

MONTEREY COUNTY

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



2017-2018

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON 12/6/16

TABLE OF CONTENTS		PAGE
ABOUT MONTEREY COUNTY		
Key Industries Agriculture Hospitality	Education, Research & Military Health Care Non-Profits	4
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM & STRATEGIC GRANT SERVICES PROGRAM		
Legislative Program Strategic Grant Services Program	Board of Supervisors – Legislative Committee	5
LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES		
Economic Development - General Sustainable Job Growth Workforce Development & Working Families Affordable Housing Military Institutions Administration - General Local Revenue Generation Government Efficiency Civic Engagement Strategic Collaboration Health & Human Services - General Medicaid Waiver	Health & Human Services - CONTINUED Mental Health Public Health Social Services Infrastructure - General Environmental Review Water Resources Energy Land Preservation Agriculture Public Safety - General Violence Prevention	6-8
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES BY STRATEGIC INITIATIVE		
Economic Development <i>“Enhancing the Well-Being and Prosperity of Monterey County Residents”</i> Through collaboration, strengthen economic development to ensure a diversified and healthy economy.		
Labor Force Agriculture Tourism Education, Research & Military Strengthening County’s Military Missions Broadband Service	Housing Workforce Investment Youth Employment	9-11
Administration <i>“Efficient and Effective Government Operations”</i> Promote an organization that practices efficient and effective resource management and is recognized for responsiveness, strong customer orientation, accountability and transparency.		
Local Government Funding Federal and State Aid Discretionary Revenues Targeted Federal and State Advocacy		12

TABLE OF CONTENTS - <i>CONTINUED</i>		PAGE
<p align="center">Health & Human Services <i>“Health and Wellness for Monterey County Residents”</i> 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.</p>		
<i>Advancing Health Equity Through Public Health Prevention</i> <i>Affordable Care Act Implementation</i> <i>Underfunding of Medi-Cal & Medicare</i> <i>Medi-Cal 2000 Waiver</i> <i>Electronic Health Records & Health Information Exchange</i> <i>Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury or Dementia in the Criminal Justice System</i> <i>Early Childhood Development</i> <i>Promote Child Well-Being and Prevention of Child Abuse</i> <i>Sustain and Strengthen Safety Net and Employment Support Resources</i> <i>Assure Housing Opportunity for All</i> <i>Strengthen Resources for Seniors and People Living with Disability</i> <i>Honor our Veterans</i>		13-18
<p align="center">Infrastructure <i>“Meeting our Facilities, Water, Technology and Transportation Needs”</i> Plan and develop a sustainable physical infrastructure that improves the quality of life for County residents and supports economic development initiatives.</p>		
<i>Transportation</i> <i>Maintenance Improvements</i> <i>Capacity Improvements</i> <i>Safety Improvements</i> <i>Rail Expansion</i> <i>Active Transportation & Safe Routes to School</i>	<i>Water Resources Sustainability</i> <i>Enhance Water Supply</i> <i>Protect Water Resources & the Environment</i>	19-22
<p align="center">Public Safety <i>“Creating Safe Communities”</i> Reduce violent crime and homicides, create a safe environment for people to achieve their potential, leading business and communities to thrive and grow.</p>		
<i>Violence Prevention and Reduction</i> <i>County Violence Prevention and Reduction Initiatives</i> <i>County Collaborative Efforts</i> <i>National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention</i> <i>Federal Assistance for Public Safety</i> <i>Domestic Violence Prevention</i> <i>Governing for Racial Equity</i> <i>Emergency Preparedness</i>		23-24
POLICIES GOVERNING LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES		
<i>Board of Supervisors</i> <i>CAO-Intergovernmental & Legislative Affairs</i> <i>County Departments</i>	<i>County Advisory Board and Commissions</i> <i>Legislative Program Development</i> <i>Additional Policies</i>	25-31

ABOUT MONTEREY COUNTY

Monterey County, located on the Central Coast of California, encompasses 3,771 square miles (3,322 land/449 water) and includes 12 cities and 16 unincorporated areas. Salinas, the largest municipality, is the County seat. The U.S. Census estimates the County's population at 443,898: 58% Hispanic, 31% White, 6% Asian, 3% African American, and 2% other (2015).

Key Industries: Monterey County's economy is primarily based on agriculture in the Salinas Valley and tourism in the coastal regions. It is home to an extensive array of education and research institutions, and ten military missions. The health care, non-profit, and government sectors are also among the County's largest business sectors. The California Employment Development Department lists the County labor force at 229,300, with 5.7% unemployment (August 2016). The County of Monterey is the largest employer with 5,000 employees and a \$1.4 billion budget (FY2016-17).



Agriculture: Monterey County is one of the nation's top agricultural producers. Agriculture is the County's largest economic and employment sector generating \$8.1 billion annually and providing 76,054 jobs (*Economic Contributions of Monterey County Agriculture, 2014*).

Hospitality: Tourism is the County's second largest economic sector attracting 8.4 million visitors and generating \$2.7 billion, which supports 24,390 full-time jobs. With a worldwide reputation, visitors delight in destinations such as Big Sur, Pebble Beach, Carmel-by-the-Sea, and the Monterey Wine Country – and enjoy a wide range of recreational activities and nearly 300 special events.

Education, Research and Military: The Monterey Bay Area has a strong concentration of higher education and research institutions, particularly related to foreign language study, marine research, and international policy, with combined annual operating budgets of \$1.7 billion, directly employing over 14,000 faculty, staff and researchers with some 79,000 students are enrolled annually. The County has a long and proud military history and is home to ten military missions, providing significant local economic benefits.

Health Care: Monterey County has 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. This report did not include the economic contributions of the many county, not-for-profit, and private primary care, and specialty clinics.

Non-Profits: The non-profit 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. A recent study reported that the County has over 1,200 registered non-profits with an economic impact of \$1.5 billion, providing over 12,000 jobs.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM & STRATEGIC GRANT SERVICES PROGRAM

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Monterey County maintains a long-standing and successful Legislative Program, ensuring that the interests of the County are well represented in 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 designed 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.

STRATEGIC GRANT SERVICES PROGRAM

The Board of Supervisors created the Strategic Grants Services Program to concentrate funding efforts on the County's highest priority needs, and projects which require a high level of collaboration among County departments and community partners. The Strategic Grant Services Program works in alignment with the Board of Supervisors' Strategic Initiatives and in close collaboration with the Legislative Program to advocate for maximum funding for state and federal programs which translate into to locally available grant funding opportunities.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS – LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

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, and to direct the efforts of the Strategic Grant Services Program. On an annual basis, the Legislative Committee recommends a Legislative Program and Strategic Grant Services Program Work Plan 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 and grant consultants.

