
SONOMA COUNTY



2012 STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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Sonoma County 2012 Legislative Program

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General Guidelines

Sonoma County 2012 Legislative Program

The ability of the County to serve the residents of Sonoma County and provide for a thriving and sustainable community requires support from all levels of government. The State's actions and ongoing fiscal crisis continues to threaten Sonoma County's ability to provide vital services to the public. Further, federal legislative policy and funding decisions also impact the County's ability to deliver services.

In order to fulfill the County's commitment to the community, state and federal resources should be sought to support the County's mission to enrich the quality of life in Sonoma County through superior public services (County Mission adopted by Board action, November 9, 2010).

To this end, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors supports the general guidelines set forth below. County staff, including the County's federal and state legislative advocates, will apply these general guidelines in evaluating legislation, as well as executive and regulatory actions. It is the Board's objective to implement these guidelines.

To support the County's mission, the County should:

- Seek out, develop, and support legislative and budget efforts that protect and/or enhance local governments' revenues, maximize the County's access to state and federal funding sources, and/or increases local funding flexibility;
- Oppose any effort to balance the state budget through the taking of local government resources;
- Seek and support secure, adequate, reliable and ongoing funding for responsibilities (Realignment) shifted from the state to counties, including the enactment of a Constitutional amendment.
- Encourage and seek legislation that protects the County's quality of life, its diverse natural resources, and preserves the essence and history of the County;
- Encourage and seek legislation to facilitate orderly economic expansion and growth, and increase the opportunity for discretionary revenues, programmatic and financial flexibility for the County;
- Support fiscal reform efforts which assure Sonoma County the financial independence necessary to provide services to its residents and meet its mandated responsibilities;
- Oppose unfunded mandates, including County control of the relevant programs and program expenditures and oppose any re-alignment initiatives which fail to fully fund services shifted to the County;
- Support the County's authority to assure mutually acceptable tax sharing agreements for annexation, incorporation, and redevelopment that protect or enhance the County's ability to provide services to its residents;
- Support legislation that provides tax and funding formulas for the equitable distribution of state and federal monies while opposing attempts to decrease, restrict, or eliminate County revenue sources;
- Support increased appropriations to the County for mandated programs, including capital acquisition costs;
- Support the enactment of legislation to allocate statewide bond funding based on objective criteria developed with local input;

- Advocate for timely, full state funding for state programs operated by the County which include appropriate cost of living increases, as well as costs associated with increases in population and caseload growth;
- Support legislation and budget action which provides additional and continuing funding for local road infrastructure;
- Support legislation that furthers the goals identified in the County’s Strategic Plan;
- Support legislation and administrative action that further the goals of the County’s climate protection efforts;
- Support legislation that promotes prevention–focused policies and interventions;
- Support State and Federal legislative action to ensure the ongoing recognition of PACE bonds as assessments and support the innovative Sonoma County Energy Independence Program;
- Support legislation that will allow the County to ensure full cost recovery for services provided to other governmental entities;
- Support legislation which encourages mutually respectful relationships between tribal and local governments including reform to both fee-to-trust process and off-reservation gaming provisions to insure that the impacts of tribal development are fully mitigated and jurisdictional issues resolved;
- Support legislation and budget action which would protect and enhance funding for subsidized child care services, which in turn provides employment and education opportunities for residents of Sonoma County;
- Oppose legislative or administrative actions which would create federal unfunded mandates and/or preempt local decision making authority;
- Support legislative efforts to craft Federal Transportation re-authorizations which reflect the needs of the County and project priority in funding streams;
- Support federal legislative and budget action that will provide robust funding for domestic infrastructure, public safety, community development, and environmental programs which support County efforts to maintain and enhance quality of life.

State Priorities

Sonoma County 2012 Legislative Program

Top State Priorities

Set forth below are the County's priority advocacy issues for the 2011-2012 State Legislative Session. The process of identifying these priorities included an assessment of the relative importance of identified issues and an evaluation of exclusivity to Sonoma County. As a result, the 2012 priority advocacy issues include two categories:

- (1) The County's top state priorities; and
- (2) issues that are exclusive or semi-exclusive to Sonoma County, for which the County's advocates will take a lead role in pursuing the introduction and passage of legislation.

The numbering of items and order are for tracking purposes and do not denote priority. Additionally, in order to reflect Sonoma County's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing climate change, advocacy issues related to greenhouse gas emissions reductions and climate protection efforts appearing throughout the platform are denoted with the following symbol:



1. Community Climate Action Plan and Climate Protection Action Plan

Issue: The County of Sonoma is dedicated to combating the impacts of climate change. Beginning in the 1990s, the Board of Supervisors took steps to ensure that the County of Sonoma has operated in an environmentally sustainable way. In keeping with the County's long history of environmental leadership, in 2006, General Services was authorized and directed by the Board to develop and implement a Climate Protection Action Plan (the Plan) which focused on optimizing the energy efficiency of buildings, the "greening" of County fleet assets, and a reduction or modification of employee commute levels and patterns. The Plan developed a consistent set of dynamic strategies that have been modified and changed as circumstances and outcomes dictate in order to achieve the Green House Gas (GHG) reductions established by the Plan.

The Plan established a reduction in GHG emissions attributed to internal County operations in the following three areas: 1) fleet operations; 2) employee commute, and 3) County buildings. The combined reduction target of being 20% below year 2000 baseline emission levels by the year 2010 represents a total reduction of 8,450 tons. The 8,450 reduction target was adjusted to reflect normal growth in County operations (the "business as usual" factor) and the alignment of the methodologies used to establish the baseline and measure current emission levels resulting in an adjusted reduction target of 10,090 tons. This total reduction goal was distributed among the three areas to be addressed as follows: 1) 6,919 tons from buildings; 2) 500 tons from fleet, and 3) 2,671 tons from employee commute.

In 2002, the County of Sonoma joined with other municipalities within the County to become active in the Climate Protection Campaign, administered by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). As a participant, the Board agreed to: 1) conduct a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory and forecast to determine the source and quantity of the GHG emissions as a result of the County's operations, 2) establish a GHG emissions reduction target for County operations, 3) develop an action plan with both existing and future actions to meet the local GHG reduction target, 4) implement the action plan, and 5) monitor to review progress. Objectives 1 and 2 have been completed. The County's reduction target is 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2015. All nine Sonoma County cities and the County established this goal in 2005. Climate Protection Action Campaign (CPAC) was engaged by the county and cities to draft a community action plan.

In collaboration with the Sonoma County Transportation Authority, the Sonoma County Water Agency, the Cities and non-profits such as the Climate Protection Campaign (CPC), the County's General Services Energy and Sustainability Division created a model for a regional program titled the Regional Climate Protection

Coordination Program (RCPCP). The RCPCP was conceived to strategically address the issues related to climate change (including AB 32 and SB 375) and to provide a coherent framework to harness the tools, resources, and energy needed to effectively implement its elements, measure success, and make course corrections.

The CCAP solutions fall into four major categories: (1) Efficiency First – invest in widespread energy and water efficiency to reduce demand; (2) Smart Transit and Land Use – shift transportation from fossil fuel vehicles to transit, walking, bicycling, and electrical vehicles; (3) Power Up Locally – invest in Sonoma County renewable energy sources and jobs; and (4) Conserve and Capture – protect our forests and farmland, sequester carbon, and convert waste into energy.

Additionally, the state is in the process of implementing a carbon cap-and-trade system to reduce statewide emissions and has indicated that uncapped local governments will be excluded from the emissions allowance market under this program. The effect of this rule is to allow utilities to capture credit for emissions reductions achieved by local government or as a result of local government programs like the Sonoma County Energy Independence Program.

Actions:

- Sponsor legislation and budget actions which support the Sonoma County Climate Protection Action Plan and Community Climate Action Plan.
- Support CARB or CPUC rule making and/or support or sponsor legislation that would ensure that local climate protection programs contribute to the state’s carbon emission reduction goals and that local government can secure the market value of the carbon reductions resulting from local government programs;
- Sponsor or support legislation that would improve accountability in allocation of utility public goods funds and ensure that local agencies have a voice in local allocation of these funds;
- Sponsor or support legislation to develop community scale greenhouse gas reduction programs that are eligible for an allocation of carbon value from the state’s cap-and-trade program.

2. Pension Reform

Issue: Sonoma County supports pension reform efforts, but is opposed to proposals that are inconsistent with principles adopted by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC). Concerns include loss of local control due to the inclusion of reform in the State Constitution, loss of local control by mandating hybrid Defined Benefit/Defined Contribution (DB/DC) plans, lack of recognition for those programs that are fiscally and managerially sound and for which considerable unfunded liability could be created by the loss of contributions to the DB plans, and loss of flexibility and employee choice of retirement age.

Action: The County should sponsor legislation that allows the adoption of a new retirement tier for new employees, allows the County to share the costs due to market investment losses and actuarial assumption changes equally with employees and allows for the Board of Supervisors to appoint 4 additional public members to the Sonoma County Employees Retirement Board.

