistance in training and job placements. Of those seeking assistance, 25% received training and/or on-the-job training placements, and 44% had job placements.

COST

The current WIA allocation for Monterey County is \$5.7 million to operate the Local Workforce Investment Act System including adult, dislocated worker, youth and rapid response programs. Funding for Program Year 2009-10, when the County was able to make a significant impact on behalf of those served, was \$7.9 million.

REQUEST ACTION / STRATEGY

Support the reauthorization and expansion of funding for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) system that includes a business-led Workforce Investment Board that is governed and supported by local leaders; and the continued support of One Stop Career Centers that are focused on job seekers and businesses to ensure workers have access to critical employment programs, services and training opportunities.

CONTACT: Economic Development Director
(831) 755-5390 / torresk@co.monterey.ca.us

BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

Support efforts to fully fund summer youth employment and training programs on an ongoing basis and expand funding for year round youth employment and leadership in order to better prepare youth for future self-sufficiency and prevent youth violence and crime.

SUMMARY

Nationally, youth employment opportunities have reached new lows. In Monterey County the unemployment rates exceed those in California and nationally, and young people face heavy burdens when seeking work. Summer and year-round youth employment and leadership programs prepare youth for future self-sufficiency, prevent youth violence and crime, and support businesses and organizations. Re-establishment of funding for summer youth employment and leadership programs are needed to address the difficulty youth have attaching to the workforce and building their roots in our economic future.

IMPACT

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in July 2012, the share of young people who were employed in July was 50.2%. Since 2008 the youth unemployment rate has grown dramatically. The unemployment rate is even higher for Latino and African American youth – who comprise two-thirds of the youth in Monterey County.

Youth (16-24 Years Old) Unemployment Rates	July 2008	July 2009	July 2010	July 2011	July 2012
Overall Youth	14.0	18.5	19.1	18.1	17.1
Latino Youth	16.0	21.7	22.1	20.1	18.5
African American Youth	24.8	31.2	3.4	31.0	28.6

At the same time Monterey County is struggling with difficult gang issues, which bring violence and crime that steal the futures from all too many young people. Bringing youth opportunity and ending youth violence and criminal gangs is a priority for both the County and its city partners. The County participates closely with the City of Salinas in the U.S. Department of Justice's National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention and the California Cities Gang Prevention Network.

Youth employment programs, both summer and year round are key tools that are nationally recognized to prevent youth violence and bring hope and opportunity to communities. They are specifically highlighted as one of the five strategies in the Office for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Comprehensive Gang Prevention Model.

In 2009, Monterey County used American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Summer Youth Employment Funds to grow the program from 200 youth to 600. One of the most exciting elements of this expanded program, the *Youth in Focus Action Research Project*, was highlighted in the U.S. Department of Labor's Summer Youth Highlights (http://www.doleta.gov/pdf/Eighth_Edition_o81709_Final.pdf). This effort brought together youth to conduct place-based action research projects where they were trained in research techniques and presentation skills to uncover and share the voices and concerns of their community.

In 2010, Monterey County used Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Contingency Funds to establish a youth employment program that reached almost 1,300 participants ages 14 to 21. The 2010 program included nearly 600 private and public employers and allowed for over \$2 million in wages paid to participating youth employees. One component of the expanded 2010 program was *Increase the Peace Summer Youth Leadership Program*, a partnership with California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) to provide work experience for the participants

while engaging them in a youth leadership and community change campaign. Professors from CSUMB provided support to participating students who in turn mentored and tutored youth at El Sausal Middle School in Salinas who were struggling to succeed. This program was awarded the 2010 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to community service. The County is pursuing opportunities to build on this successful model through the long established partnership at the Silver Star Gang Prevention and Intervention Program.

COST

Currently Monterey County receives an allocation of \$1.7 million to operate a year-round youth employment program through the Workforce Investment Act. Funding for Program Year 2009-10 when the County was able to make a significant impact with summer youth employment was \$4.1 million, including \$2.2 million in federal Workforce Investment Act funds and an additional \$1.9 million from the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Emergency Contingency Fund.

REQUESTED ACTION/STRATEGY

Support full federal funding for summer youth employment and training programs on an ongoing basis and expand funding for year round youth employment and leadership in order to better prepare youth for future self-sufficiency and prevent youth violence and crime. Support an increase in funding from the current \$1.7 million to \$4.1 million, as it was in Program Year 2009-10.

CONTACT: Economic Development Director
(831) 755-5390 / torresk@co.monterey.ca.us

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Support efforts to fund capital, maintenance, safety, and operations of the transportation infrastructure including local roads, bridges, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, transit, and rail.

SUMMARY

The transportation infrastructure is the backbone of all economic activity and is in vital need of additional funding for capital, maintenance, safety, and operations of local roads, bridges, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, transit and rail. A balanced transportation system utilizes all available means of travel cooperatively and in a mutually complimentary manner to provide a total service for the needs of the community. Transportation services should also responsibly meet the competing future needs of all segments of industry and society with maximum coordination and reasonable amounts of free choice for the consumer of the transportation service. Transportation systems must be fully integrated with planned land use; support the lifestyles desired by the people of individual areas; and be compatible with the environment by considering air and noise pollution, aesthetics, ecological factors, cost benefit analyses, and energy consumption measures.



As the owner and operator of a significant portion of the local system, counties support continued direct funding to local governments for preservation and safety needs of that system. Further, counties support regional approaches for transportation investment purposes for capital expansion projects of regional significance and local expansion and rehabilitation projects through regional transportation planning agencies, both metropolitan planning organizations and countywide transportation agencies.