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LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

To ensure that Monterey County proactively supports, defends, or opposes any legislative or budget actions that impact County resources, operations, or the goals set forth in the Strategic Initiatives, the following legislative principles will guide County decisions and actions:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

General: Support the County's ability to enhance the quality of life, well-being, health, safety, livelihood, art, culture, recreation, housing, and education (e.g. early childhood development, cradle to career initiative) 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.

Sustainable Job Growth: Support efforts to fund development of 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.

Workforce Development and Working Families: Support efforts to fund workforce development initiatives (e.g. 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 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.

Affordable Housing: Support efforts that 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.

Military Installations: Support efforts to assist in military base reuse, especially the redevelopment of lands on the former Fort Ord, or to replace jobs lost because of the base closure. Support efforts to strengthen and expand the missions of military institutions in Monterey County, and oppose Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) or other proposals which aim to close or reduce programs or missions.

ADMINISTRATION

General: Support legislative and regulatory efforts that protect and enhance local governments' revenues, maximize County access to state and federal funding sources and increase local funding flexibility. Support efforts to increase local authority and control over revenues, governance, and service delivery – as well as protect the County against federal and 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. Protect the 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.

Local Revenue Generation: Support efforts that preserve the County’s autonomy as the fiscal manager, administrator, and policy-making entity related to County funds. Support expanded authority to generate voter approved revenues at the local level. Protect the County’s primary revenue sources: property, sales, and transient occupancy taxes. Oppose efforts to restrict, limit or eliminate local tax authority or to changes the tax-exempt status of municipal bond interest. Support the County’s authority to engage in public-private partnerships and other alternative financing mechanisms for infrastructure development.

Government Efficiency: Support efforts to modernize the governance structure of County divisions and agencies or enter into strategic partnerships to improve the 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. Support policies that promote net neutrality and open access to information in any format.

Civic Engagement: Support efforts to protect the constitutional rights and voting rights of County residents and the integrity of the election process.

Strategic Collaboration: In 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).

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

General: Assure that adequate protections are in place to provide equitable opportunities for all individuals to realize their full potential and provide for needed public health, safety, and social service programs. Support state and federal actions that promote the health and welfare of the County’s most vulnerable residents. Support efforts to fund, expand, coordinate, and improve the County’s health care safety net system. Support reforms to fully fund comprehensive health care programs, providers, and facilities for every resident, without adversely affecting the local economy and business community. Oppose funding cuts to critically important health and human service programs, such as Medicaid and Medicare, and efforts that reduce local flexibility in the implementation of such programs.

Medicaid Waiver: Support state efforts to negotiate renewed waivers with the federal government that enhance matches or provide additional Medicaid funding to California counties.

Mental Health: Support funding for, and policies that, assure parity for mental health and addictive disorder prevention and treatment.

Public Health: Support policies and funding that preserve and expand primary prevention and essential public health functions. Support efforts that foster social equity in the areas of health care access, education, disease prevention. Support efforts to provide safe neighborhoods and affordable housing needed to make healthy choices and to lead healthy lifestyles, with a focus on early childhood development, childhood obesity, maternal and child health, and youth violence. Support efforts to allow for streamlined information sharing to improve coordination of care and client outcomes.

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.

INFRASTRUCTURE

General: Support efforts to identify and secure funds for local transportation, water, energy, technology, government facility, housing, and community infrastructure projects. Support funding efforts to repair, upgrade or modernize transportation, wastewater collection and disposal systems, and other infrastructure projects or systems, particularly in areas where the associated infrastructure is aging and there is insufficient financial capacity to fund necessary improvements.

Environmental Review: Support efforts to reform environmental processes such as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to retain environmental protections while reforming the legal process to reduce abuses. Support efforts to align state and federal requirements, and to obtain, streamline and coordinate state and federal permit processes for public infrastructure/safety projects.

Water Resources: Support efforts to fund, manage and protect the County's water rights, water quality, water supply, groundwater sustainability, storm water, flood protection, and mediate the effects of climate change (e.g. drought, sea level rise).

Energy: 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 the County to manage an adequate renewable energy program (e.g. fees on oil, commercial solar).

Land Preservation: 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 or cultural significance. Support efforts to manage County open space lands (e.g. Fort Ord, Odello East, Hatton Canyon, Jack's Peak) 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 rural resources, coastal areas, and bio-diversity.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

General: Support funding for programs that assist the County with efforts aimed at reducing crime and enhancing public safety through community partnerships and multi-jurisdictional efforts. Support efforts to fund public safety facilities and equipment. Support funding for programs that assist the County with disaster response and preparedness and homeland security-related needs, including efforts at achieving communications interoperability. Support collaborative efforts to maintain and increase public safety, prevent and reduce the frequency, severity and impact of fire.

Violence Prevention: 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, especially youth 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, and 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) and other law offenders (e.g. human trafficking), 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)*.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

“Enhancing the Well-Being and Prosperity of Monterey County Residents”

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

Monterey County’s Economic Development Strategic Plan (2015) identifies the major areas of focus for future development as agriculture, tourism, education/research/military, and small business. These areas are based on the County’s existing major job creation engines, and fit with the vision and historical development pattern of the area. The Plan highlights the need for regional economic development activities that attract living-wage jobs compatible with the region’s environmental resources.

LABOR FORCE

The availability of skilled and unskilled labor is critical to the maintenance and enhancement of economic development activities across all sectors. Monterey County’s economy is primarily based on agriculture and tourism, both of which are highly dependent on an adequate labor supply. Current immigration policies make it increasingly difficult to meet these workforce needs. The agriculture industry contributes \$8.1 billion and 76,000 jobs, and the hospitality industry provides more than 24,000 jobs and contributes over \$2.7 billion to the local economy. However, industry sources report that they are increasingly affected by labor shortages which jeopardize the local economy, the hospitality industry, and the availability of agricultural goods for national and international shipment.