Criminal Justice

3. Jail Alternative Model Recognition

Issue: The Legislature passed and the Governor signed AB 900 in May 2007. This legislation provides funding for “secure reentry” beds to improve outcomes for released prisoners, and included a funding mechanism for these reentry facilities. The Sonoma County Strategic Plan, adopted by the Board of Supervisors in December 2007 and re-affirmed by the Board in October 2009 and November 2010, discusses the need to “more effectively address public safety issues at the lowest risk levels for all members of the

community, including early detection, intervention and diversion of minor criminal activity, substance abuse, and mental health issues.”

Sonoma County is exploring a number of jail alternatives including the potential development of a Community Corrections Center. This model holds offenders accountable while providing programs to help them become productive members of our community. It assists offenders in taking responsibility for their lives through law-abiding and responsible behavior. The model includes offering programs and services such as job skills training, life skills classes, thought-restructuring programs, individual and group counseling, alcohol and drug counseling, family counseling, and financial management classes. Despite evidence based success of this model in other states and counties, it is not recognized as a reentry facility for purposes of funding under AB 900.

Action: Sponsor legislation to recognize the Sonoma County Community Corrections Center Model as a reentry facility eligible for AB 900 funding and for funding under any other current or future correctional or reentry facility state financing.

4. County Correctional Facilities and Funding / Overcrowding

Issue: Sonoma County projects that the County jail will reach its inmate population capacity by 2025. Proposed state prison reform efforts may require county correctional facilities to house inmates longer, further reducing available capacity. The estimated cost, to consolidate and expand the County’s main adult detention facility to house the increasing inmate population, is \$400 plus million. Furthermore, a panel of three federal judges has ordered the state to present a plan to reduce the state prison population by over 40,000 inmates within two years. This would have severe implications for the County, and Sonoma County has intervened in this matter. Governor Schwarzenegger, recognizing the wisdom in more “upstream” efforts to manage detention challenges, proposed to fund Adult Probation Services state-wide at \$100 million annually (the California Adult Probation and Rehabilitation Act – CAPARA). However, this was not part of the AB 900 Corrections Reform package (described in #1 above), and survived in the final state budget only as \$10 million for 2 county pilot projects. Additionally, SB 678 (Leno, 2009) establishes a new program that provides a fiscal incentive to county probation departments to reduce the number of felony probationers sent to state prison. Fewer referrals to prison will result in savings to the state, and the bill provides for the state to share these savings with the counties. SB 678 anticipates the use of \$45 million of Federal Stimulus funding as seed money for the program.

Action: Support legislation that would:

- Enhance diversion strategies, to prevent offenders from further involvement in the criminal justice system, e.g. mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, vocational training, and adult probation supervision;
- Oppose state prison reforms that would shift prisoners to county jail without adequate revenues and resources;
- Support proposals to provide state funding to maintain and expand County correctional facilities to house increasing inmate populations, and to fund viable jail alternatives;
- Oppose legislation or administration efforts to restrict jail funding to only those counties that agree to site a state re-entry facility or correctional skilled nursing facility within the county;
- Oppose legislation which would realign adult justice programs without fully funding those realigned programs.

5. Ensure Reliable, Consistent, Adequate and Secure Funding for Local Public Safety Programs

Issue: The Legislature, through the 2011 Public Safety Realignment and related budget bills, created a revenue stream to fund various public safety programs that had been previously funded by the Vehicle License Fee increase or had been a state responsibility. When the increase expired in July 2011, a new

funding stream (1.065% of the state sales tax rate) took effect, along with new public safety responsibilities for counties. However, no assurances are provided to local public safety programs regarding this source of funding and associated programmatic responsibilities. Additionally, public safety programs such as the County's drug court program, Prop. 36 program and domestic violence court program, were not included in those funded by the Public Safety Realignment, but also require a stable, secure and ongoing source of revenue in order for the County to successfully implement these programs. State funding reductions have eroded the County's capability to deliver robust programs due to reduced staffing in probation, reduced court days for drug court, and inadequate programming for all categories of offenders (such as youth.)

Action: Support legislation, initiatives and/or constitutional amendments which provide secure, ongoing, reliable, and sufficient funding to implement the 2011 Public Safety Realignment and other county public safety programs.

6. Prop. 83 Responsibilities and Funding

Issue: Proposition 83, which was approved by voters in November 2006, prohibits registered sex offenders from residing within 2,000 feet of any school or park. Prior law barred high risk parolees convicted of specified sex offenses against a child from residing with one-quarter to one-half mile (1,320 to 2,640 feet) of a school. The increased residency restrictions contained in Prop. 83 will ultimately force many of these offenders from urban to rural areas. This will result in an increased number of offenders residing in the unincorporated areas of the county.

Further, Prop. 83 adds responsibilities for the Probation Department to assess and supervise these offenders. As written, Prop. 83 requires sex offenders to be monitored by Global Positioning System (GPS) for life. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is responsible for the offenders while on parole, but Prop. 83 was silent as to who monitors and pays for monitoring offenders who complete parole and return to the community. Proposition 83 does not provide any funding for the required life-time monitoring.

Actions:

- Support efforts to change the residency requirements through the court or legislative process;
- Support legislation that will clarify the proposition and assure state funding of sex-offender assessment, supervision, and monitoring;
- Seek clarification to identify the state as the entity financially responsible once an offender is off parole, but still required to comply with lifetime GPS monitoring.

7. Reimbursement for Court Security Costs

Issue: Pursuant to Government Code Section 69922, the Sheriff's Office is obligated to provide security for the local Court. For the past several years, funding for court security services has been provided through the State Trial Court Trust Fund as a payment from our local Court. Many costs have been either non-eligible or not allowed to be paid until additional funds were allocated to the local Court by the State Legislature. These costs include new hire and ongoing general deputy training, initial uniform and equipment, Lieutenant's time managing the Court Security Bureau, professional services such as payroll and accounting, general overhead, retiree health care, 4850 costs, and costs to transport inmates to and from court.

As part of the 2011-12 State budget plan, the legislature enacted a "realignment" of State program responsibilities and revenues to local government. With the passage of AB 118, the Local Revenue Fund 2011 and various subaccounts, including the Trial Court Security Account, were created in the State Treasury. Funding is provided through specified tax sources and other monies. The Trial Court Security Account monies are allocated monthly by the State Controller to the counties. Certain court security costs not funded in the past will be eligible to be reimbursed, if monies are sufficient in the Trial Court Security Account. These costs include the Lieutenant pay and professional services.

Confusion still exists with exactly what can and cannot be funded since the Administrative Office of the Courts rules and SB 1396 still apply with regard to the billing principals of negotiated security contracts. The legislative language needs to be consistent and allow the broadest use of the funds so that counties are not responsible for payment of Court costs. Ideally new legislative language should also allow for expansion of the funds to apply to costs required for the transportation of inmates to and from Court facilities. Additionally, realignment funding for court security ensure that future funding includes cost of living adjustments and allows for additional costs related to new judgeships, expansion of court facilities, or other conditions requiring additional court security personnel.

Action: Support Legislation to:

- Allow counties to be reimbursed for all costs for court security;
- Provide future court security funding to the counties with cost of living adjustments, provisions for new judgeships, changing or expanding court facilities, and other events that require additional court security personnel or security costs;
- Allow for other court security related items, such as transporting inmates to and from Court facilities, to be considered as eligible costs for realignment funding. Clean up language in the Superior Court Law enforcement Act of 2001 (SB 1396) to be consistent with the Realignment Act of 2011 (AB 118);
- Revise Government Code 69922 as a result of the State's Realignment Act of 2011 (AB 118);
- Clarify the definition of what Court Security costs are and provide that all court security costs shall be reimbursable;
- Expand the eligibility of costs to include transportation of inmates;

Development, Administrative, Support & Fiscal

8. Conversion of Mobile Home Parks to Resident Ownership

Issue: Mobile homes are an essential source of affordable housing in Sonoma County. Within both unincorporated and incorporated areas throughout the state, there is a growing movement by mobile home park owners to convert their parks to resident ownership as a means of escaping local rent control ordinances. Under current state law (Government Code § 66427.5), which generally favors conversion to resident ownership, upon conversion and the sale of a single lot, the entire park is removed from local rent control. Residents must be given the opportunity to purchase their lot, but the lot does not need to be offered at fair market value. If residents remain as tenants, the provisions of GC§ 66427.5 supersede local rent control, which effectively eliminates this source of affordable housing in the County, especially for seniors and others on fixed incomes. The County and City of Santa Rosa sponsored AB 1542 (Evans) in the 2007 session to address this issue. The bill was vetoed by the Governor. In May 2007 the Board adopted a local ordinance governing conversions. The County's ordinance was challenged by a law firm representing MHP owners and the ordinance was ultimately invalidated. Recent court decisions for other jurisdictions have upheld the local government's right to consider the "survey of support" from park residents in deciding whether to approve a conversion. However, stronger legislative action is needed. The County co-sponsored SB 444 (Evans) in 2011, which narrowly failed passage in the Senate.

