

# **MONTEREY COUNTY**

## **LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**



# **2015-2016**

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON JANUARY 13, 2015

# 2015 MONTEREY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

## DISTRICT 1 - FERNANDO ARMENTA

168 W. Alisal Street, Salinas, CA 93901  
(831) 755-5011 district1@co.monterey.ca.us  
District: 65% of the City of Salinas, primarily East Salinas, and parts of Central, South and North Salinas.

*Vice Chair, Legislative Committee*

*California State Association of Counties (CSAC) representative  
National Association of Counties (NACo) representative*

## DISTRICT 2 - JOHN M. PHILLIPS

11140 Speegle Street, Castroville, CA 95012  
(831) 755-5022 district2@co.monterey.ca.us

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

## DISTRICT 3 - SIMÓN SALINAS (2015 CHAIR)

168 W. Alisal Street, Salinas, CA 93901  
(831) 755-5033 district3@co.monterey.ca.us

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

## DISTRICT 4 - JANE PARKER (2015 VICE CHAIR)

2616 First Avenue, Marina, CA 93933  
(831) 755-5044 district4@co.monterey.ca.us

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

## DISTRICT 5- DAVE POTTER

1200 Aguajito Road #1, Monterey, CA 93940  
(831) 755-5055 district5@co.monterey.ca.us

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

*Chair, Legislative Committee*

*California State Association of Counties (CSAC) alternate*

## LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

**Lew C. Bauman**, County Administrative Officer  
168 W. Alisal Street, Salinas, CA 93901  
(831) 755-5115 / baumanl@co.monterey.ca.us

### INTERGOVERNMENTAL & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS DIVISION

**Nicholas E. Chiulos**, Assistant County Administrative Officer  
(831) 755-5145 / chiulosn@co.monterey.ca.us

**Annette D'Adamo**, Management Analyst III  
(831) 796-3045 / dadamoa@co.monterey.ca.us

**Karina Torres**, Administrative Secretary  
(831) 755-5383 / torresk@co.monterey.ca.us

### LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATES

**Brent R. Heberlee**, Partner  
Nossaman LLP  
1666 K St. NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20006  
(202) 887-1400 / bheberlee@nossaman.com

**John E. Arriaga**, President  
**Laurie Johnson**, Senior Legislative Advocate  
JEA & Associates  
770 L Street, Suite 1030, Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 669-1340  
jeaandassoc@aol.com  
laurie@jeaandassociates.com

### GRANT / FUNDING ADVOCATES

**Jennifer M. Capitolo**, Senior Policy Advisor  
**Ashley Setoudeh**, Policy Advisor  
Nossaman LLP  
621 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 442-8888  
jcapitolo@nossaman.com  
asetoudeh@nossaman.com

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE#

ABOUT MONTEREY COUNTY	4-5
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	6
LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES	7-9

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b> <i>Labor Force</i> <i>Agriculture</i> <i>Tourism</i> <i>Education, Research &amp; Military</i>	<i>Housing</i> <i>Workforce Investment</i> <i>Youth Employment</i> <b>10-13</b>
ADMINISTRATION	
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING</b> <i>Public Safety &amp; Health Realignment</i>	<b>14</b>
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	
<b>STRENGTHENING THE HEALTH CARE SAFETY NET &amp; PUBLIC HEALTH</b> <i>Continued Support for Advancing Equity Through Public Health Prevention</i> <i>Continued Implementation of the Affordable Care Act</i> <i>Chronic Underfunding – Medi-Cal and Medicare</i> <i>New Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver</i> <i>Electronic Health Records &amp; Health Information Exchange</i>	<b>15-17</b>
<b>BEHAVIORAL HEALTH</b> <i>Comprehensive Supports for Behavioral Health</i> <i>Adult Detention Facility Needs</i>	<i>Inpatient Mental Health Capacity</i> <b>18</b>
<b>APPROPRIATE PLACEMENT &amp; FUNDING FOR PERSONS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY OR DEMENTIA IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>PRESERVE HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES AND SUPPORTS FOR SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>PRESERVE THE SAFETY NET FOR LOW-INCOME CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>HONORING VETERANS</b>	<b>23</b>
INFRASTRUCTURE	
<b>TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE</b> <i>Maintenance Improvements – Roads &amp; Bridges</i> <i>Capacity Improvements</i>	<i>Safety Improvements</i> <b>24</b>
<b>WATER RESOURCES SUSTAINABILITY</b> <i>Enhance Water Supply</i>	<i>Protect Water Resources and the Environment</i> <b>25-27</b>
PUBLIC SAFETY	
<b>VIOLENCE PREVENTION &amp; REDUCTION</b> <i>Gang Violence Prevention Initiative</i> <i>Silver Star Resource Center</i> <i>STRYVE</i>	<i>Gang Task Force</i> <i>Truancy Abatement</i> <i>National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention</i> <b>28-29</b>
<b>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION</b> <i>Monterey County Child Advocate Program (CAP)</i>	<b>30</b>

# ABOUT MONTEREY COUNTY

Created at the time of statehood in 1850, Monterey County was one of California's original counties. 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. In 2013, the U.S. Census estimated the County's population at 428,825: 57% Hispanic, 31% White, 7% Asian, 3% African American, and 2% other.



## **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, and home to ten military missions, which contribute greatly to the economy. The health care, non-profit, and government sectors are also among the largest business sectors in the County. The California Employment Development Department listed the County's labor force at 225,400 in October 2014, with a 6.7% unemployment rate. The County of Monterey is the single largest employer in Monterey County with 4,860 full-time employees and a budget of \$1.1 billion (FY14-15).

## **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 8.4 million visitors annually. Tourism is the second largest industry in the County, generating \$2.3 billion and supporting 22,000 full-time 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 the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am Golf Tournament, the Monterey Jazz Festival, races at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, the Big Sur International Marathon and other food, wine, cultural and family festivals.

### **HIGHER EDUCATION/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS & MILITARY**

The Monterey Bay area enjoys a strong concentration of higher education/research institutions, particularly related to foreign language study, marine research, and international policy. The County is home to the greatest collection of foreign language assets in the world, and is directly involved in over 25% of the nation’s post-secondary learning in languages other than English. In 2014, the Library of Congress approved a trademark for Monterey County as “*Language Capital of the World.*” The County has a long and proud military history and is home to ten military missions, providing significant local economic benefits. 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.

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

### **HEALTH CARE / HOSPITALS**

Monterey County is home to four hospitals (Natividad Medical Center, Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital, Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, and Mee Memorial) which generate significant economic benefits to the region. In September 2014, the Hospital Council of Northern and Central California issued an economic impact analysis of Monterey Bay Region hospitals. The report noted that the region’s hospitals generate an annual economic impact of \$2.7 billion, and directly and indirectly support 13,670 jobs with a \$1 billion annual payroll. These are conservative estimates as they do not include the economic contributions of the many county, not-for-profit, and private primary care and specialty clinics. Employment in the healthcare industry is anticipated to increase by 21.8% between 2010 and 2020.