Key Objectives:

Support efforts to implement comprehensive federal immigration reform to ensure that Monterey County has an adequate labor supply for all economic sectors.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is the cornerstone of prosperity in Monterey County. Support for prime agricultural lands is critical to the economic vitality of the region, State, and nation. 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 also 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. Growing interest in the marijuana industry in Monterey County creates development pressures on agricultural lands that increase land values. Federal regulations restrict use of federally insured banks for marijuana revenue, requiring more cash transactions that cause safety and security concerns. State legalization of recreational marijuana use requires vigilance on behalf of the County to ensure State and local regulations and distribution of revenues/fees are fair, respect the County’s agricultural history, support jobs and economic development, and promote public safety in compliance with the law.

Key Objectives:

Support efforts to secure and enhance Monterey County’s water resources for agriculture (e.g. water rights, storage, reuse, financing); secure funding for transportation infrastructure that supports the agricultural industry; protect prime agricultural lands (Williamson Act); promote agriculture and agritourism; reduce federal regulation of financial institutions relative to revenues from marijuana – and support regulatory efforts and revenue/fee distribution formulas which adequately provide for the needs of local government.

TOURISM

Monterey County has an abundance of open/undeveloped space and 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 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. The attraction of recreational enthusiasts encourages the establishment of manufacturing, retail and service businesses which cater to the recreational equipment needs of visitors and residents. Tourism benefits can also be gained by collaborating 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, exacerbating the need to support transportation infrastructure projects which improve public safety, enhance roadway capacity, and improve coastal and trail access for residents and visitors.

Key Objectives:

Support efforts which promote tourism, eco-tourism, sustainable-tourism, and cultural-heritage tourism; partner with other agencies to leverage the benefits of tourism to increase economic growth, create jobs, generate tax revenue and boost U.S. exports; fund infrastructure improvements and capital projects that support visitor travel and tourism; and development of a regulatory process for large events that streamlines the process while addressing public health and safety needs.

EDUCATION, RESEARCH & MILITARY

The Monterey Bay Area has a diverse 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 fact, in 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 which provide many local jobs. Safeguarding and strengthening 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 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). Team Monterey and the Monterey Regional Defense Alliance are strong advocates for the preservation and expansion of military research and education missions to the area.

Key Objectives:

Support efforts by Team Monterey, the Monterey Regional Defense Alliance, and others to protect, strengthen and expand military missions located within Monterey County. Oppose Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) or other proposals, which would diminish local missions, negatively impacting our regional economy.

Broadband Service: A major impediment to business attraction is the lack of reliable County broadband coverage. The Central Coast Broadband Consortium is a broad based ad hoc group of local governments and agencies, economic development proponents, education and health organizations, community groups and private businesses, dedicated to improving service in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito counties. Expanding broadband service throughout the region is important to the County's economic health – and supports the education, medical, military, and research industries.

Key Objective:

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

HOUSING

Available housing is integral to the health and well-being of 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. New permanent financing sources are needed to address housing needs at all income levels and to provide adequate housing subsidies for 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.

Key Objectives:

Support efforts that provide permanent funding to encourage and facilitate affordable housing production to meet County needs, especially rental housing, and housing for special need populations, with a preference for infill projects; reform housing element law; and collaborative efforts to solve farm worker housing shortages and growing pressures on resources addressing homeless encampments.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT

The Workforce Investment Board coordinates and leverages local 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 funding through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to manage programs to assist with local workforce investment needs.

Key Objectives:

Support funding through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), including expanded 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 for preventing youth violence and bringing hope and opportunity to communities. Such programs 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 employment 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. 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.

Key Objectives:

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.

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STRATEGIC INITIATIVE: 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.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

It is essential that the County work to protect and enhance local government revenues, maximize access to State and Federal funding sources and increase local funding flexibility. Local authority and control over revenues, governance, and service delivery – as well as protection against mandates that constrict the County’s ability to manage its own affairs is essential. Efforts must be supported which provide funding or reimbursement at the actual cost of doing business for County administered programs, projects and responsibilities and vigilantly oppose unfunded mandates and the imposition of unreasonable or unnecessary legislative or regulatory burdens that add costs or risks to operations.

Federal and State Aid: Monterey County receives funding from the Federal and State government to administer health, welfare, and public safety programs. The County also receives revenue from competitive grant programs. Total Federal and State aid for fiscal year 2016-17 is estimated at 41% of total financing. Social service and health programs rely heavily upon, and are the largest recipients of this aid. However, funding to counties to deliver required services has not kept pace with costs.

Discretionary Revenues: The County’s primary discretionary revenue sources are property, sales, and transient occupancy taxes. These revenues support most County services and basic functions (e.g. public safety, criminal justice, health, public assistance, land use, recreation, environment, administration).

Targeted Federal and State Advocacy: The County’s state and federal legislative advocacy efforts work to support or defend legislative, regulatory or budget actions that impact resource, operation, revenue or funding opportunities for County projects and programs. The Board of Supervisors has a Legislative Program and Strategic Grant Services Program to aid County departments in legislative efforts and priority project grant applications. These programs work in close collaboration to advocate for maximum state and federal program funding which translates into locally available funding opportunities. The County’s lobbyists and grant consultants are key to these efforts, working with state and federal agency staff to shape rulemakings and guidance for programs that impact County finances and operations.

Key Objectives:

Support efforts to secure and enhance State and Federal revenues and funding for local government operations and programs; preserve the County’s autonomy as the fiscal manager, administrator, and policy-making entity related to County funds; and to expand authority to generate voter approved revenues at the local level. Support efforts to modernize the governance structure of County divisions and agencies or enter into strategic partnerships to improve the efficient delivery of government services. Support efforts to enhance and equitably distribute constitutionally guaranteed funds to counties for realigned public safety, health, and human services programs.

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STRATEGIC INITIATIVE: 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.

ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY THROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH PREVENTION

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. 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 access to health care. The County supports a broad system-wide and public health prevention approach to reduce 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.

Key Objectives:

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.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is helping Monterey County move closer to achieving its health care goals. While not a perfect system, the ACA has expanded coverage and provided opportunities to advance health care to millions of Californians, ensuring that low-income, Medi-Cal, and uninsured patients have access to high quality care. At the center of these improvements is the public health care safety net system. The County is 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 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.

Repeal of the ACA would severely weaken the County’s efforts to provide access to quality health care for its most vulnerable residents. Legislative proposals to repeal the ACA should be accompanied by provisions that protect the coverage for those currently receiving such protection, and, at a minimum, include repeal of the reductions in Medicare and Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital payments that support those facilities that take care of high volumes of uninsured, low-income, and disabled County residents.

Key Objectives:

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. Oppose efforts to repeal the ACA.