Action: Support legislation that helps maintain mobile home parks as a viable and essential source of affordable housing. This could be accomplished by: 1) differentiating between owner-initiated and resident-initiated conversions; 2) requiring that owner-initiated conversions are bona fide conversions to resident ownership and have the support of park residents; and/or 3) ensuring that mobile home space rent control provisions can remain in place where needed.

9. Sudden Oak Death/Fire Fuel Hazard Mitigation

Issue: Sudden Oak Death has killed more than a million trees in California over the last 16 years, and the prognosis is that we have seen just one-tenth of the mortality that can be expected. Sonoma County is



experiencing the worst tree mortality of any county in the state. In October 2006, the Sonoma County Department of Emergency Services and the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) began a successful education and outreach program designed to mitigate the spread of the disease, and to manage the increased fire hazard resulting from the disease.

Action: Support legislation to allocate funding to support Sudden Oak Death education, fire fuel mitigation, and hazardous tree removal for all affected County departments and agencies.



10. State Gas Tax Allocation

Issue: The revenues received from taxing fuel suppliers are deposited in the State Highway Users Tax Account (HUTA). These revenues are allocated to the state, counties and cities. Although most of the state road miles are owned and operated by the cities and the counties, the State receives the vast majority of the HUTA revenues for state highway maintenance. The allocation of the HUTA revenues to the unincorporated counties are based upon registered vehicles within the geographic county and to a smaller part maintained mileage within the unincorporated county. Urbanized counties with large incorporated populations and areas benefit from the formula even though the unincorporated portion of the county may have few road miles to maintain. Conversely, counties that are less densely populated tend to have more unincorporated road miles and infrastructure to serve their public; but given the HUTA formula allocation, have less revenue to address the transportation infrastructure needs. Currently, Sonoma County receives approximately \$9,846 per mile from HUTA funding while some bay area counties receive over \$51,000 per mile.

Action: Support legislation and budget action which reviews the current HUTA distribution formula and establishes a HUTA allocation formula which weights road miles more heavily.



11. Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Funding

Issue: Proposition 84 allocates \$37 million to the North Coast and \$138 million to the Bay Area for implementation of Integrated Regional Water Management Plans. These funds should be appropriated by the Legislature over the coming years. SB 2X 1 (Perata, 2008), which was signed by the Governor on September 20, 2008, appropriates over \$181 million statewide for integrated plan programs. Funds are disbursed through grant programs administered by the Department of Water Resources (DWR). In addition to benefitting County departments such as Regional Parks and Public Works, special districts including Agricultural Preservation and Open Space, the Water Agency, and cities within the county are eligible.

Action: Advocate for grant criteria as DWR develops them so that Sonoma County and regional agencies have maximum opportunity to draw down grant funding for local projects. Support or sponsor legislation that would appropriate substantial funding amounts for integrated water management plans and coastal salmon restoration under future water bonds or water infrastructure funding initiatives.



12. Funding for Sanitation Facility Upgrades

Issue: Three rural communities in Sonoma County (Occidental, Camp Meeker, and Monte Rio) are under regulatory orders to install or upgrade sanitary sewer collection and wastewater treatment systems. The cost of required facilities has escalated over time, and now exceeds local financial resources. State financial assistance is necessary to implement projects to bring these communities into compliance with state regulatory order. An \$11.1 billion general obligation bond will appear on the November 2012 ballot which the Board endorsed and contains \$75 million for such projects.

Actions:

- Advocate for state funds for the Small Community Grant Program offered through the State Water Resources Control Board;

- Support implementation of integrated regional water management grant programs through Prop. 50 and Prop. 84 to support these projects;
- Advocate for grant criteria to be developed for the new bond (Proposition 19 – November 2012), if it is approved by the voters, which will benefit Sonoma County’s upgrade projects.

13. Redevelopment

Issue: Governor Brown’s enacted FY 11-12 state budget included the elimination of all redevelopment agencies (RDAs) in California. The loss of redevelopment will eliminate the state’s leading program to provide affordable housing, and will harm County efforts to grow responsibly by focusing on urban and infill development.

Locally, the elimination of RDAs will cripple the County’s ability to improve and expand the infrastructure, facilities, and economies of the three project areas of Roseland, Sonoma Valley Springs, and Russian River. The California Redevelopment Association and the League of California Cities has filed suit against the state, charging that the elimination of redevelopment agencies is unconstitutional. A court decision is expected in January 2012.

Action: Support budget language and legislation that will restore County Redevelopment Agencies and the ability to use local property tax increment for high-priority blight elimination. Economic development projects are essential to enable the successful revitalization of these low-income and underserved communities.

14. Quagga / Zebra Mussels Statewide Fee and Inspection Program

Issue: Invasive Quagga mussels are present in several California lakes and represent a threat to water supply and fish hatchery operations at Warm Springs and Coyote Valley Dams. The mussels can clog water intake and delivery pipes, infest hydropower equipment, adhere to boats and pilings, foul recreational beaches and damage fisheries. Both Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino are susceptible to a mussel invasion because of the high amount of year round watercraft recreation traffic and the lack of mandatory inspection. Regular boat inspections are the only effective means available to prevent introduction of Quagga mussels into Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino.

Action:

- Support and sponsor legislation to implement a statewide boat inspection program for lakes that are used for water supply purposes;
- Advocate for a statewide gate fee to finance Quagga and zebra mussel inspection programs.

Health and Human Services

15. Sweetened beverage Tax to support anti-Obesity efforts

Issue: Overweight children and childhood obesity constitute a preventable public health crisis. In Sonoma County, 8% of the children ages 2-11 are overweight or obese. The problem is even greater among Hispanic children and children from low-income households. Thirty-eight percent (38%) of low income children are overweight or obese and their future health may suffer, as three out of four children who are overweight will remain overweight as adults, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The connection between obesity and consumption of sweetened beverages has been clearly established. Last year the Sweetened Beverage Tax Law (AB 669) failed to pass in committee. According to the bill’s sponsor, Public Health Advocacy, the bill will be reintroduced in 2012. The bill would generate over \$17 million in Sonoma County to fund upstream community-based childhood obesity prevention programs; early recognition,

monitoring, and weight management intervention activities in medical settings; and elementary and secondary schools for educational, policy, and other public health approaches that promote nutrition and physical activity.

Action: Support legislative efforts to pass a sweetened beverage tax.

General Concerns

General Concerns

Following are the County's general advocacy issues for 2012. General advocacy issues differ from priority advocacy issues, in that the County's legislative advocates will primarily support the efforts of others to enact legislation to address these concerns, which are most often shared concerns of multiple counties.

Health & Human Services

16. Implementation of Federal Healthcare Reform

Issue: In March 2010, President Obama signed into law comprehensive health care reform, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). The PPACA will provide coverage for approximately 32 million Americans, 5 million Californians, and 45,000 Sonoma County individuals without health insurance coverage. In addition, the PPACA will provide important funding for community health centers, implement changes in the Medicaid and Medicare programs to expand access, establish a National Public Health Council and Prevention and Public Health Fund, establish multiple public health funding opportunities (e.g. Community Transformation Grants, Healthy Aging, Living Well Grants, Epidemiology-Laboratory Grants, Positive Health Behaviors and Outcomes Grants, etc.); include mental health and substance abuse parity, and fund workforce development programs. As comprehensive health care reform is implemented, it is important that all components of the PPACA and funding be protected. Toward that end, the County supports legislative and regulatory efforts that implements the PPACA in a manner that promotes high-quality, cost-effective care; stabilizes and maintains the local health care safety-net; maintains a strong public infrastructure; strengthens prevention-focused primary care; addresses health disparities; supports and preserves the strengths of the current system, including the unique qualities of county-operated systems that specialize in serving vulnerable populations and protects the funding provided for in the PPACA.

Action: Support legislative efforts to protect and preserve funding for the implementation of the PPACA.

17. Public Guardian - Limits of Liability

Issue: The Conservatorship Act of 2006 changed state law giving the court authority to order the Public Guardian to apply for conservatorship in situations that the court determined necessary. This change in the law increases the responsibilities of the Public Guardian and it amounts to an unfunded mandate. In such cases, the County Public Guardian does not have any option but to comply with the Court. Additionally, the County and the Public Guardian are not immune from personal or civil liability arising from conservatorship duties.

Actions: Support legislative effort that would allow the Public Guardian discretion to respond to the court by conducting an investigation into the appropriate case management for the conservatee; limit liability for counties and for the Public Guardian; provide a federal or state funding stream for public guardian services.

18. Distribution of Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Treatment State Discretionary Funding

Issue: Since 1994, as a result of the Sobkey v. Smoley court decision, the disparity in the distribution of AOD discretionary state general funds has grown. Some counties receive no AOD discretionary state general funds (such as Sonoma County), some receive less than 50 cents per capita, and some receive more than 50 cents per capita. The methodology for distribution of AOD state discretionary general funds needs to be revisited and a more equitable distribution methodology developed. Furthermore, juveniles are not eligible for alcohol and drug related services, which results in significant unmet need. The County substantiated, through its recent Jail Alternatives Study, the high correlation between alcohol and other drug use and involvement with the criminal justice systems. Investing in upstream programs, like AOD treatment, and making these services available to all age groups, could relieve pressure on the criminal justice system thereby resulting in savings to the County and to the state.