### **NON-PROFIT SECTOR**

The nonprofit industry in Monterey County plays a vital role in building community, preserving culture, and helping residents prosper. A strong economy requires a healthy, thriving community made up of individuals actively participating and engaged in improving their lives and the community as a whole. The County has over 1,200 registered nonprofits with an economic impact of \$1.5 billion, including direct and indirect effects, and provides over 12,000 jobs.

# LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Monterey County maintains a long-standing and successful Legislative 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 Legislative Program is managed in accordance with a series of legislative principles and priorities which are crafted in support of the Board of Supervisors' Strategic Initiatives. The Strategic Initiatives lay out a forward-looking vision for planning and management of County resources across programs to secure maximum return and benefit for County residents.

The Board of Supervisors has a two member Legislative Committee, staffed by the County Administrative Office – Intergovernmental & Legislative Affairs Division. The Committee meets regularly to review and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding legislative, budgetary, and regulatory issues which could impact Monterey County. On an annual basis, the Legislative Committee recommends a Legislative Program to the Board of Supervisors. The Legislative Committee also directs the legislative activities of the Committee staff, County departments, and the County's state and federal legislative advocates.

In 2014, the County started a program focused on obtaining grant funding for high priority County projects and programs, and hired an advocacy firm to assist staff in this endeavor. The Legislative Committee provides direction for these efforts.

## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*"Enhancing the Well-Being and Prosperity of Monterey County Residents"*

Through collaboration, strengthen economic development to ensure a diversified and healthy economy.

### ADMINISTRATION

*"Efficient and Effective Government Operations"*

Promote an organization that practices efficient and effective resource management and is recognized for responsiveness, strong customer orientation, accountability and transparency.

### HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

*"Health and Wellness for Monterey County Residents"*

Improve health and quality of life through County supported policies, programs and services; promoting access to equitable opportunities for healthy choices and healthy environments in collaboration with communities.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

*"Meeting our Facilities, Water, Technology and Transportation Needs"*

Plan and develop a sustainable physical infrastructure that improves the quality of life for County residents and supports economic development initiatives.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

*"Creating Safe Communities"*

Reduce violent crime and homicides, create a safe environment for people to achieve their potential, leading business and communities to thrive and grow.

# LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

---

To ensure that Monterey County supports, defends, or opposes any legislative or budget actions that impact County resources, operations, or the goals set forth in the Strategic Initiatives, County 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, recreation, housing 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 promote health, equity and neighborhood sustainability, safeguard the preservation of prime agricultural lands and natural open spaces, and improve the environment and protect environmentally sensitive areas.

## 2) **FEDERAL / STATE / COUNTY GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIPS**

Support efforts to reform or improve the fiscal stability of the state and federal government and the federal/state/county fiscal and functional relationships. Support efforts to increase 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 related 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. Protect the County's primary revenue sources: property, sales and transient occupancy taxes. Support efforts to modernize the governance structure of County divisions and agencies or enter into strategic partnerships 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, voting 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 & PUBLIC HEALTH**

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 primary prevention and essential public health functions.

## **5) ESTABLISH SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY**

Support legislation, policy development, and regulatory efforts that foster social equity in the areas of health care access, education, disease prevention, and safe neighborhoods and affordable housing needed to make healthy choices and to 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 use of a “health lens” by all government decision makers and through 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 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, education and 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 efforts that promote eco-tourism opportunities.

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 working family initiatives that balance work and care-giving obligations such as: workplace flexibility and access to paid leave; affordable, quality child/elder care; and equal pay.

Support efforts to provide funds for the creation of affordable housing and affordable rental housing for low-income county residents and those with special needs (e.g. farm workers, veterans, seniors, disabled, the homeless, etc.). Work to eliminate processes which create barriers or delays to the development of affordable housing projects.

Support efforts that assist in military base reuse, specifically those efforts that aim to redevelop lands on the former Fort Ord or replace jobs lost as a result of the base closure. Support efforts to strengthen and expand the missions of military institutions located in Monterey County (e.g. The Monterey Regional Defense Alliance & Team Monterey), and oppose Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) or other proposals which aim to close or reduce missions. Support efforts to establish the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery at the former Fort Ord.

## **8) TRANSPORTATION, WATER, INFRASTRUCTURE & THE ENVIRONMENT**

Support efforts to fund, obtain/streamline regulatory permits, and implement infrastructure, transportation, digital/technology-based, water-related, renewable energy/conservation-related,



and housing and community infrastructure projects. Support efforts to fund repairs, upgrades, and modernization of transportation, wastewater collection and disposal systems, and other infrastructure projects/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 the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) 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 fund, manage and protect the County's water rights, water quality, water supply, groundwater sustainability, stormwater, flood protection, and effects of climate change (e.g. drought, sea level rise). 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).

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. Support efforts to manage County open space lands (e.g. lands in Fort Ord, Odello East, Hatton Canyon, Jack's Peak, etc.) including partnerships with or transfers to Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), or other public land management agencies. Maintain and protect agricultural and rural resources, coastal areas, and bio-diversity.

Support efforts to protect and preserve prime agricultural lands (e.g. Williamson Act funding, pest prevention programs). 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.

## **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 (e.g. work of the Restorative Justice Commission) while promoting healing. Support efforts to fund County and collaborative efforts aimed at preventing and reducing violence (e.g. gang violence, domestic violence, etc.) 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 Gang Violence Prevention Strategic Plan (May 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 and regional planning efforts. Maintain effective relationships with the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and National Association of Counties (NACo).

## **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.*

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, education/training/military, small business, and tourism - based on the County's existing major job creation engines, and fitting with the vision and historical development pattern of the area.

### **LABOR FORCE**

The availability of skilled and unskilled labor is critical to maintaining and enhancing economic development across all sectors. Monterey County's economy is primarily based upon tourism and agriculture, both of which are highly dependent on an available and adequate labor supply. Current immigration policies have made it increasingly difficult to meet the workforce needs in the agriculture and hospitality sectors. The hospitality industry contributes over \$2.3 billion to the local economy and employs more than 22,000 people. The agriculture industry contributed \$8.2 billion and 73,000 jobs to the County's economy in 2010. However, according to industry sources, during the 2012 growing season as many as 60% of growers reported being affected by the labor shortage. Continued labor shortages jeopardize the local economy, the hospitality industry, and the availability of agricultural goods for shipment nationally and internationally.

#### **Requested Action / Strategy**

Support efforts to implement a comprehensive federal immigration reform policy in order to ensure an adequate labor supply to all economic sectors in Monterey County.

### **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, and is a major producer of high quality varietal wine grapes. Adequate transportation system maintenance and capacity, along with the security of County water supplies (e.g. water rights, storage, reuse, and financing) is critical to the health of the local agricultural economy.

#### **Requested Action / Strategy**

Support efforts to secure Monterey County's water resources for agriculture (e.g. water rights, storage, reuse, and financing), secure funding for transportation infrastructure, protect prime agricultural lands (Williamson Act), and support efforts that promote agriculture and agritourism.