UNDERFUNDING OF 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.

Key Objectives:

Support efforts to provide higher Medi-Cal and Medicare reimbursement levels for inpatient and outpatient services, and substance abuse disorders. Supports expansion of coverage for low-income individuals and families and seniors through the Medi-Cal and Medicare programs.

MEDI-CAL 2020 WAIVER

In December 2015, the federal Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) approved Medi-Cal 2020 - a five-year renewal of California's Section 1115 Medicaid Waiver, which funds programs that shift the focus from hospital-based/inpatient care, to outpatient, primary and preventive care. In California 1 in 3 residents are enrolled in Medi-Cal and 3 million remain uninsured. The Waiver allows the continued implementation of the Affordable Care Act and improves health care delivery for low-income patients.

California's 21 public health care systems (PHS) are key to Medi-Cal 2020's success, serving +40% of the remaining uninsured and the 25% Medi-Cal population. Though just 6% of California's health care systems, PHS serve over 2.85 million patients a year, provide 10.5 million outpatient visits annually, operate over half of the top-level trauma and burn centers, and train more than half of all new doctors. The PHS essential safety net mission and mandate – to provide access to care to everyone, regardless of insurance status, ability to pay, or other circumstance – can only be maintained if these systems can also attract, retain, and compete for newly covered patients.

Medi-Cal 2020 provides PHS incentives and opportunities to achieve long-term strategic goals which support their safety net role and ability to compete. PHS intend to do so by becoming models of integrated care that are high value, high quality, patient-centered, efficient and equitable, with great patient experience and a demonstrated ability to improve health care and the health status of populations. Medi-Cal 2020 features four new programs that aim to improve care for the State's Medi-Cal and remaining uninsured patients:

- Public Hospital Redesign and Incentives in Medi-Cal (PRIME), a pay-for-performance delivery system transformation and alignment program with the opportunity for PHS to receive federal incentive payments over the course of the waiver across the three domains of Outpatient Delivery System Transformation and Prevention, Targeted High-Risk or High-Cost Populations, and Resource Utilization Efficiency;
- Global Payment Program, an innovative patient reform program for services to the uninsured in California's PHS, combining most of California's annual federal Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) allotment with federal funds previously designated as the Safety Net Care Pool;
- Whole Person Care, a pilot program to provide more integrated care to the highest-risk and most vulnerable patients with federal funding over five years for select counties; and
- Dental Transformation Initiative, an incentive program with federal funding to increase the frequency and quality of dental care provided to children.

Key Objectives:

Support the implementation of the Medi-Cal 2020 Waiver for California and its PHS to lead the nation towards care for low-income and vulnerable patients that emphasizes preventative and patient-centered care in the right place at the right time.

ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS & HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Natividad Medical Center and the Monterey County Health Department have made significant progress in the integration and implementation of electronic medical records which reduces the need to gather redundant patient information at multiple sites, improves continuity of care, and maintains patient privacy protections. This implementation gives medical providers immediate access to a patient's inpatient, outpatient, behavioral health, and community health records - which supports the provision of comprehensive, safe, and effective medical care. Public health officials' access to health data is essential to the development of public health policies and programs which reduce chronic and infectious disease and health care costs. The capture and availability of secure patient-care data using health information technology across the continuum of care through the formation of a local health information exchange is underway, with safety net and private providers participating – which will enhance patient safety, promote information for preventative health, and reduce health care costs. Additionally, constraints on sharing medical information for those with substance abuse conditions are affecting care coordination and subsequent client outcomes.

Key Objectives:

Support efforts to provide funding for electronic health records integration and implementation so health information exchange efforts can expand. Support changes in federal substance abuse confidentiality rules to allow for streamlined information sharing.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Mental illness and substance abuse disorders (behavioral health) are serious public health issues. The Affordable Care Act has improved behavioral health service delivery, but additional funding and reforms are needed. 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. The County needs expanded mental health beds and program space both in its adult detention facility and mental health facility. Due to the limitations of the detention facility, mentally ill inmates are housed in a variety of locations which creates challenges and security issues. Funding is needed for the construction of dedicated mental health beds, individual and group mental health therapy and program space, safety cells, and in and out of custody offender programming needs. The County's only locked 5150 mental health facility is located 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.

Key Objectives:

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.

PERSONS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY OR DEMENTIA IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Monterey County, and counties throughout the State, face significant challenges related to the appropriate placement, treatment, and funding for individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI) or dementia, accused of violent acts but deemed incompetent to stand trial. Such persons that exhibit violent behavior are generally not restorable to competency. Recent court cases have compelled Public Guardians to conserve these individuals under Murphy's conservatorships as set forth under the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act. This inappropriate classification results in significant delays in finding supportive placement for these individuals, as none exists in California. Insufficient care and support is the result, and if incarceration or holding options are exhausted, they pose potential danger to the public upon their release. Consequently, counties are unduly burdened with ongoing and likely inappropriately determined conservatorship requirements.

Key Objectives:

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

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

In Monterey County, nearly one in ten residents are under the age of five. According to the 2014 American Community Survey of the Census, 27% of these children live in poverty, and 71% of infants were born to low-income families. Research clearly shows that for these children to thrive they need good health and quality early learning experiences that unfold within strong family environments. Without early intervention these children are likely to experience adverse consequences into adulthood - resulting in higher health care costs, a poorly educated workforce, and lifelong dependence on public assistance. Targeted interventions to improve conditions during early childhood offer a greater return on investment than interventions later in life. With a strong investment in early childhood development, these children will instead contribute to the local economy through increased human productivity.

Key Objectives:

Support efforts to increase eligibility and funding for programs which promote the physical, emotional, and social wellbeing of children (e.g. prenatal care; Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); developmental screening; social and emotional mental health care; and early interventions). Support quality, affordable early care and learning environments for all (e.g. increases in childcare/preschool slots, workforce incentives, increased state/federal subsidies, streamlined eligibility/verification requirements, improved information systems for parents/providers, training for licensed exempt providers). Support efforts to expand funding for paid family leave, home visiting, basic needs, and adult education (e.g. Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP); Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), WIC).

PROMOTE CHILD WELL-BEING AND PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE

Monterey County continues to pride itself in having a strong child welfare system that invests substantial local discretionary funds into child abuse prevention and early intervention programs. However, many community demographics ranging from overcrowded and unstable housing to substance abuse and youth violence challenge child well-being and can result in childhood trauma. In 2016, the Monterey County Department of Social Services initiated a community dialogue to develop a Roadmap to Child Well-Being. The dialogue is being facilitated by the American Public Human Services Association with support of the staff to the National Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities, and includes national, state and local stakeholders.