Action: Support legislation that provides a base level (minimum \$1.00 per capita) of state discretionary funding to all counties for local alcohol and other drug treatment programs to be used for various eligible populations as determined by each county. (This item action could potentially cause County General Fund liability).

19. Health Coverage for All Children and Adult California Residents

Issue: There are approximately 46 million Americans without health insurance coverage, including 6.5 million residents of California. Two-thirds of the uninsured are low income, and eight in ten come from working families. Many of the uninsured work for employers that do not offer insurance, and those who are offered insurance often cannot afford their share of the premium. Young adults, racial and ethnic minorities, and those who are non-citizens are more likely to be uninsured. Lack of insurance has a significant impact on an individual's ability to access health care services. Uninsured adults are more likely to postpone or forego health care altogether, are less able to afford prescription drugs, and less likely to follow through on treatment plans. Reduced access to quality health care results in poor health, preventable hospitalizations, and premature death. Similar to the efforts that have been made to provide insurance coverage for uninsured children, the County supports the development of a long term solution that will provide health care coverage for all residents of California.

Toward that end, the County urges the President and Congress to build upon the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) to work with the goal of expanding a system of health care coverage and medical care delivery for all children and adults that builds upon and preserves the strengths of the current system, including the unique qualities of county operated systems, such as the County's Healthy Kids program. Any health care reform process must take into account historical, current, and future County costs for treating those who are, and those who may remain, uninsured. Finally, health care reform must include mental health parity provisions that provide coverage for mental health services equal to coverage for medical and surgical benefits and ensure adequate ongoing funding for both expanded and core mental health services.

Action: Support legislative efforts to provide health insurance for all children and adults and a stable source of funding for all residents of California consistent with the *Health Care Reform Principles of Action* adopted by the Board on December 8, 2009.

20. Mental Health Managed Care Allocation

Issue: In the early 1990s, the state consolidated Medi-Cal mental health services into a single Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Program and contracted with local agencies/organizations to operate the program. The Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health program is a federal and state partnership with shared costs. When the state consolidated Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Program, it provided contracting agencies with funding to match the federal funds related to the fee for service part of Medi-Cal, referred to as the Mental Health Managed Care allocation. Since consolidation of the program, the state has unilaterally reduced the Mental Health Managed Care allocation. As a result, the Mental Health Managed Care allocation for Sonoma County in FY 09-10 has declined by over 50% since the program's inception despite significant increased Medi-Cal costs over the same period.

Action: Support legislation or budget action that indexes the Mental Health Managed Care allocation based on the cost of Medi-Cal services and calculated each year based on the Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP).

21. Restoration of Health and Mental Health Realignment Funding Baselines

Issue: The formula for the distribution of realignment between the Social Services, Health, and Mental Health Services Trust Funds allocates funding to Human Services on a priority basis based on increased caseload growth. Increased realignment growth is diverted to Human Services with little or no growth in the funding for

the Health or Mental Health Trust Funds. As a result, the department has been forced to make reductions to health and mental health realignment programs and services.

This inequity in the current realignment funding formula has been made worse by the recent downturn in the economy, which has resulted in a significant decrease in revenue and a lowering of baseline funding levels. As a result, when the economy rebounds, any growth in revenues above the new lower baselines will go disproportionately to the Social Services Trust Fund, thereby further reducing available funding for health and mental health realignment funded programs. Furthermore, Governor Brown has indicated his interest in opening up the 1991 Realignment in furtherance of his goals to realign more services from the state to counties. This presents numerous concerns regarding the share of realignment funds that currently flow to Sonoma County being eroded by pressures from other counties to secure a larger share of the original realignment.

Action: Support legislation that provides a temporary restructuring of the realignment distribution formulas to provide growth in health and mental health funding consistent with levels that existed prior to the downturn in overall realignment funding. Oppose efforts to reduce funding from the 1991 Realignment to Sonoma County.

22. Emergency Medical Services Planning and Local Control

Issue: Legislation introduced in 2011 (AB 210/AB 1387) would have reduced County control over local planning and emergency medical services by requiring local policies and procedures be reviewed and approved by the State Emergency Medical Services Authority. This legislation fails to reflect California's diverse geography and population and would negatively impact local emergency medical services agencies.

Action: Oppose legislation which would usurp local control over emergency medical services planning and delivery.

23. Service Delivery System and Funding for Individuals With Cognitive Disorders

Issue: Individuals with cognitive disorders such as Alzheimer's, HIV dementia, and traumatic brain injuries often require extensive, costly long-term care and other mental health treatment services. Currently, there is no mental health services delivery system or funding for programs and services to address the needs of individuals with cognitive disorders. As a result, these individuals often end up in mental health crisis centers and inpatient psychiatric hospitals requiring significant mental health realignment dollars to fund needed services.

Action: Support legislation or budget language that identifies new resources to fund services, including long-term care services for individuals with cognitive disorders.

24. State-Funded Child Care

Issue: Every year when the state budget is late, hundreds of children, families, child care providers, and employees of state subsidized programs are in danger of losing care and/or their jobs. This loss of child care impacts county residents' quality of life and disrupts the local economy as employees must forego working in order to provide at home child care.

Action: Support legislation and budget action which would ensure continuity of child care for children and families.

25. State-Funded Afterschool Programs

Issue: There has been a marked increase in the number of income eligible children/families waiting for a subsidized child care slot to become available in Sonoma County. The County and the Child Care Planning Council of Sonoma County are concerned about protecting funding for Proposition 49 (2002) - the After School

Education and Safety Program and 21st Century After-School Programs as these directly impact the quality of life for Sonoma County residents.

Action: Seek and support legislation which would preserve, protect, and increase funding for subsidized and other government-funded child care.

26. Community Care Licensing

Issue: As the basis for health and safety in local licensed child care programs, it is critical that the Department of Social Services; Community Care Licensing (CCL) has the capacity for annual visits. In addition, it is imperative that CCL have staff that is knowledgeable about child development and has the capacity for building ongoing, collaborative relationships with families, local non-profits and the County. The lack of these resources impacts children and families and puts additional pressures on the County to provide child care resources.

Action: Seek and support legislation and budget action to ensure that CCL is adequately funded by the State to provide reliable and meaningful services and that CCL inform parents about its functions and limitations.

27. Child Care Facilities Licensing

Issue: Sonoma County has a shortfall of approximately 9,000 child care spaces while family child care providers and child development centers face regulatory barriers to building capacity through expansion and new facilities development.

Action: Support legislation which would reduce state regulatory barriers and increase opportunities for child care capacity expansion.

28. Health Care Coverage for Persons Released to Sonoma County in Realignment

Issue: The state's final FY 11-12 Budget restructured the state-local relationship shifting funding and responsibility to local government for more than \$10 billion in services including Public Safety and Health and Human Services programs (2011 Realignment). The realignment of public safety program includes the County assuming responsibility for state prison inmates released to post-release community supervision and certain non-violent, non-serious, non sex offender populations. The Department of Health Services strongly supports enrollment of transferred inmates into Medi-Cal or CMSP health insurance coverage effective upon release; assignment of a medical home; and provision of in custody or out-of-custody health (e.g., mental health; substance use services) and social support (e.g., employment services) services required to improve outcomes and produce cost efficiencies. In addition, over a two year period, the 2011 Realignment will realign funding for community mental health services; mental health allocation; EPSDT; Drug Medi-Cal; Non-Drug Medi-Cal; Perinatal; Drug Court. When the Governor signed the budget it was recognized that additional work would need to be done to refine the financing structure and constitutional protections would need to be provided to counties.

Action: Support efforts to put in place required processes to ensure inmates are enrolled in Medi-Cal/CMSP effective upon release; assigned to a medical home; and that they receive in custody and community-based health and social services. Support legislative efforts or ballot initiatives to provide adequate base funding and constitutional protections to counties for realigned services.

29. Elimination of Fingerprinting Requirement for Participation in CalWORKS Program

Issue: The Governor approved legislation in 2011 which eliminated the fingerprinting requirement for persons applying for CalFRESH assistance; however, a commensurate elimination of fingerprint requirements for CalWORKS was not approved. Fingerprinting has not been proven to reduce instances of fraud, but does create

a barrier for both applicants and for counties, as getting fingerprinted can be difficult for persons who live in rural areas without access to transportation.

Action: Support legislation to repeal the fingerprinting requirement for CalWORKS applicants.

30. Additions to Workforce Investment Act

Issue: Legislation introduced in 2011 would require local workforce investment boards (WIBs) to spend a certain percentage of federal funding on workforce training, penalize WIBs that do not meet all federal performance standards by making them ineligible for state funding, and require WIBs to work with apprenticeship programs.

Action: Oppose all legislation that would add state mandates to federal Workforce Investment Board requirements, and in so doing, introduce unfunded state mandates.

Natural Resources

31. Proposition 1C and Proposition 84 – Park Funding Implementation Language



Issue: Sonoma County has a strong interest in ensuring that Proposition 1C and 84 bond funds are allocated timely, equitably, and in a manner that supports ongoing priorities of its Regional Parks and Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District needs, including specific earmarks, if applicable. The bonds total \$8.2 billion that could assist the County in protecting open space and developing its regional parks and related facilities.