### **TOURISM**

Monterey County has an abundance of open, undeveloped space with a number of unique natural environments which lend themselves to tourism, eco-tourism, sustainable-tourism, and cultural-heritage tourism (e.g. Pinnacles National Park, Fort Ord National Monument, and numerous State, Regional and County parks). With proper packaging and marketing, these assets can attract visitors for longer stays and more frequent visits, which benefit the local economy through increased visitor spending on lodging, food, retail and other services. In addition, the attraction of recreational enthusiasts encourages the establishment of manufacturing and retail and service businesses which

cater to the equipment needs of the visitors and residents who participate in such activities as hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, diving, boating and backpacking.

Additional tourism benefits can be gained by partnering with the Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau and national organizations such as Brand USA, the Jobs Originated through Launching Travel (JOLT Act), and the State of California Travel Program.

Traffic congestion acts as a deterrent to tourist interested in visiting Monterey County. Therefore, the County supports road and infrastructure projects which improve public safety, enhance roadway capacity, and improve coastal and trail access for both residents and visitors.

#### **Requested Action / Strategy**

- Support efforts which promote tourism, eco-tourism, sustainable-tourism, and cultural-heritage tourism.
- Support efforts to partner with other agencies to leverage the benefits of tourism to increase economic growth, create more jobs, generate additional tax revenue and boost U.S. exports.
- Support efforts to fund infrastructure improvements and capital projects that aid visitor travel and tourism.

### **EDUCATION, RESEARCH & MILITARY**

Monterey Bay area enjoys a strong concentration of research and higher education institutions, particularly related to foreign language study, marine research, and international policy. The County is home to the greatest collection of foreign language assets in the world, and is directly involved in over 25% of the nation's post-secondary learning in languages other than English. In the fall of 2014, the Library of Congress approved a trademark for Monterey County as "*Language Capital of the World.*"

#### ***Strengthening Monterey County's Military Missions***

Monterey County has a long and proud military history and is honored to support the ten military missions located here and providing jobs for our residents. The safeguarding and strengthening of local military missions is critical to our national security and local economic strength. In recent years certain missions have been threatened with reductions or closures due to proposals such as those in Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. Groups such as Team Monterey have been instrumental in advocating in opposition of these efforts in the past. A new organization, the Monterey Regional Defense Alliance, a public-private partnership of elected officials and community leaders, was recently formed to advocate for the County's military missions.

#### ***Broadband Service***

A major impediment to high-tech business attraction is the lack of reliable broadband 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. The Consortium is dedicated to improving broadband service in Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties. It is in the County's best interest to take a lead role in expanding broadband service throughout the region to support our education, medical, military, and research industry.

#### **Requested Action / Strategy**

- Support efforts to fund the extension of broadband service to underserved areas of the County.
- Support efforts by the Monterey Regional Defense Alliance and others to strengthen and grow the County's military missions, and oppose Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) or other proposals, which would diminish local missions, negatively impacting our regional economy.

## HOUSING

Housing is an integral part of the health and well-being of Monterey County residents and an important element for social equity and economic development. The County supports the roles of the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in assisting local governments to finance housing efforts. With reduced federal and state assistance, new permanent financing sources are needed to address housing needs at all income levels. Funding is needed to ensure production of new units and provide adequate housing subsidies for households. Efforts to educate the private building and financial sectors on affordable housing opportunities should be encouraged. To stimulate production of affordable housing, tax codes and financial industry regulations need to be revised, particularly for very low, low, and moderate income households. Policies that support additional multi-family, farm worker, disabled, senior, veterans, and workforce housing opportunities to assure an adequate supply of low-cost and affordable housing stock are needed. Additionally, existing incentives for household-based assistance (e.g. mortgage credit certificates) should be extended to all types of affordable housing.

The lack of affordable housing has adverse effects of the County's economy and financial well-being, and is directly connected to the County's ability to attract new business. Lack of housing can impact the distance of travel and increase needs for road capacity for residents, workers and job seekers – and also effects healthcare, welfare, education and employment.



### **Requested Action / Strategy**

Support efforts that encourage and facilitate the production of affordable housing to meet the needs of the County, especially rental housing and housing for special needs populations, with a preference for infill projects. Support efforts to reform housing element law. Support efforts to develop a sustainable funding source for affordable housing and affordable rental housing.

## WORKFORCE INVESTMENT

Within our local community, the Workforce Investment Board coordinates and leverages workforce strategies with education and economic development stakeholders to ensure that workforce development and job training programs meet the needs of employers. 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.

Monterey County receives \$6.2 million in Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds to operate the local WIA system including adult, dislocated worker, youth and rapid response programs. WIA is making a real difference for both jobseekers and employers, and the unemployment rate has dipped from 9.3% to 6.7%. In the last year, 4,000 people came to the County's One Stop Career Center for assistance in job training and placements, 25% received training and/or on-the-job training placements, and 74% had job placements.

### **Request Action / Strategy**

Support the transition of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) system to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and support expanded WIOA funding for a business-led Workforce Development Board governed and supported by local leaders. Support the America's Job Center of California's centers in Monterey County, which focus on the needs of job seekers and businesses to ensure workers have access to critical employment programs, services and training opportunities.

## YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Youth employment programs are nationally recognized to prevent youth violence and bring hope and opportunity to communities. They are highlighted as one of the five strategies in the Office for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Comprehensive Gang Prevention Model. In Monterey County gang issues, violence and crime steal the futures of all too many young people. Providing local youths with opportunities goes a long way toward ending youth violence and criminal gang involvement, and is a priority for the County and its many city and community partners.

Nationally, youth employment opportunities have reached new lows. Local unemployment rates exceed national and California rates, and create heavy burdens for youth 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. Reestablishment of funding for these programs is needed to address the difficulty youth have in attaching to the workforce and building their roots in our economic future. Currently Monterey County receives \$1.8 million to operate a year-round youth employment program through the Workforce Investment Act.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in July 2014, 49% of young people were employed. Although the youth unemployment rate has grown, the overall youth unemployment rate decreased slightly from last year.

### **Requested Action/Strategy**

Support efforts to enhance funding for summer youth employment and training programs and expand funding for year round programs to better prepare youth for future self-sufficiency and prevent youth violence and crime.

**CONTACT:** David Spaur, Economic Development Director  
(831) 755-5387 / spaurd@co.monterey.ca.us

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

*Support efforts to secure and enhance State and Federal revenues for local government operations and programs. Support efforts to enhance and equitably distribute constitutionally guaranteed funds to counties for realigned public safety, health and human services programs.*

Monterey County's FY14-15 budget is \$1.1 billion. The County's primary discretionary revenue sources are property, sales, and transient occupancy taxes. The General Fund supports most County services and basic functions (e.g. public safety/criminal justice, health, public assistance, land use, recreation, environment, and administration/finance). The State and Federal government provides roughly 40% of General Fund revenues. Social service and health programs rely heavily upon, and are the largest recipients of this aid. Funding to counties to deliver required services has not kept pace with costs.