Key Objectives:

Support policies that expand funding for child abuse prevention services and preserve resources for foster care placement when necessary. Support policies to improve the integration of data among youth serving agencies, including child welfare, public assistance, behavioral, physical health, education, and law enforcement. Support funding to assist with housing for children and emancipating foster youth. Support funding for social work workforce development and education programs.

SUSTAIN AND STRENGTHEN SAFETY NET AND EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT RESOURCES

Safety net services are a critical element of community well-being that help struggling households survive and thrive. According to the 2015 American Community Survey 15% of all Monterey County residents have incomes below the federal poverty level (FPL) and 27% of children live in poverty. When the high cost of living in Monterey County is taken into consideration – effective poverty rate climbs. The FPL represents a bare minimum threshold. A better standard is the self-sufficiency standard budget which considers average costs for various household budget items (housing, food, childcare, etc.). Using this standard, 59% of households with children in Monterey County have annual incomes below the self-sufficiency standard.

Key Objectives:

Support funding for basic assistance to households who work in lower wage jobs, are underemployed or are unemployed through CalFresh and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, child care programs, Community Action programs and the CalWORKs/Temporary Assistance to Needy Family (TANF) programs. Support funding for programs that help prevent homelessness and rapidly secure housing (HUD Homeless Assistance, CalWORKs Housing Support). Support improvements to the TANF program to modify work participation requirements to better match individual family needs and local economic circumstances and to recognize additional costs to communities as a result of ongoing funding stagnation. Support expansion of wage subsidy programs for households served by both CalFresh/SNAP and CalWORKs/TANF – these programs have proven to be effective local resources for promoting self-sufficiency and establishing positive work history.

ASSURE HOUSING OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

Housing is an essential human need. The deepening homelessness crisis facing communities across California and the United States takes a toll on those who live without appropriate shelter and housing, as well as the community as a whole. In the 2015 Monterey County Homeless Census there were 2,308 homeless individuals who could be counted during the point-in-time census; 678 of these individuals had temporary shelter and 1,630 were unsheltered. According to the California Department of Education, 9.6% of students in kindergarten through 12th grade met the broader definition of homeless used by education. This staggering figure is matched by data from the American Community Survey which states that 39.8% of children live in crowded housing.

Key Objectives:

Support efforts to expand housing subsidies to prevent loss of housing and provide long-term assistance to sustain housing. Support efforts that encourage and facilitate the production of housing that is attainable to households at or below 30% of average median income. Support additional resources for local shelter, transitional, and permanent supportive housing programs.

STRENGTHEN RESOURCES FOR SENIORS AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITY

Long-term services and supports help individuals challenged by age, illness, and disability to live successfully and independently in their homes and communities. Years of funding erosion has taken a toll on service capacity and strains the ability of local agencies to provide fiscal, health and social supports to seniors, people with disabilities, and caregivers. It is difficult for the Aging and Disability Services Network to maintain existing safety net services. Demand for services is rising as families struggle to support and care for older relatives, and the number of older adults who struggle to make ends meet is increasing. Out of pocket medical expenses, lack of sufficient assets, rising housing costs, depreciating housing values, and fixed budgets are major causes of economic insecurity. Without additional resources to address these growing needs, local communities are unprepared to adequately respond to the needs of this growing population. – Further, the population of people who are 60 years old or older is growing – 16% of County population in 2014 and projected at 24% by 2030. The Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for these seniors is 8.2% (2015), however the Elder Economic Security Standard Index (Elder Index) accounts for cost of living differences and more accurate estimates the County's senior poverty rate at 27.6% (2011), three times the FPL.

Key Objectives:

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, housing support for seniors and people living with disability, and transportation programs).

HONOR OUR VETERANS

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. Expanded local resources are needed for veterans and their families to assist in successful reintegration into civilian life (e.g. successful family reintegration, employment, housing, and services to address disabilities and post-traumatic stress). To this end, the County supports improved access to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits and service expansion; establishment of a County Veterans Drop-In Center; Veterans Stand Down events and other outreach efforts; Veteran Courts/Veterans Justice Outreach; maintenance of the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery at former Fort Ord and establishment of in ground burial; and establishment of a State Veterans Home in Monterey County.

Key Objectives:

Support efforts 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. Support efforts to fund local Veterans Drop-In Centers that provide veterans and their families with a trusted community support resource. Support additional funding needed to grow and sustain the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery at the former Fort Ord.

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STRATEGIC INITIATIVE: INFRASTRUCTURE

“Meeting our Facilities, Water, Technology and Transportation Needs”

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

TRANSPORTATION

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/bike facilities, transit, and rail. Transportation systems should meet industry and 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. The County's transportation infrastructure has many needs including pavement maintenance, adequate facilities for pedestrian/bike travel, transit, and rail services, and for improvements such as shoulder additions, adding vehicle lanes to roadways, repair/replacement of aging bridges, and other safety improvements.

Maintenance Improvements: The County maintains 1,200+ road miles and 174 bridges, for which funding to provide an acceptable maintenance program is woefully inadequate. Deferred road maintenance results in rapid deterioration and compromise of roadway structural integrity and exponentially increases repair costs. The 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 (e.g. proposed State Route 156 widening project) to increase 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.

Rail Expansion: Expansion of rail service to Monterey County provides many benefits, including: improved access and connections for local, regional, and interregional travel; decreased highway congestion; enhanced goods movement; and environmentally sound transportation serving a variety of travel markets and transportation needs. Rail expansion also promotes mixed-use, transit-oriented development, affordable housing, livable communities, and economic growth around rail stations.

Active Transportation & Safe Routes to School: Active Transportation and Safe Routes to Schools programs promote active transportation for daily trips to and from schools – and address health, physical activity, and traffic safety issues while tackling air pollution and climate change.

Key Objectives:

Support efforts to develop and fund the capital, maintenance, safety, capacity, and operation of County transportation infrastructure: local roads, bridges, pedestrian/bike facilities, transit (e.g., Marina-Salinas Multimodal Corridor), and expanded rail access (e.g. Salinas Rail Extension, Coast Daylight, and Monterey Branch Line projects). Support efforts to increase funding for Active Transportation and Safe Routes to School projects. Support efforts to streamline the regulatory process to repair and maintain public infrastructure, which reduces costs.