Transportation infrastructure still relies on investments made in the early 1900's for supporting the economic system. The existing transportation network is aging, and lack of investment in maintaining the existing system can have a severely detrimental effect. Transportation improvement projects are generally classified as addressing capacity, safety or maintenance.

Monterey County's transportation infrastructure has many needs including pavement maintenance, adequate facilities for pedestrian and bicycle travel, transit and rail services throughout the County, and providing improvements such as adding additional shoulders, vehicle lanes to roadways, and repairing and replacing aging bridges and other safety improvements.

- California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) is responsible for all three types of improvements on State Highways located within Monterey County.
- The Transportation Agency of Monterey County (TAMC) collects a regional traffic development impact fee and coordinates funding for capacity and certain safety improvement projects within the County that have a regional significance, including rail and bicycle projects. This fee is applied to projects located within incorporated and unincorporated areas; however, it has a constrained project list due to the number and magnitude of projects needed. To date, multiple attempts to implement a sales tax to assist with existing transportation deficiencies have been unsuccessful.
- Monterey County is responsible to maintain over 1200 road miles, and with current resources is able to maintain an average of 40 road miles per year.
- Monterey County is responsible for about 173 bridges, and with current resources is able to replace one obsolete bridge per year while the replacement need is almost three bridges per year.

- Monterey County Resource Management Agency (RMA) is currently developing a countywide traffic development impact fee to help address capacity deficiencies that would result from new development under the County's General Plans. This fee would only apply to development projects located within the unincorporated areas. Since about 80% of the traffic in the County is generated by the cities, a number of projects would not qualify for applying the fee, which means TAMC plays a critical role for capacity projects.
- Monterey County Resource Management Agency (RMA) is currently developing an Agricultural and Winery Corridor Plan (AWCP) assessment fee to help address safety improvements along the Winery Corridor resulting from new winery-related development.

IMPACT

The transportation system links communities and provides access to public facilities, schools, parks, shopping centers, and commercial activities. Transportation financing needs far exceed existing and foreseeable revenues despite growing recognition of these needs at all levels of government. In 2012, funding sources such as the Federal Stimulus, and Proposition 1B were reduced or cut from Federal and State budgets.

The estimated deferred maintenance cost for roads in the unincorporated areas of the County is over half a billion dollars and growing. The deferral of investment in pavement maintenance will result in a rapid deterioration of the structural integrity of roadway infrastructure. The steep portion of the pavement life cycle occurs in a less than five year period of time. The deferral of appropriate roadway maintenance can result in an exponential cost increase to repair a roadway.

COST

The cost of maintaining and improving transportation infrastructure is estimated in the multi-billion dollars. Lack of adequate funding to address failing infrastructure poses a potential negative impact to tourism, agricultural product delivery to market, increases unproductive time spent traveling, and exponentially increases the future cost to repair the aging infrastructure.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

- 1) Support legislation, grant opportunities and budget proposals that provide funding for capital, maintenance, and operations of the transportation infrastructure including local roads, bridges, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, transit and rail.
- 2) Support the California County Platform of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) relative to Transportation and Public Works.
- 3) Support efforts at the local level to develop resources adequate to address maintenance and safety issues on roads managed by Monterey County.

CONTACT: Robert Murdoch, P.E., Director of Public Works
(831) 755-4831 / murdochr@co.monterey.ca.us

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

FLOOD & STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Support efforts to fund flood and stormwater management projects, obtain regulatory approvals, and streamline the process for permit acquisition and project implementation.

SUMMARY

Monterey County has three major rivers (Salinas, Carmel and Pajaro) that create flooding issues. Each river has unique characteristics and managing flooding is complicated with the need to protect threatened or endangered listed species. Permitting is difficult due to the number of agencies involved in the process, including the Army Corp of Engineers (Corp), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), California Coastal Commission (CCC), and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Additionally, federal and state stormwater regulations require monitoring and abatement of stormwater entering into Monterey Bay where there is a designated Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS).

PROJECT 1

LOWER CARMEL RIVER/CARMEL LAGOON, SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT PLAN



The Carmel River watershed provides essential habitat for many important species listed as threatened or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act (e.g. Central Coast steelhead trout, California red-legged frog, Western snowy plover and Smith's blue butterfly). The Lower Carmel River Project is a multi-objective, multi-year, multi-organizational effort to reduce flood risk, protect public infrastructure, improve natural

floodplain function and improve habitat for threatened and endangered species in the lower Carmel River.

A significant portion of Carmel River drains into the Carmel Lagoon, which coupled with tidal events can act as a barrier to the release of water and also add seawater over the sandbar into the Lagoon. Commercial, residential and agricultural areas developed within the 100 year floodplain suffer periodic flooding from high river flows and ocean storms, in some areas nearly annually and in some cases multiple times per year. Recurring emergency actions to avoid flood damage are costly, considered detrimental to threatened steelhead, and do not contribute to a long-term management solution.

The County's long-range goal is to work collaboratively with interested parties to develop a comprehensive strategy - rather than individual projects - that allows the Carmel River Watershed to operate naturally without the need for mechanical flood protection actions. Some projects that are underway by other agencies include: San Clemente Dam Removal (State Water Board); Carmel River Floodplain Restoration (Big Sur Land Trust); Highway 1 Causeway (Caltrans); Carmel River Trail (Big Sur Land Trust & Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District); Red-legged frog pond restoration (USFWS).