### **Public Safety & Health Realignment**

In 2011, the State realigned significant public safety, health and social service program responsibilities and revenues to counties (AB 109). The realignment plan provides local government funding for court security, adult offenders and parolees, public safety, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, child welfare programs, adult protective services, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), and essential public health services.

In 2012, Proposition 30 was approved to constitutionally guarantee funding for realignment and to safeguard against program expansion without accompanying funding. Despite these 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. Realignment funding decisions have varying impacts and costs depending on the program area, but are significant if socio-demographics such as those in Monterey County are not adequately incorporated into funding formulas. The current distribution formula is inequitable, favoring some jurisdiction.

In 2012, counties were provided options for shifting 1991 Health Realignment funds to the State to offset the cost of optional Medi-Cal expansion as part of the Affordable Care Act (AB 85). This shift reduced local revenue available for the County to satisfy its legal obligations to provide health care and prevention services to the significant indigent adult population that is ineligible for Medi-Cal or subsidized insurance under Covered California. Current realignment funding levels for public health and social service programs should be preserved or strengthened to preserve these critical services.

As the environment for health and human service programs evolves, the adequacy of proposed realignment allocations for protective services, mental health resources, public health, and safety net services must be monitored. This is particularly important in communities like Monterey County that have disproportionately low foster care bases due to early implementation of prevention programs that resulted in low foster placement rates, low protective service account funding, and historically underfunded mandates for elder and dependent adult abuse prevention and response.

### **Requested Action / Strategy**

Support legislative, budget, and grant opportunities to secure or enhance revenues for local government operations and programs. Support efforts to enhance and more equitably distribute revenues to counties in support of realigned programs; minimize the shift of county 1991 Health Realignment funding to the State; and reduce the jail population through proven, cost effective methods of rehabilitation.

**CONTACT:**      **Dewayne Woods**, Assistant County Administrative Officer  
(831) 755-5309 / woodsd@co.monterey.ca.us

## **STRENGTHENING THE HEALTH CARE SAFETY NET & PUBLIC HEALTH**

*Support efforts to promote “Health in all Policies” and to eliminate social, economic and environmental inequities that impede health care access. Support efforts to reduce health disparities, and strengthen the County’s role in health care reform and the health of the public safety net health care system.*

California’s counties play a critical role in serving those most in need through the provision of public health, social services, and a strong public safety net health care system. Over the last several decades health outcome disparities have grown, but the Affordable Care Act is ushering in a health care system evolution. System changes include expansion of health care coverage, partnering health care delivery with public health, and fostering the promotion of health and prevention strategies.

California’s public health care safety net systems serve 2.8 million California residents each year. Annually, within the state, the systems provide nearly 40% of all hospital care to the 7 million uninsured, 25% of all hospital care to the Medicaid population; and 10 million outpatient visits. Additionally, the state’s systems operate over half of the top-level trauma centers, two-thirds of the burn centers, and trains 57% of all new doctors. Improvements in service delivery throughout the system therefore have a profound impact on the health care and health of millions of Californians.

### **CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR ADVANCING EQUITY THROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH PREVENTION**

Monterey County has adopted a strategy of “Health in all Policies” as part of its efforts to eliminate social, economic and environmental inequities that impede the attainment and maintenance of good health, including having health care access. The County supports a broad system-wide and public health prevention approach to reducing health disparities, along with maintaining and strengthening the County’s role in health care reform, and the health of the public safety net health care system.

#### **Requested Action / Strategy**

Advocate for state and federal policy decisions that reduce health inequities, with particular attention to those related to improved health care access for all and primary public health prevention as part of health care reform.

### **CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT**

California’s public health care safety net system plays a central role in the health care landscape, and is committed to ensuring that Affordable Care Act (ACA) implementation continues to succeed in California. Provisions of the ACA will continue to become effective over the coming year, expanding coverage to over 3 million Californians, tying physician payments to quality of care they provide, and shifts in eligibility and matching rates. California has the opportunity to advance the health of all Californians by further ensuring that low-income, Medi-Cal, and uninsured patients have access to high quality care. For public health care safety net systems, the goals are to: be the competitive provider of choice; serve as a safety net for those who remain uninsured; and provide essential community services (e.g. trauma, burn, and teaching).

Counties are working to ensure infrastructure and capacity exist to incorporate the newly insured into the local health care system, including the public safety net health care system, as well as to develop partnerships that leverage public health prevention funds through the ACA’s Prevention and Public Health Fund. Successful health care reform will result in equitable access to health care for all, development of prevention efforts to create healthier communities, and greater system stability. The vision is to become models of integrated systems of care that are high value, high quality, patient-centered, efficient, equitable, with great patient experience and demonstrated ability to improve health care and health status of populations.

### **Requested Action / Strategy**

Support efforts to fully implement comprehensive health care reform, stabilize and strengthen the local public safety net health care system, expand access to insurance programs, preserve parity for mental health and addiction recovery, support the Prevention and Public Health Fund, 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.

### **CHRONIC UNDERFUNDING – MEDI-CAL & MEDICARE**

With the cost of providing health care exceeding Medicare and Medi-Cal reimbursements, public safety net health care systems are concerned about their ability to continue to support communities and implement health care reforms. Medi-Cal, California’s Medicaid program provides health care insurance to over 8.5 million low-income people, 1.9 million of which were newly enrolled through the ACA. Although Medi-Cal is the single largest health insurer in the state, it continues to have low reimbursement rates. Medicare is the federal program that provides health insurance 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, and have led to negative Medicare margins. Low reimbursement levels for substance abuse disorders make it particularly hard to recruit providers to the region. The County strongly supports continued 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 efforts to provide higher Medi-Cal and Medicare reimbursement levels for inpatient and outpatient services, and substance abuse disorders.

### **NEW MEDICAID SECTION 1115 WAIVER**

Armed with key lessons from early coverage expansion, California’s public health care safety net systems are poised to strengthen the partnership with the State and Federal government under a new Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver in support of the successful implementation of the ACA, which is critical to California’s system providers. Public safety net health care systems seek the opportunity through the new Waiver to explore innovative, ambitious approaches that link quality improvement, outcomes, and financing to best serve the newly covered and the residually uninsured.

Despite coverage expansion and delivery system reform efforts, it is likely that over 3 million Californians will remain uninsured. Historically, public health care safety net systems have received important supplemental payments to support care for these individuals - California’s Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) allotment and Safety-Net Care Pool Uncompensated Care Pool (SNCP) funds - but these payments have been largely cost-based and have not evolved with the changing health care landscape. Public safety net health care systems support efforts to modernize these funds through payment reforms.