WATER RESOURCES SUSTAINABILITY

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (WRA) manages, protects, stores, and conserves water resources in Monterey County for all beneficial uses, while minimizing damage from flooding to create a safe and sustainable water supply for present and future generations. WRA operates Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs for flood management and water supply (groundwater recharge) purposes. Additionally, WRA operates a distribution system that delivers roughly 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% 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, chromium, 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 is most dependent on 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 (e.g. nitrates, arsenic); environmental requirements from regulatory agencies/environmentally challenging issues; development of additional supplies (e.g. Interlake Tunnel, desalination projects); 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 and communities often lack the economic means to do so. Typical solutions include consolidation with a 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 is 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 to increase water storage capacity and achieve environmental and water conservation release efficiencies. The project may require legislative or regulatory actions for completion.
- **Salinas Valley Water Project, Phase II:** This project would 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.
- **Expansion of Existing Recycled Water Project:** This project builds upon the success of existing recycled water usage near the coast in the Salinas Valley by expanding infrastructure to additional acreage.
- **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.
- **Water Treatment Plant:** A project to construct a surface water treatment plant utilizing technologies to clean existing contaminated water for delivery to urban and/or agricultural users.
- **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 the Pure Water Monterey (PWM) project.
- **Pure Water Monterey (PWM) Project:** The PWM 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.

Key Objectives:

Support efforts to provide adequate funds for efforts aimed at agricultural water supply/sustainability, safe drinking water for all County residents, local regulation of large and small drinking water systems and domestic wells, and sufficient funding for the California Drinking Water Program. Support efforts to secure legislative, funding and regulatory approvals to advance Monterey County water supply projects, and to protect and preserve Permit #11043 water rights.

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 damage 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 participating in the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program. Additionally, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) calls for the establishment of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, which are required to develop Groundwater Sustainability Plans for each groundwater basin within their jurisdiction.

Potential Projects to Protect Water Resources and the Environment

- ***Salinas River Management Program – Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP):*** This program 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.
- ***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.
- ***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 (SGMA):*** Develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to fulfill long-term sustainability of groundwater basins as required by the SGMA.
- ***Aquatic Invasive Species: Quagga and Zebra Mussel Prevention Program:*** This project includes a vessel inspection and education program aimed at preventing the infestation of Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio from aquatic invasive species (e.g. Quagga or Zebra mussels). Funding for the development and ongoing operation of a statewide vessel tracking database is important in this infestation prevention effort.

Key Objectives:

Support legislative and funding efforts and necessary 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 HCP, Groundwater Sustainability). Support regional wastewater collection and recycling efforts; and the disposition of County sanitation districts to public utility purveyors.

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STRATEGIC INITIATIVE: 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.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION

The Board of Supervisors has identified gang violence prevention and reduction as a top priority. Monterey County is home to 70+ gangs, with an estimated 5,000 certified and affiliated gang members. The County's youth gang involvement is especially troubling. In the last two Violence Policy Center's annual studies *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 (2012, 2013). The County seeks support for efforts to prevent and reduce violence, especially gang violence, through collaborative, community-wide violence prevention and law enforcement programs.

County Violence Prevention and Reduction Initiatives: Monterey County has a full array of County-led initiatives designed to prevent and reduce gang violence utilizing a public health approach to address its underlying causes – including prevention, intervention, enforcement, and reentry initiatives (e.g. Monterey County Gang Violence Prevention Initiative; Silver Star Resource Center; Striving to Reduce Youth Violence Everywhere (STRYVE); and Truancy Abatement). Each of these areas would benefit greatly from additional federal and state support.

County Collaborative Efforts: The County is also involved in other countywide collaborative efforts such as the Community Alliance for Safety and Peace (CASP) in Salinas, Four Cities for Peace (4C4P) in South County, the Blue Ribbon Panel in Seaside, and Building Healthy Communities in East Salinas. In addition, there is an identified need to expand services and collaborations in the North County communities of Pajaro and Castroville.

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. The County continues to support this White House initiated forum that fosters discussions between federal agencies and local entities regarding effective strategies to prevent youth and gang violence.

Federal Assistance for Public Safety: Monterey County's federal advocacy program related to violence prevention is focused on supporting U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) programs that provide critical support to county courts and corrections, juvenile justice, and law enforcement agencies. These programs include, but are not limited to, the Byrne/Justice Assistance Grant Program, which helps counties across nation test emerging and evidence-based approaches to the public safety challenges facing their jurisdictions, and the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), which reimburses counties for costs associated with the incarceration of undocumented immigrants. These DOJ programs provide critical support to the County's efforts to safely lower jail populations, fight recidivism and combat drug trafficking while providing treatment and alternatives to incarceration.

Domestic Violence Prevention: 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.

Key Objectives:

Support federal and state efforts to fund violence prevention and reduction efforts and local law enforcement programs designed to reduce violence, especially gang violence; support a public health approach for violence prevention and community-wide collaborative efforts; support continued participation in the National Forum on Youth 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.

GOVERNING FOR RACIAL EQUITY

Despite progress in addressing explicit discrimination, racial inequities continue across the country. Racial inequities exist across all indicators for success, including in education, criminal justice, jobs, housing, public infrastructure, and health, regardless of region. Identifying and addressing the root causes of racial and ethnic disparities is needed to understand the unintended consequences of policies, systems and institutional biases which may marginalize communities (communities of color). Working in partnership with the California Endowment, Monterey County seeks to create learning opportunities for County leadership to identify ways in which to best implement Governing for Racial Equity practices that have been proven to be successful.

Key Objective:

Support efforts to fund and implement proven Governing for Racial Equity practices.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Monterey County is potentially vulnerable to a wide range of natural and manmade hazards. These hazards can threaten the life and safety of residents and visitors, and have the potential to damage or destroy both public and private property and disrupt the local economy and overall quality of life. The County seeks funding to improve its readiness in preventing, protecting against, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies.

Key Objectives:

Support funding for programs that assist the County with disaster response and preparedness and homeland security-related needs, including efforts aimed at achieving communications interoperability.