In 2012, the RMA led the effort to obtain necessary emergency permits from all of the permitting agencies, and submitted applications for non-emergency permits to address the long-range project with interim management plans. RMA and Monterey County Water Resources Agency (WRA)

initiated technical studies and design efforts for the environmental protection barrier (EPB) and Scenic Road projects utilizing grant funding. The RMA also developed memoranda of agreements (MOAs) with the Corp and NMFS, and State Parks (owners of Carmel River State Beach lands). Since the County has been unable to complete non-emergency permits prior to the 2013 rain season, it is anticipated that emergency permits will be needed for one more year while technical work necessary to process the non-emergency permits is completed. The RMA has developed strong working relationships and lines of communication to help facilitate coordinated efforts to manage flood levels until the permanent solution is completed.

IMPACT

In most winters since the early 20th century, private property owners, the State, and for the last two decades the County has created an opening in the beach prior to the river becoming powerful enough to break through to the ocean. This action is taken in order to protect adjacent homes and private lands from flooding while trying to avoid impact to sensitive biological and cultural resources in the area as much as possible. With Central Coast steelhead trout, California red-legged frogs and other threatened species having come under the protection of the Endangered Species Act over the past decade, federal and state environmental enforcement agencies have become increasingly concerned about the potentially adverse impact of these emergency breaching actions to artificially lower the Lagoon water level below the flood stage. The result is a problematic convergence of competing interests: homeowners expect protection from potential flood inundation caused by an expanding Lagoon and/or high tides; while federal and state agencies demand action to avoid impact of protected fish and amphibian species, which need adequate Lagoon water levels and water quality to survive.

COST

The cost of fully implementing the project is expected to be tens of millions of dollars:

- Temporary Access & Emergency Permits \$350,000
- Technical Studies \$750,000-1,000,000
- Environmental Documents \$750,000-1,000,000
- Design \$750,000-1,000,000
- Construction \$5,000,000-\$10,000,000*
- Interim Sandbar Management \$250,000/year

** Depends on requirement for the County to acquire land that meets the needs for the project(s).*

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

- 1) Support legislative and budget proposals to enhance grant programs that offer funding to protect infrastructure, reduce flooding, and promote environmental and habitat protection in the vicinity of the Lower Carmel River and Lagoon. Priority projects include the Ecosystem Protective Barrier (EPB) and Scenic Road Bluff protection.
- 2) Support efforts to secure regulatory approvals from the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Army Corp of Engineers to facilitate the interim sandbar management during winter storm season.
- 3) Support efforts to secure regulatory approvals from permitting agencies (Army Corp of Engineers, California Coastal Commission, California Department of Fish and Game, Regional Water Quality Control Board) and the required environmental review for the EPB and Scenic Road.
- 4) Support actions necessary to facilitate use of State lands for possible long-term solutions.
- 5) Pursue potential funding to mitigate impacts from the San Clemente Dam Removal project to address increased flow in the river, which means additional sedimentation at the Lagoon.

CONTACT: Carl P. Holm, Deputy Director, Resource Management Agency
(831) 755-5103 / holmcp@co.monterey.ca.us

PROJECT 2 LOWER PAJARO LEVEE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT



The City of Watsonville, the unincorporated town of Pajaro, and surrounding agricultural areas in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties are subject to flooding from the main stem of the Pajaro River. Without reconstruction of the levees, engineers estimate total annualized damage at \$63.6 million.

To solve the Pajaro River flooding problem, the Counties of Monterey and Santa Cruz, the City of Watsonville, and other local partners are working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). The Levee Reconstruction Project is a local and federal response to address the immediate and

future flood protection needs of the region.

The Lower Pajaro Levee Reconstruction Project involves rebuilding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) flood protection levees along eleven miles of the Lower Pajaro River: from the ocean to Murphy's Crossing Road and along five miles of Salsipuedes and Corralitos Creeks, which drain into the Lower Pajaro in the City of Watsonville, CA. Until the Levee Reconstruction Project is completed, the Lower Pajaro River area will be alarmingly under-protected from flooding. The reconstructed levees will ultimately provide the urban reaches of the region with 100 Year Flood Protection and the agricultural areas with 50 Year Flood Protection.



The Lower Pajaro Levee Reconstruction Project has not received federal funding for the past two Federal budget cycles. Without some Federal funding in the 2013 budget the Project may not qualify for funding in the 2014 Corps program since a project must have received federal funding in at least one of the past three budgets. The Corps is working to have a minor amount of funds be reprogrammed in the 2013 Work Plan in order to qualify for future funding. It is assumed that the Corps will be successful in having at least \$1.00 included in the 2013 Plan and that the Project will qualify for Federal funds in the future.

Once the project is complete, the areas at risk of flooding may qualify to be mapped out of the FEMA 100-year flood plain, and may no longer be required to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This is especially critical in this region given the economic challenges facing many property owners along the river.

The project was federally authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1966 and the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1990.

Currently work is being done to finalize the technical and environmental documents for the Project with a public release scheduled for the spring of 2013.