Action: Advocate for legislation and/or specific implementation language to include that Sonoma County receive its fair share in funding for park facilities, programs and protection of open space within these bond acts and incorporate language that considers the environmental diversity of Sonoma County (e.g., riparian corridors, coastal areas, trails, etc.) and for projects funded by per capita formula.

32. State Parks Access

Issue: The State is planning to close five State Parks in Sonoma County, and 67 Parks state-wide. The five Sonoma County State Parks are Annadel, Austin Creek, Petaluma Adobe, Sugarloaf Ridge, and Jack London. These closures are intended to save the State \$11 million in FY 11-12 and \$22 million in FY 12-13.

The closure of these Parks will have significant impacts on the County:

1. County Departments, including the Sheriff, Emergency Services, and Regional Parks, will be expected to address emergencies and other problems in closed State Parks, such as fire risks, vandalism, medical problems, trespassing, and property damage.
2. State Parks are an important part of the draw for tourists to visit Sonoma County, and fewer open Parks will reduce the value of the County as a tourism destination.
3. Reduced availability of State Parks will increase usage and need for staff at County Parks.
4. Closure will diminish the value of integrated open space and Regional Parks with State Parks, which in some cases are adjacent (such as Spring Lake and Annadel, Hood Mountain and Sugarloaf Ridge, forthcoming North Slope Sonoma Mountain Trail and Jack London).
5. The Open Space District both (1) owns lands that are supposed to eventually become part of the State Park system and thus are open for public access, and (2) owns lands that are adjacent to state parks with active plans to create open trail systems between properties. Neither the District nor the County have funds to provide safe access to these properties.

There are extensive local efforts underway to attempt to keep these State Parks open, coordinated by the Sonoma County Parks Alliance. These include plans by non-profit organizations and Sonoma County Regional Parks, should available funding or other resources be available. These organizations need some flexibility from existing state requirements to keep the Parks open, as well as funding to transition the State Parks to new operating models.

Action: Advocate for policies and funding solutions that should:

- a. Provide sufficient funding and management authority to all qualified organizations and agencies who seek to enter into operating agreements for State Parks in Sonoma County
- b. Utilize all existing legal tools pursuant to AB 42 (Huffman, Statutes of 2011, Chapter 450) to allow non-profits, local governments, and businesses to operate Parks, so long as the operations sufficiently protect the Parks' natural resources, public access, and are consistent with other public values associated with State Parks. The Legislature and Governor must ensure that unfunded management and public safety costs for closed State Parks do not shift to Sonoma County and regional agencies.
- c. Provide state funding sufficient to keep the State Parks proposed for closure open while new operating models are developed, and operating agreements implemented.

Ensure State Parks Rangers from other areas continue to respond to calls for service in closed State Parks or pay local law enforcement for providing emergency services only on a time and materials rate.

33. Funding for Implementation of AB 3018



Issue: The emerging green economy requires a trained “green” workforce and AB 3018 (Nunez, 2008) was passed recognizing that this is a necessity. AB 3018 sets forth a plan to develop a green-trained work force but does not provide program funding, thus becoming an un-funded mandate. The training programs are available and desperately needed, but there is no funding appropriated for the program.

Action: Advocate for state budget action to fund green-trained work force development.

34. Fishery Restoration Programs and Funding



Issue: Remnant populations of Coho salmon in the Russian River are endangered and a multi-agency captive broodstock program has been developed to assist in their recovery. Hatchery operations and production of fish are coordinated by California Department of Fish and Game. The University of California and Sea Grant conduct monitoring of released fish as they rear in Russian River tributaries and subsequently migrate to the ocean in the spring. This information is used to evaluate the success of the recovery program and adaptively manage it to maximize the likelihood of long term success resulting in self-sustaining runs. The County strongly supports funding for Coho issues which will allow University of California, Cooperative Extension (UCCE) to continue their work on critical natural resources throughout the county.

California allocates general fund and water bond dollars to support salmon restoration programs. The state funding forms the state/local match for federal funding under the Pacific Coast Salmon Restoration Fund. Funding from Proposition 84 for this purpose is reported to be fully expended at this time.

Actions:

- Support funding for Coho issues which will allow UCCE to continue their work on critical natural resources throughout the county;
- Support legislative or budget action that would appropriate \$10 million in Proposition 84 funds and \$10 million in General Fund money for salmon restoration programs managed by the Department of Fish and Game;

- Advocate for the Department to use the funds for projects that fulfill requirements of the State’s Coho Salmon Recovery Strategy;
- Advocate for allocation of future water bond or water infrastructure dollars for coastal salmon restoration.

35. Groundwater Banking for Local Water Supply



Issue: Groundwater banking is an important component of the Water Agency’s water supply strategies for the future. A number of barriers at the state level stand in the way of successful implementation of groundwater banking programs locally. Barriers include the high cost of preliminary studies required to determine feasibility, uncertain authority to capture and divert storm water flows for underground injection, the need to re-designate point of use or time of use under water rights permits, and unwarranted regulatory restrictions on injection of surface water in underground aquifers. Legislative action and participation in development of regulatory policy could be very valuable in moving local groundwater banking programs forward.

Action:

- Advocate for funding for groundwater banking programs in future statewide water bonds or other infrastructure funding initiatives;
- Support or sponsor legislation and regulatory policy to expedite regulatory approval and permitting for groundwater banking programs.

36. Water Well Logging



Issue: County entities are developing groundwater management plans for several groundwater basins in Sonoma County. These agencies are also required by state law to conduct ground water monitoring in all of the identified groundwater basins. Local efforts in both areas depend on access to geological information recovered by drillers and landowners when wells are drilled. The legislature recognized this need in approving a bill introduced by Senator Pavley in 2011 (SB 263), requiring that water well log data be made available to professionals conducting such studies. Sonoma County Water Agency anticipates that additional legislation will be needed in 2012 to ensure that public agencies conducting groundwater studies have reasonable access to this information. However, the Governor vetoed that legislation.

Action: Support or sponsor legislation and administrative policy to improve access to well log information for groundwater planning and monitoring.

37. Williamson Act Funding

Issue: The Williamson Act (the Act), established in 1965, has helped preserve Sonoma County’s rich and productive farm and ranch lands by providing property tax incentives to keep land in agricultural uses. Sonoma County has over 273,000 acres enrolled in the Williamson Act, and has lost approximately \$450,000 in subvention payments. Due to the ongoing budget crisis, beginning in Fiscal Year 2009-2010, the Governor has not funded the subventions to counties. In 2011, the Governor signed legislation (AB 1265) authorizing counties to shorten the contract term of Williams Act contracts from 10 years to 9 years, and capture the 10% increase, in part to offset losses to counties. In November 2011, the Board of Supervisors declined to implement AB 1265 due to concerns about increasing the tax burden on farmers and ranchers. This demonstrates the need for the Legislature and Governor to develop and fund a long-term plan for the Williamson Act, in order to ensure that agriculture and open space are preserved into the future.

Actions: Support legislation and budget language which:

- Seeks full funding of the Williamson Act at its highest historical levels;
- Supports new and innovative funding alternatives to replace lost subvention payments;
- Develop long-term solutions, including locally developed and approved options that create a reliable funding stream to protect the Act.

38. Certificates of Compliance, Agricultural Land Conservation and Funding

Issue: Under the Subdivision Map Act, Certificates of Compliance are used to recognize parcels created by old deeds, patents, and early subdivision maps. Certificates are also used to recognize “fragment lots” that result from intersecting lines of old deeds and maps, one laid on top of the other. These certificate parcels are usually inconsistent with the General Plan. In addition, Certificates of Compliance have been used to recognize small lots on lands subject to an Agricultural Land Conservation (Williamson Act) Contract, resulting in parcels that are too small for viable agricultural use. The County strongly supports the intent and purpose of the Williamson Act, and has actively supported full funding of state subventions for the program.

Actions:

- Sponsor and/or support legislation that would restrict or eliminate the use of Certificates of Compliance for lots created prior to implementation of the public agency review provisions of the Subdivision Map Act in 1929, and for so-called “fragment lots” that result from intersecting lines of old deeds and maps, one laid on top of the other;
- Sponsor and/or support legislation that would prohibit approval of Certificates of Compliance on lands subject to a Williamson Act contract, unless the resulting Certificate parcels each meet the minimum size and other requirements for inclusion in a Williamson Act contract.

39 . Weights and Measures Device Registration

Issue: Mandated inspection programs to verify accuracy for weighing and measuring devices are partially funded by an annual device registration fee. The authority for this fee, found in Business and Professions Code Section 12240, sunsets January 1, 2013 as prescribed under Section 12246. This is the most significant funding mechanism for Weights and Measures inspection programs.

Action: Support legislation that would extend or eliminate the repeal date in the Business and Professions Code Section 12246 pertaining to Weights and Measures Device Registration Fees, and allow for increased fees to offset cost increases.