PUBLIC SAFETY CONTACTS

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LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

POLICIES GOVERNING LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

Monterey County recognizes the need to advocate its interests in Sacramento and Washington D.C. The Board of Supervisors annually sets forth a Legislative Program, which is executed by the County Administrative Office – Intergovernmental & Legislative Affairs Division (IGLA), under the direction of the Board’s Legislative Committee and with the assistance of the County’s state and federal legislative advocates. To this end, the following protocol shall be followed:

I. Board of Supervisors

- a. Policy Direction: As the elected legislative body charged with making policy decisions for Monterey County, the Board of Supervisors shall direct the County’s legislative efforts through the annual adoption of a Legislative Program in alignment with the Board’s Strategic Initiatives, or via subsequent Board direction.
- b. Legislative Committee Roles & Responsibilities: The Board of Supervisors’ Legislative Committee shall provide direction, recommendations, and guidance related to the execution of the Legislative Program as outlined in the Legislative Committee Roles and Responsibilities. The Legislative Committee Chair shall approve Legislative Committee meeting agendas.
- c. Board Referral of Legislative Items: Board members may refer items to the Legislative Committee for review and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. Referred items shall be sent to IGLA staff, who shall obtain the approval of the Legislative Committee Chair prior to adding referred items to a meeting agenda.
- d. Individual Board Member Legislative Positions: Members of the Board of Supervisors may, as individual members, publicly state their position on issues – but may not state that their position is that of the Board of Supervisors or Monterey County unless the issue is in the Legislative Program, or has come before the Board and received approval by a majority of its members.
- e. Ballot Initiatives: The Board of Supervisors may consider positions on ballot initiatives once qualified, and upon the review recommendation of the Legislative Committee.
- f. Representation on the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Board of Directors: The Board of Supervisors shall nominate Board members represent Monterey County as director and alternate to the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Board of Directors. As the County representative the director or alternate shall render votes consistent with the Legislative Program or subsequent majority action by the Board of Supervisors. Issues not addressed shall, if time permits, be reviewed for recommendation by the Legislative Committee, or if time is of the essence, be sent directly to the Board for consideration. The CSAC director or alternate shall report actions taken at the CSAC Board of Directors meetings to the Legislative Committee.

II. County Administrative Office: Intergovernmental & Legislative Affairs Division (IGLA)

- a. IGLA Role: IGLA staffs the Legislative Committee and develops and executes the County’s Legislative Program which provides authority to undertake legislative advocacy efforts on behalf of the County. IGLA staff serves as Board’s independent legislative analyst, serving under the policy direction of the Board, and reporting to the County Administrative Officer.
- b. Legislative Monitoring & Advocacy: IGLA has responsibility to identify and monitor state and federal bills of interest to Monterey County, and to attempt to influence the legislative process in furtherance of the County’s interests under the guidance of the Legislative Committee and in

coordination with County departments and the County's state and federal legislative advocates. IGLA shall maintain a list of monitored bills along with bill status, and County actions taken.

- c. Legislative Contracts: IGLA administers the contracts and directs the activities of the County's state and federal legislative advocates.
- d. Communication: IGLA provides the primary communication link between the Board of Supervisors, County departments, and the County's state and federal legislative advocates regarding the County's legislative objectives.
- e. Program Direction & Authority: IGLA direction and authority is provided by the Board of Supervisors annually adopted Legislative Program and subsequent Board direction. IGLA shall seek authorization from the Board of Supervisors prior to acting on items not included in the Legislative Program.
- f. Bill analysis: IGLA shall, in coordination with department experts, and the County's legislative advocates, analyze bills that have potential impacts to the County.
- g. Correspondence & Lobbying: IGLA shall attempt to impact legislative outcomes through correspondence or lobbying as authorized under the Legislative Program or at the direction of the Board of Supervisors or Legislative Committee. Copies of legislative correspondence shall be provided to Board offices and the Clerk of the Board.
- h. Testimony: IGLA shall, in coordination with department experts, members of the Board of Supervisors, and the County's legislative advocates, provide testimony on legislative initiatives as appropriate.
- i. Grants Funding Advocacy: IGLA shall actively support the efforts of the Strategic Grant Services Program, which aims to obtain grant funding for priority projects identified by the Board of Supervisors. Legislative efforts will attempt to increase federal and state program funding which if authorized will translate into increased County funding opportunities.
- j. Grant Support Letters: IGLA will facilitate letters of support of County grant applications from the Board of Supervisors or the County's legislative delegation as requested by County departments, or from outside agencies when the project is in alignment with County interests.

III. County Departments

- a. Request for County Sponsored Legislation: Departments wishing to submit legislative proposals shall submit appropriate materials to IGLA in order to schedule review and recommendation by the Board's Legislative Committee.
- b. Request for County Action on Legislation: Departments shall contact IGLA staff to determine if legislative items fall under the authority of the Legislative Program, and if so work with IGLA staff to develop a position letter from the Board.
- c. Department Legislative Activities: Departments shall not take actions in conflict with the positions of the Board of Supervisors, Legislative Program, or subsequent Board action. Departments shall keep the Board informed of legislative activities by informing IGLA staff and reporting to the Legislative Committee.
- d. Department Impacts: Departments shall alert IGLA staff when they become aware of legislation which may have an impact on department funding and/or operations.

- e. Contract Legislative Advocates: County departments shall inform the Board of Supervisors through IGLA staff of any contract legislative advocates hired.
- f. Positions on Non-Legislative Matters: Departments may take positions on non-legislative matters that affect department operations (procedural/technical).
- g. Legislative Correspondence by Appointed Department Head: County departments may, under their appointed department head's signature, transmit legislative correspondence on issues in alignment with the Legislative Program or subsequent action by the Board of Supervisors. Departments shall copy IGLA staff on all such correspondence for distribution to the Board and the County's state and/or federal legislative advocates.
- h. Legislative Correspondence by Elected Department Head: Elected County officials may as individuals, or on behalf of their department, transmit letters or make public their position on legislative issues. Departments shall not state their position as being that of the County unless it is included in the Legislative Program or subsequent action by the Board of Supervisors. Elected officials are requested to copy IGLA staff on all such correspondence for distribution to the Boards and the County's state and/or federal legislative advocates.
- i. Testimony: County departments shall inform the Board of Supervisors if they are providing testimony on legislative matters by informing the IGLA staff.
- j. Meetings: County departments shall inform the Board of Supervisors if they are meeting with the County's legislative advocates, legislators, and/or legislative or committee staff by informing the IGLA staff.
- k. Grant Support Letters: County departments shall contact IGLA staff to solicit appropriate support from federal and state legislators and others as appropriate for high priority County grant applications prior their submission.