COST

The estimated total project cost for reconstructing the levees along the main stem of the Pajaro River (excluding the tributaries in Santa Cruz) is \$183 million. The 25% required local share is \$46 million, \$23 million for each County. Approximately \$2.1 million has been contributed by the local sponsors to date.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

The Project is currently being entirely funded through the sponsors (Santa Cruz and Monterey County) State Department of Water Resources Grant funds. The key milestone to be achieved in the 2013 work year is to complete and issue the Public Draft of the Project's General Reevaluation Report and the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement. The Project then would move out of the Feasibility Phase and into the Design Phase. Once into the Design Phase the Project will become more competitive for federal funding. It is likely that the Corps will request \$5 million in funding for the Project in the 2014 budget. If this funding is realized the estimated cost share for the local sponsors is \$1.25 million.

The Pajaro River Bench Excavation Project was successful in obtaining State Department of Water Resources Proposition 84 Funding as an Economically Disadvantaged Community, an approach that could help the Flood Damage Reduction Project when competing against other Projects serving/protecting larger urban areas and populations. However, it is anticipated that receiving additional funding for the Project may be challenging.

CONTACT: David Chardavoyne – Interim General Manager, Water Resources Agency
(831) 755-8906 / chardavoyne@co.monterey.ca.us

PROJECT 3

SALINAS RIVER FLOOD RISK REDUCTION PROJECT



Periodic flooding of agricultural lands within the Salinas Valley, adjacent to the Salinas River, has occurred during conditions when in-channel sandbars and riparian vegetation impede high flows. The California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement precludes planting of crops for a maximum of 60 days after flood waters have receded. There are approximately 25,000 acres of farmland susceptible to flooding along the Salinas River during 10-year storm event. The WRA developed and administers the Salinas River Flood Risk Reduction Project in the interest of

enhancing flood protection and reducing flood damage. Since 2009 the WRA has been engaged in completing the required environmental documents needed to obtain the necessary Federal and State permits to implement this project. The WRA has supported and funded the efforts to permit this project though additional financial and possibly legislative assistance is needed.

COST

A report *2010 Trends in Agriculture and Lease Values* by the California Chapter of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers places the value of row crop land in Monterey County at up to \$45,000 per acre. Implementation of this project could protect thousands of acres of extremely valuable farmland, as well as city infrastructure. The estimated cost for the remaining environmental work on the Salinas River Flood Risk Reduction Project is \$600,000. Once the environmental work is complete and the permits are acquired, project implementation costs could be up to \$5 million/year.

REQUESTED ACTION/STRATEGY

Support efforts to provide funding for flood prevention projects, assist in obtaining regulatory approvals, and streamline the process for permit acquisition and project implementation.

CONTACT: David Chardavoyne – Interim General Manager, Water Resources Agency
(831) 755-8906 / chardavoyne@co.monterey.ca.us

PROJECT 4 MUNICIPAL STORMWATER

The Stormwater Program was formed in 2003 to manage the County's obligations under its State Water Resources Control Board, Municipal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. Monterey County is one of eight Monterey Peninsula municipalities that was issued a Phase II Municipal Stormwater permit. The municipalities work collaboratively to meet the permit requirements and provide consistent standards throughout the Monterey Peninsula under the Monterey Regional Storm Water Management Plan (MRSWMP). The permit regulates the use of the storm drain systems in the unincorporated northern part of the County in the Urbanized Areas designated by the U.S. Census Bureau. The County is responsible for minimizing pollutants entering state and federal waters from its storm drain systems by completing mandated tasks such as public education, street sweeping, and business inspections.

In recent years, the State Water Resources Control Board has been advancing new and updated regulations to increase the protection provided to waterways from stormwater pollutants under the authority it has under the Clean Water Act and NPDES. In March 2012, Special Protections were adopted to protect Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS), specifically defined areas along the California coast that are protected under the California Ocean Plan. Natural ocean water quality is to be maintained in the ASBS, five of which lie off the coast of Monterey County. Monterey County has direct discharges into the Carmel Bay ASBS along a ¼ mile stretch of Scenic Road south of the City of Carmel. A rigorous monitoring and reporting program is required to be implemented to remain in compliance with the program and to continue existing stormwater discharges into the ASBS. The Central Coast Region is developing a Regional Monitoring Program to perform the required monitoring and reporting tasks beginning in the 2012-2013 rainy season.

In September 2012, Post-Construction Stormwater Requirements for Development Projects were adopted in the Central Coast region. Developments with greater than 2,500 square feet of impervious surface area are required to install passive and/or active post-construction stormwater treatment measures, commensurate with the magnitude of impervious surface area. Projects will be required to construct measures that treat stormwater and allow it to soak into the ground to reduce the pollutants that enter the State's waterways and the volume of flow that enters the County's storm drain system.

Over the past several years, limits have also been established on several of northern Monterey County's Rivers for specific pollutants. Total Maximum Daily Loads, or TMDLs, have been established on the Pajaro and Lower Salinas Rivers that require action by the County to reduce the volume of specific pollutants that enter the rivers through its storm drain system. New monitoring and reporting requirements have been mandated in addition to creating and implementing a plan to identify and eliminate sources of pollution before they enter the rivers.

The State is also in the process of updating its stormwater regulations for its Industrial and Agricultural stormwater programs as well as its Municipal NPDES Permit program. It is considering changes to the Receiving Water Limitations Language wording of its permits that may provide some protection to municipalities from third-party lawsuits that challenge their protection of water quality in their jurisdictions. Courts have recently ruled that municipalities are liable for pollutants that enter their storm drain systems from upstream sources outside of their jurisdictional boundaries, even though the municipality is in full compliance with its permit.