It is likely that dollars will be tied to ambitious outcomes, so the new Waiver must represent an investment in public safety net health care systems equivalent to the existing Waiver’s Delivery System Reform Incentive Program (DSRIP), SNCP, and DSH allotment (accounting for scheduled ACA reductions). These supports will ensure public health care safety net systems have the resources necessary to expand access and contribute to California’s long-term success of the ACA. The new Waiver provides an opportunity to strengthen systems’ ability to fulfill their three-part role in the state’s health care system in broad support of the ACA: as competitive providers of choice; as the core of the safety net for those who will remain uninsured; and as an important source of essential community services. Failure to fulfill any of these critical roles would jeopardize California’s ability to successfully implement the ACA. Through the new Waiver, by 2020 the goal is to transform public





## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

*Support efforts to provide adequate financing for behavioral health reform efforts to succeed.  
Support efforts to fund construction of behavioral health beds and program space.*

Mental illness and substance abuse disorders (behavioral health) are serious public health issues. Only 3% of health care dollars are spent on mental health care yet mental illnesses account for more disease in developed countries than any other illnesses, including heart disease and cancer. Depression, the most common type of mental illness, affects 26% of the U.S. population and those diagnosed with mental illness experience higher rates of homelessness, injury, smoking, and substance abuse disorder than the general population. Under the Affordable Care Act numerous improvements to behavioral health service delivery are occurring, however, many areas still require further legislative and budgetary action. These range from increased availability and fair health insurance plan coverage for alcohol and drug treatment, program expansions for supportive and permanent housing (especially for the homeless and disabled), and integrated responses to the needs of alcohol and other drugs populations including those with co-occurring disorders.

### **Comprehensive Supports for Behavioral Health**

The development of an integrated and comprehensive system of care that includes supports for behavioral health prevention/treatment programs will lead to cost reductions, improved equity for behavioral health care, enhanced patient outcomes, and reduced treatment delays and safety issues. If current and future health care reform efforts do not intentionally include comprehensive supports for behavioral health as part of universal health coverage for all Californians, health care and societal costs will continue to rise. The strengths of the current State systems must be the basis for further developments, in particular strengthening county-operated systems serving vulnerable populations.

### **Adult Detention Facility Needs**

Due to the limitations of the County's adult detention facility, inmate mental health needs exceed the capacity to handle needs in a centralized area. This results in mentally ill inmates being housed in a variety of locations within the facility, and creates challenges when conducting interviews, administering medication, conducting assessments and group services, which requires medical staff to move, or deputies to escort inmates, between areas of the facility - creating safety concerns for inmates and staff. The County seeks funding for construction of 24 dedicated mental health beds, space for individual and group mental health therapy and programs, and space for two safety cells, as well as in and out of custody offender programming needs – the estimated cost is \$26.4 million.

### **Inpatient Mental Health Capacity**

The County's only locked 5150 mental health facility is at Natividad Medical Center. There has been a significant increase in the demand for inpatient mental health beds. Funds are needed to expand beds and program space and engage in behavioral health community outreach and education.

### **Requested Action/Strategy**

- Support efforts to enhance the comprehensive behavioral health system, including broader support to expand transitional and permanent housing for the homeless and disabled.
- Support efforts to require coverage and increase reimbursements for mental health/substance use disorder services; give counties flexibility to blend mental health, alcohol and drug treatment funds and direct funds to areas of greatest need; and increase availability to the uninsured.
- Support efforts to secure funding to construct mental health beds and program space.

**CONTACT:**      **Ray Bullick**, Director of Health  
(831) 755-4525 / [bullickr@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:bullickr@co.monterey.ca.us)

## **APPROPRIATE PLACEMENT & FUNDING FOR PERSONS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY OR DEMENTIA IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

*Support efforts to create a suitable designation for persons with traumatic brain injury or dementia; and extend Medi-Cal coverage to provide r appropriate coverage, placement and treatment options.*

Monterey County, and counties throughout the State, are facing significant challenges related to the appropriate placement, treatment and funding for individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI) or dementia who have been accused of violent acts. Efforts are needed to clearly and appropriately define the legal status of those with TBI and dementia as cognitive deficits, or as 'gravely disabled' as defined by the Welfare and Institution Code §5008(h)(1)(A). Doing so would open the door to clarify that Medi-Cal Managed Care and private insurance should cover treatment and placement for these individuals.

Recent cases in the judicial system have led to the courts compelling County Public Guardians to conserve persons with TBI or dementia who are accused of violent acts but deemed incompetent to stand trial, utilizing Murphy's conservatorships as set forth under the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act. The result of these actions is the placement of undue burden upon counties for ongoing and likely inappropriately determined conservatorship requirements.

Persons with TBI or dementia that exhibit violent behavior are generally not restorable to competency with psychotropic medications - as is the case for defendants suffering from serious mental disorders. As such, they should not be considered to fall within the definition of serious mental illness as defined by LPS. This inappropriate classification results in significant delays in finding supportive placement for such individuals, as none exists in California. Insufficient care and supports for these individuals is the result, and if incarceration or holding options are exhausted, potential danger to the public upon their release back to the general population could result.

The current gaps in appropriate placement, treatment and housing options for persons with TBI or dementia who have a violent history and who need supportive housing and treatment can result in significant costs to counties and the state as expensive and inappropriate incarceration is the only currently available option. In addition, gaps in the justice system that inappropriately place criminal defendants with TBI or dementia into conservatorships are a costly and an inappropriate method to ensure community safety.

This issue affects all California counties not only as a result of public safety considerations, but also because counties are already dealing with significant capacity and financial challenges as a result of the 2011 Public Safety Realignment.

### **Requested Action/Strategy**

- Support efforts to clearly and appropriately define the legal status of those with TBI and dementia as cognitive deficits, or as 'gravely disabled' as defined by the Welfare and Institution Code §5008(h)(1)(A).
- Support efforts to clarify that supportive care for those with TBI or dementia and who need permanent placement should be covered by Medi-Cal Managed Care or private insurance.

**CONTACT:**      **Ray Bullick**, Director of Health  
(831) 755-4525 / [bullickr@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:bullickr@co.monterey.ca.us)

## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

*Support policy and funding efforts that foster the healthy development of all children by focusing on the prenatal stage through age 5 recognizing the impact these efforts through grade 3 and beyond.*

Early childhood begins with the prenatal period and continues to age eight. Positive early childhood development occurs through the synergy of physical health, social and emotional wellbeing, and the fulfillment of basic needs. Research demonstrates that intervention during early childhood yields significant, long term results for the individual and the greater community.

Recognizing this importance, the Monterey County Children’s Council launched the Early Childhood Development Initiative (ECDI) in 2012. The ECDI has selected six indicators that reflect the most significant needs of young children in Monterey County, which will be tracked and utilized to measure improved outcomes.