40. Endangered Species Act – Habitat Conservation Plans and Other Efforts Necessary to Comply With the ESA’s “Take” Prohibition



Issue: The federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) prohibits “taking” any endangered species without specific authorization. Obtaining this authorization, whether through the ESA Section 7 process for projects with federal funding or a federal permit or through Section 10 for other projects, typically involves an extensive conservation planning effort. Once “take” authorization is granted, significant financial commitments are required to implement conservation programs. The cost of the comprehensive conservation planning effort can make individual projects financially infeasible. Public funding sources for conservation planning efforts under the ESA are very limited.

Action: Support legislation that would make federal and/or state funds available for comprehensive conservation planning efforts under the ESA.

42. Clean Generation Measures



Issue: Counties should be permitted to retain the green credit associated with power generation. Power purchase agreement installation surplus generation will be deemed eligible for this treatment. Counties should be encouraged to generate more green energy by being paid the full value of solar power generated and sold to an investor-owned utility, less reasonable transmission charges.

Action: Sponsor or support legislation which would:

- Support increased state solar subsidies, advocate for retention of the green credit for surplus generation, and require peak rate payment for solar power generation sold to investor-owned utilities;
- Advocate for legislation which authorizes Power Purchase Agreement surplus power to be wheeled to its own other government accounts, and;
- Support additional California Energy Commission rebates over standard rebates to reflect the loss of the Federal Tax Credit and raise the California Solar Rebate should be raised back to its initial funding level.

43. Public Goods Charge



Issue: The Public Goods Charge (PGC) on electricity bills is an important funding source for programs that reduce energy use and consumer costs. A cost-effective use of the PGC is to support conservation and efficiency programs that save Californians millions of dollars through reduced energy bills, reduce the demand for additional electricity generation and transmission capacity, and support a thriving sector of the clean economy. The County of Sonoma Energy and Sustainability Program coordinates the Sonoma Energy Watch Program (SCEW), a Local Government Partnership with Pacific Gas and Electric. SCEW is regarded as a leading Energy Watch program in the region having served over 150 customers, saving over 5,000,000 kWh per year (enough to power 330 homes), saving over \$650,000 for clients, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1,500 tons of CO₂ per year. Combined with the resources afforded by the local Energy Independence Program and Energy Upgrade California, local government input on the use of PGC would leverage the success of these programs and the one-stop-shop model of service delivery.

Action: Support legislation and language in regulatory action which:

- Includes local government input on Public Goods Charge uses to increase the success of energy efficiency programs;
- Increases direct funding of local government energy efficiency programs from the Public Good Charge before the CPUC and in legislation;
- Extends the utility public goods charge for energy efficiency and related programs;
- Ensures local government entities such as the County or the Regional Climate Protection Authority are eligible to administer energy efficiency programs funded from the public goods charge.

44. Wheeling Energy

Issue: Existing legislation, AB 2624, allows local government to apply excess renewable power produced from a customer account as energy credits against charges for power delivered to one or more of its other accounts. This option allows for local government to take advantage of a generation at a site compatible with renewable generation installations and apply the credits for overproduction of electricity to a less compatible site. Private sector entities and consumers would like this same option for supplying power (through credits) to their selected benefitting accounts (other business sites, family members, etc.).

Action: Support the passage of legislation that would allow private sector entities and consumers to apply credits from overproduction of electricity from one account to another account.

45. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations



Issue: With the installation of electric vehicle charging stations for public use, there is a need for the charging station owner to have an option to recover the costs for operation of the charging station. Under current law, only utilities can bill for actual consumption of energy; charging station owners only have the option of establishing a fee structure for charging station use. Due to the factors of vehicle type, time connected to the charging station, condition of the vehicle charging system, etc., the calculation of a reasonable and accurate fee is not possible. Electric vehicle charging station owners need the ability to bill charging station users based on actual consumption of (kWh).

Action: Support State and Federal legislative action to allow electric vehicle charger owners to bill electric vehicles on a usage (kWh) versus fee basis.

46. Alternative Metering



Issue: Investor-owned utilities are rolling out so-called “Smart Meters” to remotely report household energy usage for billing purposes. This technology is concerning to some households, who wish to avoid the technology being installed on their property.

Action: Support legislation which identifies and offers alternative options for customers who decline the installation of smart meters.

47. Single Sourcing Based on Green Standards



Issue: Sonoma County supports state action to develop “Green Standards” for single source procurement/sourcing decisions as they relate to the purchase of goods and professional services. As many of the standards today are self-certifying, the appropriate criteria would need to be established so that it is fair for all parties. Developing green preference programs, for example, would allow true benefits to be realized by suppliers. Similarly, expanding existing law to include incentives for suppliers that objectively demonstrate certifications in particular areas, promotes expertise and an overall acceleration of green projects. Local government agencies will benefit from any legislative processes that help support and govern such green procurement policies.

Actions:

- Support legislation that authorizes local procurement agencies to single-source green goods and professional services;
- Support legislation that provides incentives for suppliers to objectively demonstrate certifications, expertise, and overall acceleration of green projects.

48. Storm Drain Maintenance Assessment Districts New NPDES Water Quality Standards

Issue: Storm drains are separated by law from sewer drains. To form a maintenance district and assess property owners to fund storm drain maintenance requires a high threshold of voter approval (66 2/3 %).

Action: Support legislation that equates funding mechanisms for storm runoff standards with funding standards for clean water standards and for water sewer treatment, as well as lower the voter approval threshold to form storm water maintenance district to 60% or less of property owners.

49. Air Pollution Reduction



Issue: The air pollution control districts currently fund grants to incentivize cleanup of mobile sources through a surcharge on motor vehicle registration. In 2004, the Air Pollution Control Officials (APCO) helped negotiate (with business and environmental representatives) \$61 million in the Governor’s budget for additional diesel pollution clean-up, to be allocated to the air pollution control districts and released as grants, subject to state guidance. The same negotiations also resulted in the passage of AB 923 (Firebaugh, 2004) authorizing districts to raise additional incentive funds, and establishing a surcharge on the sale of new tires that will fund diesel pollution grants and the purchase of clean school buses. The negotiations also identified other potential sources of clean-up funds and program changes that would increase fund availability for public fleets. The Governor’s office asked negotiators to continue to work towards consensus on these funding sources and program changes with a commitment from the administration to carry forward any consensus elements in the Governor’s next budget or through independent legislation.

Action: Support state budget initiatives, legislation, or regulatory changes to increase funds available for incentive programs to reduce air pollution.



50. Manufacturer's Extended Product Stewardship for Discarded Items

Issue: Many existing products and several new waste streams have been identified as hazardous waste when discarded, requiring the County to provide for collection and load checking to remove these wastes from the waste stream. The state has provided funding assistance for only a limited number of these items (used oil, Cathode Ray Tube's (CRTs)). Collectively, these waste streams are costing the County hundreds of thousands of dollars to manage annually. These increased costs have resulted in new and increased tipping fees at County disposal sites, and have also increased the incidents of illegal dumping. Electronic waste has emerged as a major concern in waste, and requires attention and action from the Legislature.

Action: Support extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation to include mercury-containing (fluorescent) lamps, electronic devices (in addition to CRT's), batteries, and other hazardous items that are prohibited from landfill disposal.

51. Summer Youth Ecology Corps



Issue: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided \$1.2 million for a youth summer jobs program. The Sonoma County Water Agency, Workforce Investment Board, Human Services Department, the Office of Education, and the nonprofit New Ways to Work combined forces to create the Summer Youth Ecology Corps. This program provided jobs, environmental education, and workforce skills to 300 young people aged 14-24. New sources of funding are needed to carry this program into future years.

Action: Sponsor or support legislation or budget appropriations which would fund the Summer Youth Ecology Corps.

Criminal Justice

52. Funding Responsibility for Civil and Criminal Grand Juries

Issue: The state, through trial court funding, has transferred court fiscal responsibility to the state. The fiscal responsibility of criminal and civil grand juries was not included in the transfer. Since the County lacks control over activities, expenditures, and investigatory activities (which include county agencies and officials as well as special districts and cities) of grand juries, it is reasonable that the fiscal responsibility should also be transferred to the State. Grand juries report to the presiding judge and the presiding judge can order the county to increase funding for grand juries if a request is made and approved.

Action: Support legislation that would transfer fiscal responsibility of civil and criminal grand juries to the state since Government Code Section 914 allows the presiding judge to approve expenditures in excess of budget.

53. Defendant Release from Jail In Capital Cases

Issue: Existing law provides that a defendant must be released from custody pursuant to Penal Code Section 1318, pending the prosecution's appeal of an adverse ruling on a suppression motion. There are two exceptions: 1) when the defendant is charged in a capital case where the proof is evident and the presumption great, and 2) in certain defined non-capital offenses where the court orders the defendant released from custody upon making bail. These narrow exceptions mean in life-sentence cases such as attempted premeditated murder and aggravated sex offenses or crimes with gang enhancements that carry life terms, potentially dangerous defendants must be released from custody pending the outcome of the prosecution's appeal. Such an outcome creates the possibility a defendant may flee and may place the public's safety at risk.