IMPACT

The stormwater program documents the operations and maintenance activities that occur throughout the year, and acts as a reference to County departments on stormwater-related regulatory issues. Permit requirements include training staff on appropriate development application reviews, construction site inspections, and general stormwater pollution prevention practices for municipal employees and operations. Additional responsibilities include permit assistance for construction projects, code enforcement cases, and illicit discharge detection and elimination.

COST

The cost of fully implementing the County's expected stormwater-related regulatory programs is expected to continue to increase over the next five years as new programs and permit requirements are adopted at the State level. To date, the County has implemented an efficient program that is not likely to be sustainable over the next several years. Additional staff will be necessary to effectively manage minimum program requirements for the County to remain in compliance with the terms of its new and updated stormwater permits. Depending upon the final requirements of the Municipal Phase II Permit that will be adopted, program operating expenses are expected to rise to \$1 to \$1.5 million per year over the next five years, in line with the State's current estimate of annual municipal stormwater program costs throughout the State.

REQUESTED ACTION/STRATEGY

- 1) Support efforts to fund stormwater operating, maintenance and management expenses.
- 2) Support efforts to exempt stormwater fees from the Proposition 218 requirement that they be approved by a 2/3rd vote to that of a simple majority as is the requirement for sewer, water and garbage collection fees.

CONTACT: Tom Harty – Civil Engineer, Resource Management Agency
(831) 755-6630 / hartytr@co.monterey.ca.us

SAFE SECURE DRINKING WATER SUPPLY

Support efforts aimed at providing safe drinking water supplies to Monterey County residents (e.g. Granite Ridge Water Supply Project), and for the continued monitoring of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin.

GRANITE RIDGE WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

The Granite Ridge area in north Monterey County has water supply and quality deficiencies including poor groundwater quality and reliability. Groundwater is the single source of water supply for the area and is limited due to an underlying granitic formation. The Granite Ridge Water Supply Project will enable the County's Water Resources Agency (WRA) to provide potable water service compliant with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and California Fire District standards - connecting up to 119 existing mutual water systems and 507 individual well users (up to 1,238 parcels).



COST

The estimated cost of the Granite Ridge Water Supply Project is \$26.5 million. The direct cost of permitting, construction, maintenance, operation, and monitoring for the needed water resources infrastructure is far beyond the capabilities of local financing.

NITRATES IN SALINAS VALLEY GROUNDWATER

A July 2012 report, *Addressing Nitrate in California's Drinking Water, With a Focus on Tulare Lake Basin and Salinas Valley Groundwater*, was prepared by the Center for Watershed Sciences, University of California Davis for the State Water Resources Control Board. About 2.6 million people in the study area rely on groundwater for drinking water, an area that includes four of the nation's five counties with the largest agricultural production. It represents about 40% of California's irrigated cropland (80+ different crops) and over half of California's dairy herd. Many communities in the area are among the poorest in California, with limited economic means or technical capacity to maintain safe drinking water given threats from nitrate and other contaminants. This report states: *"drinking water users in the Salinas Valley and Tulare Lake region are particularly susceptible to nitrate contamination for three main reasons: lack of monitoring of small water systems, magnitude of contamination, and low socioeconomic status"*.

COST

According to the UC Davis report "the cost of providing safe drinking water to the most susceptible populations in the study area is estimated to be \$20-\$36 million per year" for the next 20 years or more. Recently, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) provided \$2 million to the CDPH to be used for interim drinking water for severely disadvantaged communities that are working with CDPH to achieve a long-term solution to address the contaminated drinking water supply, and it will provide these communities with safe drinking water in the interim. The funding will be available after the SWRCB and CDPH finalize an Interagency Agreement (contract) and will last until: (1) the funding runs out, (2) January 31, 2015, or (3) the Deputy Director authorizes an extension.

REQUESTED ACTION/STRATEGY

Support State and Federal funding efforts aimed at providing safe drinking water to Monterey County residents (e.g. Granite Ridge Water Supply Project), and for the continued monitoring of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin.

CONTACT: David Chardavoyne – Interim General Manager, Water Resources Agency
(831) 755-8906 / chardavoyne@co.monterey.ca.us

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES – QUAGGA & ZEBRA MUSSELS

Support efforts aimed at protecting Monterey County's waterways from infestation by aquatic invasive species, specifically Quagga and Zebra mussels, and provide additional funding and tools to aid in vessel tracking and inspection.

SUMMARY

Aquatic invasive pests (Quagga and Zebra mussels) threaten water quality, water supply, and water-related recreational use - and are increasing in numbers in California and the U.S. Once introduced, these prolific pests create significant economic damage, clogging waterways, filters, pipes, pumps, and critical infrastructure of agricultural, municipal and industrial water delivery systems. Quagga and/or Zebra mussels have been found in neighboring San Benito County, other areas of California and in adjacent states.



IMPACT

A mussel infestation corrupting County waterways would wreak havoc on water delivery infrastructure and would affect the quality of life of our residents, causing detrimental environmental impacts, losses in local revenues from local boating and fishing, and economic consequences such as losses in agricultural production.

The County's dams and associated reservoirs at lakes San Antonio (5,500 surface acres) and Nacimiento (5,000 surface acres) host thousands of visitors each year for year round boating, fishing and other recreational activities. A 4-megawatt hydroelectric power plant is constructed below Lake Nacimiento. Lake Nacimiento supplies drinking water to residences around the lake and to the Nacimiento Water Project, a \$176 million water supply project with the capacity to deliver 15,750 acre feet of raw water to San Luis Obispo County communities. The reservoirs also recharge the Salinas River Ground Water Basin, the lifeblood of Monterey County's \$4+ billion agricultural industry.