### Requested Action/Strategy

Preserve and expand funding and support public policy that promotes ECDI-related efforts, with particular focus on state and federal legislation and funding which aligns with the six key indicators:

KEY INDICATOR	RELATED POLICY AND FUNDING
<b>Maternal education level</b>	Programs promoting self-esteem, personal empowerment and life-planning skills for middle and high school girls. Parent education support previously funded through Adult Schools, family planning services, and alternative GED programs – and access to lifelong learning.
<b>Entry to prenatal care</b>	Preservation of funding for the Affordable Care Act; support for universal mental health and developmental screening services; EPSDT (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment); restoration/preservation of funding for Medi-Cal and Targeted Case Management (TCM) reimbursement; increased support for home visitation programs such as Parents as Teachers (PAT), Touchpoints, Nurse-Family Partnership, Cal Learn and the Adolescent Family Life Program.
<b>Licensed childcare</b>	Funding for libraries, child care and preschool programs, and the elimination of parent fees for full-time preschool programs funded by the California Department of Education (CDE); support the Federal Early Learning Initiative, the Child Care and Development Block Grant, Head Start (including Early Head Start), the Social Services Block Grant (Title XX), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and other programs that support families and broad social policies that support parental involvement.
<b>Reading to children</b>	
<b>Social and emotional skills for children</b>	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading level</b>	

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

## **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 critical to the health and wellness of seniors and people with disabilities.*

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 strains the ability of local agencies to help seniors and people with disabilities in their community. The population of those over 60 years of age 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 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.

It is increasingly difficult for the Aging and Disability Services Network to maintain existing safety net services. Demand for services is rising while families are struggling to support and care for older relatives, and the number of older adults struggling to make ends meet is increasing.

The poverty rate for older adults living in Monterey County is on the rise. The County Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for seniors has increased from 8.3% in 2012 to 12.4% in 2013. Monterey County is one of the highest cost counties in the state, and California is the third highest cost of living state in the nation, however the FPL does not take into account these cost of living differences. The Elder Economic Security Standard Index (Elder Index) provides a broader, more accurate picture of the cost of living for seniors in a variety of living situations, is adjusted geographically, and includes specific living needs for seniors in Monterey County (housing, food, transportation, health care, etc.). The Elder Index estimates the County's senior poverty at 27.6% (2011), three times the FPL.

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**

Support funding for programs and services which improve the living conditions of 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 (e.g. Elder Justice Act, Older Americans Act, Adult Protective Services, and transportation programs).



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

In Monterey County 25.4% of children were estimated to live in poverty by the 2013 American Community Survey. The overall poverty rate for 2013 was 17.9% - a large increase over pre-recession poverty levels of 12.3% (2008) and 11.6% (2007), which still has not subsided even through the sluggish economic recovery. The threat to well-being, safety and economic opportunity for all is stymied by high rates of poverty, particularly child poverty, even as the country's financial sector and wages for higher income individuals grow.



In years past, the impact of poverty on child, family and community well-being is exacerbated by reductions in safety net programs such as CalWORKs, Child Care, and IHSS. While some progress in restoring service levels has been made in California, resources are far short of what is needed to achieve stability on the path to stability, self-sufficiency and economic success. Threats to service levels continue through Congressional discussions. Additional reductions and ongoing stagnation to safety net services will cause further harm to those most challenged by the lingering effects of the recession.

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 employment.

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 confidence that their children are being cared for and safe. Assuring basic needs such as adequate nutrition, physical activity, early childhood education, housing and health care gives children the footing they need to grow and thrive.

### **Requested Action / Strategy**

- Support funding for the CalWORKs program, funding for local child care, and funding to expand eligibility for the CalFRESH program.
- Support funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, Child Care and Development Block Grant program, and Community Action programs.
- Support funding for programs that help individuals and families prevent homelessness and rapidly secure housing when they become homeless (e.g. HUD Homeless Assistance and CalWORKS Housing Support).
- Support improvements to the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program that review work participation requirements and recognize additional costs to communities as a result of ongoing funding stagnation.

**CONTACT:** **Elliott Robinson**, Director, Department of Social Services  
(831) 755-4448 / [robinsons@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:robinsons@co.monterey.ca.us)

## 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.*

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.

The VA estimates more than 22,000 veterans reside in Monterey County. The 2014 Monterey County Homeless Census found that 10% of homeless individuals over the age of 18 surveyed were veterans. Applying this percent to the estimated 5,654 adults who experience homelessness in the County during the year, yields an estimate of approximately 565 homeless veterans in our community – 565 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.

Monterey County's budget for its Military and Veterans Affairs Department is \$808,752. 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

- Support funding to establish a Veterans Drop-In Center in Monterey County, strengthening the capacity of local Military and Veterans Services Offices and provision of Veterans Stand Down events in communities with a concentration of homeless veterans.
- Support efforts to establish the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery at former Fort Ord.
- 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.
- Support the addition of California and Monterey County to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Community Behavioral Health Pilot Projects.
- Support efforts that increase outreach efforts to veterans for veterans' services.
- Support the establishment of veterans' courts.



**CONTACT:** **George Dixon**, Branch Director, Military and Veterans Affairs Office  
(831) 647-7616 / [dixong@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:dixong@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.*

The transportation infrastructure is the backbone of all economic activity and is in vital need of funding for capital, maintenance, safety, and operations of local roads, bridges, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, transit and rail. Transportation systems should meet industry/societal needs, provide users choices, be integrated with planned land use, be compatible with the environment by considering air quality, /noise pollution, aesthetics, ecological factors, cost benefit analyses, and energy consumption measures.

Monterey County owns and operates a significant portion of the local transportation infrastructure and supports funding to local governments for system preservation, capacity improvement, and safety needs - using regional partnerships and collaborations on system planning and investment.

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.

### **Maintenance Improvement – Roads & Bridges**

The County maintains 1,200+ road miles and 173 bridges. Funding for road and bridge maintenance is woefully inadequate to provide an acceptable maintenance program. Deferred road maintenance results in rapid deterioration and compromise of roadway structural integrity and exponentially increases repair costs. The County's current maintenance backlog is over \$750 Million and growing.

### **Capacity Improvements**

Traffic congestion and inadequate roadway capacity can negatively impact the local economy through impacts to tourism, agricultural product delivery to market, and increased unproductive travel time. Efforts to increase capacity should be supported, such as the proposed State Route 156 widening project, which would increase both road safety and capacity to accommodate user needs.

### **Safety Improvements**

Roadway safety is a top priority, and improvement efforts should be evaluated for the overall benefits provided. Recently the County was proud to be part of a public-private partnership to construct a roundabout at Holman Highway. Roundabouts have certain advantages over signalized intersections, such as safety, air quality and reduced maintenance costs of signals.

### **Requested Action / Strategy**

Support efforts to provide or develop funding for the capital, maintenance, safety, capacity improvement, and operation of Monterey County's transportation infrastructure – including funding for local roads, bridges, pedestrian and bike facilities, transit, and rail.

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



## **WATER RESOURCES SUSTAINABILITY**

*Support efforts to fund and obtain regulatory approvals for projects that enhance water resources sustainability throughout Monterey County.*

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Agency) is responsible for managing, protecting, and enhancing water supply and quality, and providing flood protection in the County of Monterey. The Agency operates the Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs for flood management and water supply (groundwater recharge) purposes. Additionally, the Agency operates a distribution system that delivers approximately 23,000 acre-feet of river, well, and recycled water to approximately 12,000 acres of agricultural land in the northern Salinas Valley.