Action: Support legislation to add exceptions for release to any case where the punishment is a life term.

Development, Administrative Support & Fiscal Services

54. CEQA Process, Tiering of Environmental Documents

Issue: Recently, the CEQA Guidelines were modified in response to a 2002 lawsuit by the Citizens for a Better Environment (CBE vs. California Resources Agency). One effect of these changes was removal of specific guideline language (CEQA Guidelines Section 15152 (f)(3)(C)), which previously allowed agencies to “tier” a Mitigated Negative Declaration for a project on a previous Programmatic EIR, so long as no new, unmitigatable significant impacts are identified. Even if significant impacts were identified for the subsequent project, a mitigated negative declaration could still be used so long as the impacts were identified and found to be acceptable in the previous EIR (i.e., findings were made in support of a Statement of Overriding Considerations). The County has numerous Programmatic EIRs (General Plan, Arm Plan, Airport Master Plan, etc.) upon which environmental documentation for a wide array of future projects should be able to tier, without the preparation of new EIRs. Given confusion over the new CEQA Guidelines, agencies may now need to prepare new EIRs to address subsequent project impacts, even if they were previously analyzed and, if found to be significant, overridden. This is in direct conflict with longstanding CEQA principles in support of document tiering, and is in direct conflict with CEQA process streamlining.

Action: Support amendments to streamline CEQA statute and/or guidelines to clearly provide for the tiering of mitigated negative declarations on Programmatic EIRs, including situations where the subsequent project would have significant unavoidable impacts that were adequately identified in the Programmatic EIR and allow for multiple projects within a given area to share recent environmental data collected in the area.

55. CEQA Reform: Last Minute Information Submittal

Issue: The CEQA statute allows potential litigation issues to be raised very late in the decision-making process, well after the close of the public comment period. Despite prescribing very clear and publicly noticed review periods during which anyone can submit comments on the adequacy of CEQA documents, the statute also allows new information (and future causes of action in litigation) to be inserted into the process at any time prior to the close of the last public hearing before final project approval by the lead agency (PRC Section 21177[a]). Project opponents regularly take advantage of this provision to introduce voluminous information about environmental issues at the last minute, with the intent and effect of disrupting the project review process and delaying the decision while the lead agency scrambles to ensure that every issue is adequately addressed. At its most troublesome, this information consists of material that could have been known and submitted earlier or that duplicates earlier submittals. This practice diminishes the importance of the orderly public review opportunities included in the CEQA process and often introduces substantial uncertainty into the decision-making process at the eleventh hour.

Action: Amend the CEQA statute to limit the introduction of new environmental information after the close of comment periods, with an exception for significant new information that could not have been known earlier. Further, amend the statute to enhance public review opportunities prior to final decision.

56. CEQA Reform: Increase Defensibility of Negative Declarations

Issue: The fair argument standard creates a very low threshold for a lead agency’s decision to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) instead of a Negative Declaration (ND) or Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). In many cases the standard has appropriately encouraged lead agencies to be accountable for sound environmental planning. However, the fair argument standard has not evolved, while the level of detail and sophistication of environmental analysis in ND/MNDs have improved dramatically in the nearly four decades

since the standard was codified in *County of Inyo v. Yorty*. Consequently, unnecessary and costly EIRs have been required in circumstances where well-prepared ND/MNDs can and should suffice. As CEQA practice has matured, NDs and, particularly, MNDs, have evolved such that many now contain a thorough, well-supported discussion of environmental impacts and mitigation measures, with technical studies and other substantial evidence included to support the conclusion that “clearly no significant effect on the environment would occur” after mitigation (14 CCR Section 15064[f][2]). In this way, many MNDs now fulfill the essential disclosure and mitigation purposes of CEQA. Despite this evolution in the effectiveness of ND/MNDs, the only question that really matters is whether any substantial evidence exists to suggest that the project may have a significant impact. Under the fair argument standard, an EIR is required even when other substantial evidence clearly and convincingly shows that the project will not have a significant effect.

Action: Support legislation that balances more stringent standards for responses to public comments and greater opportunities for public review throughout the CEQA process with a more deferential standard of review for Negative Declarations and Mitigated Negative Declarations that have been subjected to this more rigorous review.

57. Tribal Matters

Issue: Federally recognized Indian tribes can develop lands held by the federal government in trust, without regard to local land use plans, such as the county general plan. Further, such developments can have a number of impacts on the County, its citizenry, services, lands, and infrastructure that the County may not have the ability to mitigate. Recognizing this, the Board has adopted resolutions and provided policy direction both on specific development proposals, as well as more general matters, regarding tribal gaming and other development on tribal lands. Board policy has included opposing tribal gaming and insuring that the impacts of tribal development projects approved by the BIA are fully mitigated. In addition, the Board and County staff have actively participated in developing policy which deals with these issues regionally, and on state and national levels.

Action: Monitor and support efforts to enact legislation and regulations consistent with California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and National Association of Counties (NACo) policies, prior and future Board resolutions, and policy direction with respect to tribal recognition, fee-to-trust reform, and development proposals. Oppose legislation and regulations that are inconsistent with the above.

58. Workers' Compensation

Issue: Since passage of SB 899 (Poochigian, 2004), Workers' Compensation Reform, labor representatives, and the workers' compensation applicant attorney bar have sought legislative support for weakening the just-enacted reforms, pressed the Administrative Director to produce weakened guidelines, and pursued legal challenges to the reforms of SB 899. Previously, extraordinarily high Workers' Compensation costs experienced by Sonoma County and other public employers resulted in the need to divert important discretionary general funds away from other identified needs to offset this growing liability. Further, the claims adjudication system became unbalanced to the point that common sense often did not prevail in the determination of benefits.

Action: Resist all legislative and administrative efforts aimed at further reducing improvements made to the workers compensation system through SB 899. Continue to actively support the legislative platforms outlined by various statewide public employer organizations, including the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the CSAC Excess Insurance Authority (CSAC-EIA), and the Public Agency Risk Managers Association (PARMA).

59. County Early Pest Detection, Surveillance and Management Programs

Issue: County early pest detection, surveillance and management programs are critical to Sonoma County, and the entire state, as a means of preventing the introduction and spread of exotic pests. These pests can range from Sudden Oak Death, Light Brown Apple Moth, European Grape Moth, Asian Citrus Psyllid, Diaprepes root weevil and Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter, various noxious weeds, to vine mealy bug. With an 80% reduction of funding to perform these activities, in the past year the state and counties have reduced or eliminated these programs, putting the program and entire state at risk. These programs are administered in conjunction with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and USDA.

Actions: Support legislative and budget proposals that would:

- Provide resources for counties to perform early pest detection, surveillance, and management programs;
- Obtain broad support for programs and funding for these programs at federal, state, and local levels.

60. Pesticide Regulatory Activity Funding

Issue: The costs of operating County programs are not being adequately funded in order for counties to provide the level of pesticide enforcement activities expected by the public. Specific public concern and attention is focused on air and water quality, worker safety, and endangered species.

Actions: Support legislative and budget proposals that would:

- Provide adequate funding to provide a robust level of service at the County level;
- Obtain broad support for programs and funding for these programs at federal, state and local levels.

61. Statewide Regulations for Onsite Wastewater Systems

Issue: AB 885, passed in 2001, requires the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to develop statewide regulations for onsite wastewater systems (e.g., septic systems). SWRCB staff has been engaged in a multi-year process to draft the regulations with stakeholder groups, including environmental health professionals, local government officials, and real estate professionals. From a local government perspective, the draft regulations currently promoted by the SWRCB are based on questionable science and will impose onerous new regulatory and monitoring requirements on local agencies and costly new requirements on property owners who use onsite wastewater systems, including existing systems that may need repair in the future. While SWRCB continues to refine the standards to reflect concerns voiced by the public and local public agencies, it is still unclear what the final standards will be and how these standards will affect communities and individual property owners.

Action: Support the efforts of the California County Directors of Environmental Health (CCDEH), and other stakeholders, to ensure that the rules adopted to implement AB 885 are workable for local governments and practical for property owners, especially property owners with existing septic systems that may need repair in the future.

62. Vehicle Code Prohibition on Mitigation Fees

Issue: The Vehicle Code currently includes a provision under Section 9400.8 that prohibits the imposition of “a tax, permit fee, or other charge for the privilege of using the streets and highways, other than a permit fee for extra legal loads.” This provision has been interpreted by the courts to prevent an agency from adopting a mitigation fee under the Mitigation Fee Act for road maintenance due to excessive wear and tear regardless of any nexus study that documents excessive damage to a road. This provision harms heavy industries by limiting their ability to pay fees for mitigation measures related to cumulative road wear and maintenance impacts. Absent such a fee, California Environmental Quality Act would require that maintenance improvements are completed by the user, which is usually impractical, or that the road impacts are deemed “unavoidable” and approved under a statement of overriding consideration.

Actions: Support legislation to:

- Amend Section 9400.8 to clarify that mitigation measures, impact fees that are required to mitigate road wear and maintenance impacts pursuant to the Mitigations Fee Act, or identified through the CEQA process are allowable;
- Support an alternative funding mechanism which allows users to provide necessary funds for maintenance and upkeep of roads and bridges.