In 2012 Monterey County co-sponsored AB 2443 (Williams), a bill which imposes a non-marine boat registration fee of no more than \$10 per vessel, to be remitted to the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund at the Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW). These permanent and continuously appropriated funds will be used to provide grants to local governments to help them establish or maintain Quagga prevention programs. The fee and the criteria for awarding grants will be determined through adoption of emergency regulations by the DBW, after consulting with a technical advisory group of boat owners, reservoir operators and other interested parties.

COST

Vessel Inspection Programs at the Lake Nacimiento and San Antonio public launch ramps cost the County \$500,000 annually. No funding is in place to guarantee future program operation.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

- 1) Monitor and engage in the DBW regulation-making process to ensure existing county-run programs like Monterey County's receive their fair share of funding;
- 2) Support efforts to develop a coordinated and aggressive State/Federal approach to mussel infestation prevention, including a real-time vessel inspection and tracking database; and
- 3) Support efforts to implement a statewide ban on Live Bait until the California Department of Fish and Game regulates the industry and can certify live bait is mollusk-larvae free.

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GANG VIOLENCE

Support efforts aimed at reducing gang violence including but not limited to the support of the Silver Star Resource Center, the Monterey County Joint Gang Task Force, and other community-wide collaborative efforts. Support Monterey County's participation in the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention sponsored by the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education and other federal agencies.

SUMMARY

Monterey County is home to an estimated 5,000 certified and affiliated gang members. There are approximately 71 gangs countywide, with 16 youth gangs and several prison gangs. Monterey County has two California State Prisons, the Salinas Valley State Prison and the Correctional Training Facility. Both prisons are approximately 30 miles south of the county seat of Salinas, which contributes significantly to gang problems throughout the region.

The problem impacts communities countywide be it by living near or with gang members or as businesses that are forced to deal with negative perceptions. Further, violence is a public health issue that not only affects the individual, but the community as a whole. Violence is a major contributor to the deterioration of families and communities. It contributes to increases in health care cost, and decreases in academic achievement, and it inhibits economic development in stressed communities.

In recent years, several initiatives have been developed to combat gang violence and address the issues that contribute to violence. Key initiatives include the Monterey County Joint Gang Task Force, focused on suppression; the Silver Star Resource Center, focused on intervening with at risk youth; and numerous countywide and collaborative efforts such as the Community Alliance for Safety and Peace (CASP). Another recent initiative is Monterey County's participation, along with the City of Salinas, in the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention hosted by the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education.

Gang Violence Strategic Plan

A Monterey County Gang Violence Strategic Plan is currently under development and is expected to be complete in 2013. To be effective, any violence prevention effort requires serious and sustained collaboration among stakeholders and significant involvement by the public at large. County departments and partner agencies support activities along the continuum of prevention, intervention, suppression, and reentry services. The Strategic Plan will help the Board of Supervisors assess the investment the County is currently making and guide future strategic investments. The plan will detail the entire spectrum of the County's relevant activities and contain sections documenting each department's current efforts as well as recommended future actions/collaborations and effective practices. The plan will build on prior gang violence prevention efforts and needs assessments conducted in our region and will draw upon promising practices nationally.



National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention

Through the assistance of Congressman Sam Farr, Monterey County and the City of Salinas together were one of six communities from across the nation that were selected to participate in the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention hosted by the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education in Washington, D.C. The White House initiated the forum to foster discussions between federal agencies and local entities about what works in preventing youth and gang violence.

Silver Star Resource Center

Monterey County's most pressing need is to maintain stable and continuous funding for its highly successful Silver Star Resource Center. Silver Star is a comprehensive multi-agency collaborative which utilizes prevention and intervention services to avert and reduce gang association, membership and activities among youth ages 6-21. This nationally recognized model works at the front end to identify the precursors to gang association, and utilizes evidence-based programs to minimize factors for risk of recidivism, while strengthening protective factors. The Silver Star "one-stop" approach relies on co-location of services and a multi-disciplinary approach which combines probation supervision, educational, vocational and job training, counseling services and truancy abatement, mentoring, community mobilization and outreach, and family support services to gang involved or at-risk youth.

COST

The annual cost for the Silver Star Resource Center is \$1.5 million.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

- Support legislation, grant opportunities, and budget proposals aimed at reducing gang violence including but not limited to the Silver Star Resource Center, the Monterey County Joint Gang Task Force, and other community-wide collaborative efforts.
- Support Monterey County's participation in the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention.

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Scott Miller, Sheriff
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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Support efforts aimed at reducing violence in the family and home environment, mitigating the long-term effects of violence-induced trauma, and promoting efforts and services to stabilize families, increase their self-sufficiency, and provide a healthy environment for child development.

SUMMARY

The effects of violence in the family environment, particularly on children as victims or witnesses, both short and long term, are well documented by research. The existing efforts to provide services to children of parents on probation for domestic violence have been on-going for years in a pilot program through the Child Advocate Program (CAP), funded by a First 5 grant and serving a population of young children age 0 – 5 and their families. Due to the size of the domestic violence caseloads and the need to identify and intervene as soon as possible and target a wider age range, additional resources are required to manage and limit the negative impact of domestic violence on children, victims, and the community at large. An expansion of CAP would assist in addressing these unmet needs.