IV. Legislative Advocacy by County Advisory Boards and Commissions

- a. Coordination with County Department: Advisory boards and commissions of the Board of Supervisors shall make legislative recommendations through their respective County departments.
- b. Legislative Correspondence: Advisory boards and commissions of the Board of Supervisors shall provide copies of all correspondence they initiate on legislative items to the Board of Supervisors by providing copies to IGLA staff.
- c. Legislative Actions or Advocacy: All legislative actions or advocacy efforts undertaken by advisory boards and commissions of the Board of Supervisors shall be in alignment with the Board of Supervisors Legislative Program, or subsequent Board Action.

V. Legislative Program Development

- a. Development: Each Fall IGLA staff shall begin the process of development of the Legislative Program for the next calendar year. IGLA shall solicit input on the Program from Board Members and County departments.
- b. Recommendation & Approval: The draft Legislative Program will be presented to the Board of Supervisors Legislative Committee for review and recommend to the Board of Supervisors. The Board generally considers Program approval in December.

- c. Distribution: IGLA staff shall distribute the County's adopted Legislative Program to the Board of Supervisors, County departments, legislative advocates, and legislators. The documents shall also be posted on the County's website.

VI. Additional Policies

- a. Campaigning & Political Activities: The County Administrative Officer has set forth guidelines which address campaigning and political activities and the wearing or displaying of political materials by County employees. These guidelines can be found in a memorandum dated 10/28/16 – **EXHIBIT A.**
- b. Paying for a Legislator's Meals: County Counsel has addressed the legality of reimbursement of members of the Board of Supervisors or County Department Heads if they pay for a legislator's meals. This guidance can be found in a memorandum dated 5/7/07 – **EXHIBIT B.**

MEMORANDUM

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE



DATE: October 28, 2016
TO: All County Employees
FROM: Lew C. Bauman
 County Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: Guidelines Regarding Campaigning and Political Activities
 Guidance Regarding Wearing or Displaying Political Materials

Guidelines Regarding Campaigning and Political Activities

This memorandum sets forth County guidelines regarding campaigning and political activities. It serves as a reminder to employees to respect State and local laws limiting political activity in the workplace. No employee gives up their constitutional rights by joining County service; however, laws designed to ensure the appropriate use of the public resources with which we are entrusted must be observed.

California law prohibits the use of public funds to campaign for or against candidates or ballot measures. Public funds include the use of public employees' paid time, as well as all other County resources (e.g. facilities, cars, phones, copier/fax machines, computers, email, supplies, etc.). State law specifically precludes local agency employees from participating in political activities of any kind while in uniform. Exercising their authority under State law, the Board of Supervisors has established local regulations, which restrict both campaigning during work hours and campaigning on County premises which are included in Chapter 11.53 of the Monterey County Code.

Respecting individual rights, restrictions on public employees' political activities are strictly limited to: (1) conduct during work hours; (2) the use of County property/premises; and (3) conduct while in uniform. No State or local laws should be interpreted as restricting a public employee's participation in lawful political activity which does not involve any of these three elements. In keeping with our focus on customer service, nothing prohibits a County employee at any time from providing public records, objective, unbiased and balanced factual information in response to a citizen's inquiry regarding a ballot measure.

First Amendment rights to free expression are not sacrificed upon assuming public employment with the County. Staff, on personal time, may sign their name to letters, newspaper editorials, or other written documents that advocate political positions. However, to avoid risk of confusion that the name listed in support or opposition of a political issue represents an official position of the County, any statement should clearly indicate that it is the individual's personal view and should not be on County letterhead, or otherwise be represented as an official County endorsement. Careful judgement should be exercised depending upon the circumstances and the

employee's position. Official County editorials, press releases, or official statements should be coordinated with the County Public Information Officer, Maia Carroll, who can be reached at (831) 796-3092.

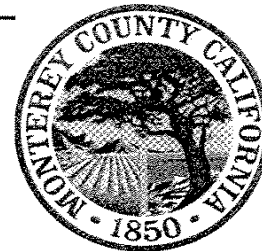
Guidance Regarding Wearing or Displaying Campaign/Political Materials

This memorandum further sets forth County guidance with respect to wearing (e.g. clothing, buttons, and badges) or displaying (e.g. signs, bumper stickers) campaign and other political materials while on County time or property. This policy is not intended to apply to collective bargaining activities. Because each individual case must be determined on its own particular facts, the following is intended to be a set of guidelines only.

While on County property, County employees may: (1) wear campaign or other political materials during non-working hours; (2) wear campaign or other political materials during working hours, except in the limited circumstance where the views expressed by the campaign badge or button may be attributed to the County; and (3) display campaign or other political materials on their personal vehicles.

County employees may not: (1) wear campaign or other political materials while wearing a uniform identifying his/her office or position with the County, whether on or off County property; and (2) affix campaign or other political materials on County vehicles.

Public employees have many ways to exercise their right to promote or oppose candidates and ballot measures. The key is to not use the public's time, money, or other resources to do so.



MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL
COUNTY OF MONTEREY

DATE: May 16, 2007

TO: Members of the Board of Supervisors and Department Heads

FROM: Charles J. McKee, County Counsel

RE: Paying for a Legislator's Meals

Issue: Every Year I am asked a similar question: Can I be reimbursed for the cost of a meal when meeting with a legislator or their aide if we discussed County Business?

CONCLUSION: No. Such reimbursements are not proper charges against the County.

DISCUSSION: As a general law county, we are only authorized to do what is specified in State law or reasonably inferred there from. California Constitution Art. 11, sec. 1(b). The California Constitution authorizes compensation for County officers in general and California Government Code section 50023 authorizes reimbursement of County expenses for attending meetings with legislators for lobbying purposes. Since Government Code section 50023 allows for reimbursement of actual cost to a County employee for lobbying legislators, one would reasonably think that the cost of the legislator's meals would also qualify as a "reasonably inferred" cost. However, according to the California Attorney General, reimbursement for legislator's meals is not a valid cost because it is not "incident" to the lobbying effort. In other words, County officers can convey the information necessary to affect legislation without buying the meals and therefore it is not reasonably inferred from the lobbying reimbursement statute (section 50023) that legislator's meals should be a proper cost to the County. 66 Ops. Cal. Atty Gen. 186 and 85 Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 210. Although an opinion of the Attorney General is not binding on the County, it does carry great weight in Court and therefore we recommend it be followed.

If you have any questions, please contact me or your department representative in my Office.


CHARLES J. McKEE