An estimated 95 percent of all water used in Monterey County is derived from groundwater wells. With nearly 210,000 acres of land under cultivation in the Salinas Valley, agricultural pumping averages 495,000 acre-feet per year. Combined with urban and other uses, total water pumped in an average year from the Salinas Valley is about 520,000 acre-feet. Assuring that there are sufficient quantities of good quality groundwater is the most important aspect of managing water resources in Monterey County today. Major water resource management issues in the County include the preservation of water rights, protection of existing and the development of new surface and groundwater supplies for agricultural and municipal users (including disadvantaged communities), combating water quality issues (e.g. seawater intrusion, nitrate and arsenic contamination), and enhancing flood protection and threatened and endangered species habitat especially along the Salinas, Carmel, and Pajaro Rivers.

### **ENHANCE WATER SUPPLY**

The sustainability of Monterey County's water resources depends on minimizing threats to supplies and enhancing existing or developing new resources. The County relies upon multiple sources of water (groundwater, surface water, recycled water, and desalinated water), but of these sources it is most dependent upon groundwater. The County is completely dependent upon local water sources and derives no help or benefit from the State or Federal water projects. The main challenges which the County faces related to supply are contamination due to seawater intrusion or contaminants such as nitrates and arsenic; environmental requirements from regulatory agencies/environmentally challenging issues; development of additional supplies (e.g. Interlake Tunnel, desalination projects, etc.); and the preservation of County water rights. A top priority of the County is the preservation of a surface water permit it holds on the Salinas River basin, Permit #11043, which would authorize the diversion of up to 135,000 acre-feet of water per year for projects intended to halt seawater intrusion into the groundwater basin, as well as provide flood control.

The Environmental Health Bureau regulates 1,250 water systems with 2-199 connections through inspection, monitoring and consultation. Drinking water contaminated by unsafe levels of nitrates or arsenic is a widespread problem, as is adequate source capacity for many residents. Resolving a contaminated water system is costly and residents/communities often lack the economic means to do so. Typical solutions include consolidating with another water system that meets standards, drilling a new well, or installing treatment. Consolidation is preferred, but many systems are not adjacent to other water systems with adequate supply, capacity, or willingness to consolidate, or the cost of the necessary infrastructure is a barrier. A solution could be to drill a new well, but sufficient groundwater may not be available or may be contaminated. Treatment is an option, but treatment maintenance costly and time consuming and generates waste products that may present challenges for proper disposal.

### **Potential Projects to Enhance Water Supply**

- **Interlake Tunnel:** A tunnel to connect existing reservoir facilities at Lake San Antonio and Lake Nacimiento in order to increase water storage capacity and achieve environmental and water conservation release efficiencies. This project will require a legislative or regulatory change to the Fish and Game Code to allow for the movement of white bass between the lakes. – Estimated cost = \$100 Million
- **Salinas Valley Water Project, Phase II:** This is the preferred project to put to use the water allocated by Permit #11043. The project configuration is under development, but it could consist of two distinct pipelines pinpointing water deliveries to specific areas of the Salinas Valley to augment water supplies and combat seawater intrusion. – Estimated cost = \$200 Million
- **Expansion of Existing Recycled Water Project:** The project builds upon the success of existing recycled water usage near the coast in the Salinas Valley by expanding infrastructure to additional acreage. – Estimated cost = \$125 Million
- **Destruction of Abandoned Wells:** With the implementation of a recycled water source, wells that are in seawater intruded areas need to be destroyed so the well casings do not become conduits for seawater to move from upper to lower aquifers. – Estimated cost = \$12.5 Million
- **Water Treatment Plant:** A project to construct a surface water treatment plant utilizing technologies to clean existing contaminated water for deliver to urban and/or agricultural users. – Estimated cost = \$100 Million
- **Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project:** A project to construct a desalination plant to provide water to the Monterey Peninsula. Sizing of the desalination plant will be determined by the implementation of a Ground Water Recharge (GWR) project. – Estimated cost = unknown
- **Ground Water Recharge (GWR) Project:** The GWR project would create a reliable source of water supply for northern Monterey County. The project would provide purified water for recharge of the Seaside Groundwater Basin, and recycled water to augment the existing Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project's (CSIP) agricultural irrigation supply. – Estimated cost = unknown

### **Requested Action / Strategy**

Support efforts to secure funding and regulatory approvals to advance Monterey County water supply projects, and to protect and preserve Permit #11043 water rights.

Support the implementation of Proposition 1, Water Bond, which will provide \$7.5 billion for water supply infrastructure projects in California – and ensure that legislative language to implement Proposition 1 grant programs aligns with the County's priority projects.

Support efforts to provide adequate funds for efforts aimed at providing safe drinking water to County residents, local regulation of large and small drinking water systems and domestic wells, and sufficient funding for the California Drinking Water Program.

## **PROTECT WATER RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

The sustainability of the County's water resources depends on protection from natural disasters and environmental hazards and threats. Monterey County has three major river systems, the Salinas, Carmel and Pajaro that are prone to flooding. In 1995, all three river systems flooded causing over 11,000 evacuations, damaging 1,500 homes and 150 businesses, and creating millions of dollars in economic damages throughout the region both in terms of agricultural production and impact to tourism. Each river has unique characteristics that make flood management complicated, especially with the need to protect species listed as threatened or endangered. On the flip side, California is currently in the midst of a historic drought, which threatens the security of local water supplies, highlighting the need for the development of drought contingency plans and additional water

sources. In the area of stormwater, the County must comply with state and federal stormwater regulations which require monitoring and abatement of stormwater entering the Monterey and Carmel Bays, which have been designated as Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS).

Challenges associated with protecting water resources and the environment often relate to the unpredictability and severity of uncontrollable events such as droughts or floods. Another major challenge is the lack of funding available, both locally and at the State, for appropriate resource planning and management. Currently, State funding for water related projects is tied to compliance with various State programs. To enhance funding opportunities, the County is currently in the process of becoming compliant with the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program. Becoming CASGEM compliant will assist the County in competing for funding in the recently passed Water Bond. Additionally, the recently enacted Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) calls for the establishment of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, which will be required to develop Groundwater Sustainability Plans for each groundwater basin within their jurisdiction.