The Monterey County Child Advocate Program (CAP)

The long-term need is to secure funding to continue and expand services to hard-to-reach families in need of supervision, support and services to break the cycle of domestic violence. The Child Advocate Program targets families with children age 0-5 and their parents who have experienced domestic violence, and provides them with case management, support, and referrals to services and counseling. The CAP teams manage crisis and stabilize families, penetrate cultural and social isolation with routine visits and repeated contacts, manage conflict resolution, and coordinate access to services addressing vital needs, effective parenting, domestic violence counseling, or family reunification. They also work with the parents to increase accountability, develop parental competence and anger management skills, and facilitate cultural assimilation. They enhance safety in the home environment by monitoring offenders' behavior and removing them when they are found in violation of their probation conditions. This effective program should be gradually expanded to reach a wider age group for children up to majority, staffing for increased caseloads, and additional evidence-based services.

COST

The annual cost for increasing offender accountability and services to children and families affected by domestic violence will vary in relation to the additional population served.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

Support legislation, grant opportunities, and budget proposals to procure and dedicate additional resources to expand services to a wider population of children age 6-12 and their families in domestic violence caseloads.

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JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITIES & PROGRAMS

Support efforts to fund juvenile detention facilities and programs including: the construction of a new juvenile hall; a secure facility for serious youth offenders; and adequate educational, therapeutic, rehabilitative and restorative programs to prepare juveniles for their successful reentry into the local community upon their release.

JUVENILE JUSTICE COMPLEX

Monterey County's Juvenile Hall was built in the late 1950s and is no longer suitable for housing detained youth. Its antiquated, linear design is difficult to manage and control; the grandfathered layout is not compliant with State Title 24 standards; there is limited program space, and it is without an on-site kitchen; ongoing repairs and temporary fixes grow costlier with time and generate great inefficiencies; and ensuring the safety of staff and residents requires increasing resources. The facility's capacity of 114 beds is insufficient to address current and future juvenile detention needs and should be expanded to at least 150 beds. The more manageable residents are housed in dorm areas; however, the remaining 72 individual rooms, reserved for higher risk offenders or females, are often overflowing and may pose a liability in terms of safety and lack of compliance.

Construction of a new Juvenile Justice Complex centered on a modern juvenile detention facility and including the essential components of the juvenile criminal justice process is a priority. The Juvenile Justice Complex will include a new Juvenile Hall with additional beds and program space, as well as a Juvenile Courthouse, Juvenile Intake, and offices for criminal justice staff from the District Attorney and Public Defender offices. A new detention facility built in a podular design will offer increased security for staff and residents, more manageable controls, adequate housing with progressive levels of security, areas for rehabilitative and support programs, education and physical activities, and it will be in full compliance with state regulations. The Juvenile Justice Complex will integrate all activities within the juvenile justice system from intake through court process, including short and mid-term detention. It will allow for efficiencies of scale and proximity, facilitate the transport of detained youth to court for hearings, and increase security during the court calendar.

COST

The cost of the Juvenile Justice Complex is estimated at \$91.1 million (\$72.6 million for the new detention facility and \$18.5 million for Juvenile Probation Intake, Juvenile District Attorney, Juvenile Public Defender, and Juvenile Court). The County has received a conditional award of \$35 million from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) for the project, which requires a 25%, \$11.7 million cash or in-kind local match. Due to the size and financial burden of the project, the County is utilizing a 3-phase approach to leverage the conditional award, distribute available resources over time, and optimize opportunities for additional external sources to fund the project.

- Phase I - main Juvenile Hall facility (\$52.4 million);
- Phase II - laundry, kitchen, warehouse, school and gymnasiums (\$20.2 million); and
- Phase III - Juvenile Courthouse, Juvenile Intake, District Attorney and Public Defender offices (\$18.5 million).

FACILITIES & PROGRAMS FOR SERIOUS YOUTH OFFENDERS

In 2007, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) realignment shifted authority and responsibility from the State to local probation departments for non-707(b) offenders, who are generally less serious, less violent offenders. It has become the responsibility of the local detention facilities to house and provide programs for these offenders, who previously may have been committed to DJJ.

Some of the most serious juvenile offenders, adjudicated for violent felonies as described by Welfare and Institutions Code Section 707(b), are not committed to DJJ, but instead are ordered by the Court to be placed on probation and to serve time in a temporary detention facility, Juvenile Hall, or at the treatment facility, the Youth Center. There is no secure juvenile institution at the local level for the long-term detention of offenders who still pose a threat to the community.

In 2010, with California's Divisions of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Parole realignment, the State transferred responsibility for supervision of new DJJ parolees from the State to County probation. The State continues its trend of transferring authority and responsibility for housing and rehabilitation of all youth offenders to local probation departments, which currently lack long-term, secure facilities to house these offenders, and it is anticipated that this trend will continue in the future. Monterey County is taking a proactive approach to ensure that serious juvenile offenders presently committed to state institutions continue to be provided secure custody in local facilities appropriate to their needs, age and offense level, and that provide educational, therapeutic, rehabilitative and restorative programs.

IMPACT / COST

Some serious juvenile offenders pose a threat to the safety of the community. It is imperative that, together with responsibilities, sufficient funding is shifted from the State to local entities to provide for: secure long-term housing appropriate to these offenders' needs, age and severity of offense; and adequate educational, therapeutic, rehabilitative and restorative programs to prepare juveniles for their successful re-entry into the local community upon their release.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

- 1) Support efforts to fund the Juvenile Justice Complex (Phase I \$17 million balance, Phase II \$20.2 million, Phase III \$18.5 million) and to fund local juvenile detention facilities;
- 2) Maximize opportunities to utilize AB 1628 funding under the Local Youthful Offender Rehabilitative Facilities Financing Program;
- 3) Use resources to identify, select and procure an appropriate site with the goal of constructing a modern, suitable and integrated Juvenile Justice Complex.
- 4) Support legislation and budgetary proposals which provide funding for facilities to accommodate serious youth offenders and for ongoing operations, including mental health and other restorative and rehabilitative programs, as the responsibility for these offenders has been transferred from the State to the counties.

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JAIL HOUSING ADDITION

Support efforts to provide funding for county jail construction and/or expansion.

SUMMARY

Monterey County's Adult Detention Facility (constructed in 1970 and expanded in 1977, 1988, 1993, 1995) has a rated capacity is 825 beds, but regularly exceeds 1,100. The facility has design, capacity, and maintenance issues that create safety and security concerns for staff and inmates.

The jail facility lacks enough beds to meet existing and future needs, and the problem has become much more severe as a result of AB 109, the 2011 Public Safety Realignment. Realignment shifts responsibility from the state to counties for the custody, treatment, and supervision of individuals convicted of specified nonviolent, non-serious, non-sex crimes. The facility has the wrong beds for the existing inmate population with 75% of the beds in dormitories, while over 90% of the inmates are felons. The facility was designed for minimum and low to medium security inmates, but the bulk of inmates housed at the facility are medium to high security. To make matters worse, the existing facility is crumbling; requiring million-dollar fixes each year just to put band-aides on failing systems.

Monterey County has the highest homicide rate in the State, according to an annual crime report by the California Department of Justice, and our jail population has become increasingly serious and violent. The percentage of inmates being housed for the crimes of murder and attempted murder has grown exponentially. Realignment will continue this trend, as inmates who previously were sent to State prison are now housed in County jails, further increasing the danger level in the facility.

IMPACT

The severe overcrowding in the County jail facility makes it difficult to safely control a population that has become significantly more violent because of the rapidly growing gangs in Salinas. The jail needs more beds and a much higher percentage of high security detention cells for the growing number of violent offenders. As conditions continue to worsen the risk of an inmate escape rises.

COST

The cost of a 576 bed jail expansion is \$89 million. Under the Phase II - AB 900 Local Jail Construction Funding Program the County received a conditional award of \$36 million (\$4 million County match) to construct a 288-bed on site expansion.

The County seeks \$43.7 million (\$5 million County match) from the SB 1022 – Adult Local Criminal Justice Facilities Construction Program to construct the remaining 288 beds to complete the expansion. Officer, staff, public and inmate safety will improve as a result of this addition. Overcrowding will be relieved and separation by classification of inmate will become possible. Programs will be added and a goal to reduce recidivism will be possible. Officer recruiting and retention will improve. The expanded jail will assist the Sheriff in being able to accommodate the inmates held at the County level as a result of Realignment.

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

Support efforts to secure \$43.7 million in funding under the SB 1022 – Adult Local Criminal Justice Facilities Construction Program to complete the jail expansion project.

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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & DISASTER RESPONSE

Support efforts to provide funding for emergency preparedness and response, and to decrease the percentage of costs borne by local government related to state/federal declared disasters.

SUMMARY

Over the last three years, State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant funds allocated to Monterey County First Responder agencies have been severely cut by Congress. Current funds barely provide public safety agencies with the ability to sustain equipment and skills. The Bay Area UASI, which provides additional specialized grant funding, is threatened by the same appropriations cuts from Congress. The California Homeland Security Consortium (CHSC) was created to leverage military concepts to improve regional emergency response capability by providing operationally useful prototypes. The partnership between Department of Defense Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) and the County of Monterey was forged with special Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funding. The County supports the continued funded collaboration between NPS and public safety communities in bringing together innovative defense technologies to the first responder communities.

The California Disaster Assistance Act creates a special emergency fund in the State treasury to be used in the event of disaster for local communities. Due to continuing State budget challenges, emergency funding for State or Federal declared disasters is at risk of reduction or elimination – which would cause the burden of a local disaster to be borne primarily by county and local governments.

IMPACT

Reduced State Homeland Security and UASI grants impact first responders' ability to sustain and improve capabilities and capacity to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond to and recover from threats and hazards from natural, technological, or terrorist events. Loss of CHSC appropriations will halt a program that has proven itself as not only a valuable asset to improving public safety but could be an economic stimulus for emerging private technology startup companies. With no State Emergency funds, the cost share for local government greatly increases and in some cases would cost local government 100% of recovery.

Cost Share	Damage Threshold	Federal Share	State Share	Local Share	NO CDAA
Local Disaster only	—	—	—	100%	100%
State Proclamation of Disaster	No set amount	—	75%	25%	100%
Federal Declared. Public damages (State wide) exceeding \$50.3 million + County Damage = \$1.5 million	\$50.3 Million	75%	18%	6%	25%
Catastrophic Event Requires special State legislation enacted	\$50.3 Million +	75%	25%	0%	25%

REQUESTED ACTION / STRATEGY

Support efforts to provide funding for emergency preparedness and response (DHS appropriations providing a minimum of \$400 million for UASI grants, and restore Homeland Security grant programs to the FY 11 level of \$3.3 billion - including special appropriations for the California Homeland Security Consortium funding of \$2 million). Support efforts to provide more funding for local disaster assistance, and that provide funding to the Governor's Emergency Fund.

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