### **Potential Projects to Protect Water Resources and the Environment**

- **Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program, Phase II:** This project is an expansion of the highly successful Phase I demonstration project developed by The Nature Conservancy, to provide overdue maintenance on the remaining sections of the Salinas River channel. – Estimated cost - \$3 Million
- **Salinas River Management Program:** This project provides a more holistic approach to river management which incorporates watershed management principles, water delivery scenarios, and maintenance of the water course, providing increased flood and habitat protection. – Estimated cost = \$30 Million
- **Lower Carmel River & Lagoon:** Multiple projects which aim to protect infrastructure, reduce flooding, and promote environmental and habitat protection.
- **Lower Pajaro Levee Construction Project:** This project involves rebuilding levees along 11 miles of the Pajaro River to provide urban reaches of the region with 100-year flood protection, and agricultural areas with 50-year flood protection.
- **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act:** Develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to fulfill long-term sustainability of groundwater basins as set forth within the requirements of the SGMA. – Estimated cost = \$2 Million
- **Aquatic Invasive Species: Quagga and Zebra Mussel Prevention Program:** This project includes a vessel inspection and education program aimed at preventing the infestation of Lakes Nacimiento and San Antonio from aquatic invasive species (e.g. Quagga or Zebra mussels). – Estimated cost = \$500,000 annually

### **Requested Action / Strategy**

Support efforts to secure funding and regulatory approvals to advance Monterey County projects that protect water resources and the environment. Support efforts to provide for appropriate planning efforts (e.g. Salinas River Management Program, Groundwater Sustainability and CASGEM compliance).

**CONTACT:**      **David Chardavoynne** – General Manager, Water Resources Agency  
(831) 755-4896 / chardavoynede@co.monterey.ca.us

**Carl Holm** – Director, Resource Management Agency  
(831) 755-5103 / holmcp@co.monterey.ca.us

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

## VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION

*Support efforts to prevent and reduce violence, especially gang violence, through community-wide collaborative efforts such as the Silver Star Resource Center, Monterey County Joint Gang Task Force, STRYVE Youth Violence Prevention Program, and the County's continued participation in the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention.*

The Board of Supervisors has identified gang violence prevention and reduction as a top priority. Monterey County is home to 70+ gangs, including 16 youth gangs and several prison gangs, with an estimated 5,000 certified and affiliated gang members. Contributing significantly to the gang problems throughout the region are two State prisons, the Salinas Valley State Prison and the Correctional Training Facility, which are located approximately 30 miles south of the City of Salinas, the County seat. The County's youth gang involvement is especially troubling. According to the Violence Policy Center's annual study *Lost Youth: A County-by-County Analysis of California Homicide Victims ages 10-24*, Monterey County ranked number one in the state for the highest number of homicide victims per capita in 2009, 2010 and 2012.

The violence problem impacts the economic well-being and quality of life of communities' county-wide, with community members living in fear, and youth growing up in environments where gang involvement seems inevitable. Violence is also a public health issue that affects individuals, families, and whole communities – and can be linked to increases in health care costs, decreases in academic achievement, and inhibiting economic development in stressed communities.

Monterey County has a full array of County-led initiatives designed to prevent and reduce gang violence and its underlying causes including:

- **Suppression:** Monterey County Joint Gang Task Force (GTF)
- **Intervention:** Silver Star Resource Center, focused on at risk youth
- **Prevention:** Striving to Reduce Youth Violence Everywhere (STRYVE), youth violence prevention program which utilizes a public health approach, in partnership with the City of Salinas and the Community Alliance for Safety and Peace (CASP)

The County is also involved in numerous countywide collaborative efforts such as CASP in Salinas, Four Cities for Peace (4C4P) in South County, the Blue Ribbon Panel in Seaside, and Building Healthy Communities in East Salinas. There is an identified need to expand services and collaborations in the North County communities of Pajaro and Castroville.

### **Monterey County Gang Violence Prevention Initiative**

In March 2013, the Board adopted the *Monterey County Gang Violence Prevention Strategic Plan* which serves as a framework for prevention and reduction efforts, emphasizing sustainable stakeholder collaboration and public involvement. An action plan is currently under development which will outline specific ways for County departments and partner agencies to support activities along the continuum of prevention, intervention, suppression, and reentry services. Collaboration is essential in order to coordinate efforts and leverage program resources. The action plan will build on prior efforts and needs assessments, and draw upon promising national practices.

Key strategies of the plan include:

- Identification of key partners (e.g. education, business, faith community, youth & families) and alignment of efforts utilizing a collective impact approach.
- Development of a community focused communications campaign, employing a public health approach, to ignite cultural/social change and shed light on the social determinants of health.
- Development of an interdepartmental data sharing system to streamline communication and improve program/service delivery.

### **Monterey County Gang Task Force (GTF)**

The Monterey County Gang Task Force (GTF), a component of the Monterey County STING Task Force, is a Sheriff's Office and local law enforcement agencies partnership which works to insure a well-coordinated countywide enforcement program, and increase the flow of gang related information among law enforcement agencies. The GTF aims to: reduce gang related crimes by assisting law enforcement agencies with specific gang problems within their jurisdiction in coordination with law enforcement counterparts outside the County; share gang related information in a timely manner; provide training in the areas of gang related enforcement strategies; and conduct or coordinate public gang awareness presentations.

### **Silver Star Resource Center**

The Silver Star Resource Center is a comprehensive multi-agency collaborative which uses prevention and intervention services to avert and reduce gang association, membership and activities among youth ages 6-21. This nationally recognized model identifies precursors to gang association and uses evidence-based programs to minimize risk factors/strengthen protective factors to reduce recidivism. The Silver Star one-stop co-locates services and a multi-disciplinary approach combining probation supervision, education, vocation and job training, counseling services, truancy abatement, mentoring, community mobilization and outreach, and family support services for gang involved or at-risk youth. Maintaining stable and continuous funding for Silver Star is a top County priority.

### **Striving to Reduce Youth Violence Everywhere (STRYVE)**

The STRYVE initiative emphasizes a public health approach to youth violence, with a focus on primary prevention. This approach seeks to maximize the benefits of a healthy and safe community for the largest number of people. STRYVE partners have implemented three strategies to prevent youth violence: The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, Youth Empowerment Solutions (YES) program and Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED). Technical assistance from the Centers for Disease Control guides the Health Department's STRYVE initiative to prevent youth violence in Salinas and to assist the Countywide Gang Violence Prevention Initiative.

### **Truancy Abatement**

Truancy is often the first indicator that a youth will become gang involved. The Monterey County District Attorney (DA) office has a goal of eliminating/reducing truancy countywide. The DA's Truancy Abatement Unit works closely with schools and families to resolve issues related to truancy. However, resources are stretched resulting in some areas of the County being underserved.

### **National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention**

Congressman Sam Farr was instrumental in helping Monterey County and the City of Salinas be selected as one of six communities from across the nation to participate in the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention. This White House initiated forum fosters discussions between federal agencies and local entities regarding effective strategies to prevent youth and gang violence.

### **Requested Action / Strategy**

Support efforts to fund violence prevention and reduction efforts (e.g. Silver Star Resource Center, Monterey County GTF, and STRYVE); support a public health approach for violence prevention, community-wide collaborative efforts; continued participation in the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention.



**CONTACTS:** **Manny González**, Assistant County Administrative Officer  
(831) 755-5820 / gonzalezmt@co.monterey.ca.us

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION

*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.*

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 (CAP) 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 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.

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.

**CONTACT:**     **Marcia Parsons**, Chief Probation Officer  
(831) 755-3913 / parsonsm@co.monterey.ca.us