63. Transportation Fee Limits

The County has authority to issue transportation permits for extra-legal loads (i.e., over height, width or length) on County roadways. The County issues over 1,000 such permits each year. Approximately 80 percent of these permits are for one-time uses, such as moving a large piece of equipment or a building. The remaining permits are annual permits for entities that regularly move large loads.

The fees for these permits are set by the Vehicle Code at an amount not to exceed the fee collected by Caltrans for similar permits on state highways. The fees themselves are set in the California Code of Regulations. Currently these fees are \$16 for a one-time permit and \$90 for an annual permit. The time needed for County staff to process these permits is not great. However, these very low fees do not begin to cover the actual cost. Staff analysis indicates that these fees only recover just over 60 percent of the actual cost. Occasionally a permit takes many hours of staff time to ensure the transport will occur safely and, still, \$16 is the only fee collected.

(1) Amend the California Code of Regulations, Title 21, Section 1411.3 to increase transportation permit fees for one-time and annual permits to \$20.00 and \$110.00, respectively; (2) Amend California Vehicle Code Section 35795 to allow local jurisdictions to charge transportation permits fees that reflect the cost of processing these permits.

Support the current proposal of the Caltrans Transporter Permits Advisory Council to increase transportation permit fees by 19 percent and support efforts to move toward eventual full cost recovery for these permits.
Force Account Labor Threshold

Issue: Use of force account labor is restricted to projects totaling \$30,000 or less under the Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Act of the Public Contract Code (The Act). Sonoma County Facilities Operations is allowed to use its in-house Building Mechanic for labor construction projects under \$30,000 including detention work for all maintenance work. The \$30,000 limit on force account labor is restrictively low and does not adequately take into account construction project costs escalation. Construction projects can be delivered effectively and efficiently through in-house labor. This threshold level is constrictive, particularly with detention work which requires additional background clearance and security measures for outside contractors up to \$125,000. Legislation approved in 2011 increased the formal bidding threshold under the Act from \$125,000 to \$175,000. However, the \$30,000 threshold on force labor accounts remains.

Action: Support legislation to amend the Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Act of the Public Contract Code to increase the authorized amount of force account labor for construction projects to align with the same level allowed for purchasing.

64. Public Utilities (PG&E, SBC, CABLE, etc.) Facilities Relocation Cooperation

Issue: Public utilities have become far less cooperative in identifying and planning for their facilities located within public works rights-of-way, causing project delays and additional costs related to design, construction, and claims.

Action: Support legislation regarding the establishment of regional centers for utility coordination information related to County projects.

65. Apportionment Findings for Disability Retirements

Issue: Employees, upon a finding that their work caused a “substantial contribution” to their incapacity, are entitled to a full disability retirement. The term “substantial contribution” has been greatly litigated. The courts have not adequately clarified this term, but only stated that there must be a “real and measurable” connection between the incapacity and work. With that legal guidance, this term simply means any measurable amount of actual work-related causation. Therefore, this is currently how many employers apply this standard, meaning that the legislative intent of the “substantial contribution” language has not been realized.

The County Retirement Board is greatly restricted by state law in dealing with County employee service-related disability retirement determination. There currently exists differing methods for measuring the definition of a “substantial contribution” for disability retirement purposes. This is due to case law and existing statute conflicts. This ambiguity often leads to county retirement boards being criticized for failing to enforce Section 31720 (a) of the Retirement Act of 1937.

Action: Support legislation which would apportion some responsibility to employees for their non-work-related incapacity causation. Service-connected disability retirement benefits should be subject to work-related versus non-work-related causation review and apportionment. Work-related causation findings that are less than 50% should be subject to an apportioned benefit finding.

County of Sonoma
2012 Federal Legislative Priorities

County of Sonoma 2012 Federal Legislative Priorities

The ability of the County to serve residents and provide for a thriving and sustainable community requires support from all levels of government. Although state policy often impacts the County more directly, federal legislative and funding decisions have great impact. In order to fulfill the County’s commitment to the community, federal resources should be sought to support the County’s mission to enrich the quality of life in Sonoma County through superior public services (Mission adopted by Board action, November 9, 2010).

The following list of federal priorities and appropriation requests is reflective of all County agencies and departments and represents those resources needed to bolster County efforts on behalf of the residents of Sonoma County. As Sonoma County is a complex and diverse service organization, there are many different efforts always underway. In some matters, the County will serve as the lead in advocacy direction and in others be supportive of special district or agency requests.

It is the Board of Supervisor’s prerogative to establish the priority for all County advocacy efforts.

The tables below first list all County priorities in rank order then provide the same list of projects under their department of origin. Additional details follow the tables.

Priority Listing of Federal Requests			
A. Top Federal Advocacy Priorities – Primary focus of Advocacy efforts			
Rank	ISSUE/DEPARTMENT	2011 NO.	NOTES
A-1	Geothermal Royalties - CAO	F-1	\$2,100,000
A-2	Family Justice Center – DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE	F-41	\$800,000
A-3	Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital (SRMH) Emergency Department and Trauma Center Expansion– DHS	F-2	\$8,000,000
A-4	Perinatal Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program – DHS	F-5	\$1,000,000
A-5	Summer Youth Ecology Corps Jobs Program. Request a waiver of the Federal Workforce Investment Act youth performance outcome measures. HSD	F-42	\$800,000
A-6	Community Health Improvement Action Plan – DHS	F-3	\$3,000,000
A-7	Dental Program for Foster Youth \$120,000 - Seek federal appropriations for the Valley of the Moon Children's Center Dental Program. HSD	F-46	\$120,000
A-8	Training for Unemployed Job Seekers \$300,000 - Seek federal appropriation for Unemployed Job seeker training. HSD	F-48	\$300,000
A-9	Healdsburg Dam Renovations \$2,100,000 – REG. PARKS	F-11	\$2,100,000
A-10	Taylor Mountain Regional Park and Open Space Preserve Development - REG. PARKS.	F-12	\$5,000,000 \$8,000,000
A-11	Bodega Bay Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail REG. PARKS	F-14	\$5,000,000
A-12	Integrated Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Information and Communication System – FIRE & EMERGENCY SRVS.	F-7	\$500,000
A-13	Sudden Oak Death Outreach and Control Program – FIRE & EMERGENCY SRVS.	F-8	\$1,000,000
A-14	US 101/Airport Interchange – TPW	F-33	\$50,000,000
A-15	Sonoma County Transit – 8 Buses purchase – SONOMA COUNTY TRANSIT/TPW	F-34	\$4,000,000
A-16	US 101/River Road Interchange improvements – TPW	F-35	\$10,000,000
A-17	Forestville Bypass – TPW	F-36	\$16,000,000
A-18	Hwy 12/121 & 8 th St. East Intersection improvements TPW	F-37	\$4,000,000

B. Second Tier - Support			
B-1	Public, Education, and Government (PEG) - Support HR 1746 to remove language distinguishing between “capital” and “operating” expenses in PEG support. The bill amends the Act to ensure that PEG fees can be used for any PEG purpose – CAO	New	
B-2	Behavioral Health Services In Community Clinics - DHS	F-4	\$800,000
B-3	Subsidized Employment Program \$1,800,000 to \$2,400,000 - Seek federal appropriation to support Subsidized Employment Program. HSD	F-43	\$1,800,000 to \$2,400,000
B-4	CalFresh Outreach \$600,000 - Seek federal appropriations to support CalFresh outreach efforts. HSD	F-45	\$600,000
B-5	Senior Transportation - Support federal funding to improve senior transportation services. HSD	F-47	\$300,000
B-6	Spud Point Marina Ice Plant Refurbishment – REG. PARKS	New	\$68,000
B-7	Spud Point Marina Vessel Lift Refurbishment - REG. PARKS	F-9	\$50,000
B-8	McCullough/Mark West Creek Acquisition - REG. PARKS	F-10	\$8,000,000
B-9	Tolay Lake Regional Park Master Plan and Development - REG. PARKS	F-13	\$10-12,000,000
B-10	Sonoma Schellville Trail - REG. PARKS	F-17	\$1,500,000
B-11	Monte Rio Bridge replacement – TPW	F-38	\$30,000,000
B-12	Brickway Extension – TPW	F-39	\$5,000,000
B-13	Laughlin Road Widening and Intersection Improvements at River Road – TPW	F-40	\$5,000,000
C. Third Tier - Partner			
C-1	San Francisco Bay Trail- REG. PARKS	F-15	\$2,000,000
C-2	Bodega Bay Maintenance Work - REG. PARKS	F-16	\$1,600,000
C-3	Schopflin Fields Expansion - REG. PARKS	F-18	\$450,000
D. Monitor for County Action			
D-1	Tribal Issues – CAO/BOS/CC	10-22 11-51	Monitor
D-2	Temporary Aid for Needy families (TANF) Reauthorization HSD	New	Monitor
D-3	Support Reauthorization of Workforce Investment Act HSD	New	Monitor
D-4	Elder Justice Act - Support federal budget appropriations for Elder Justice Act. HSD	F-44	Monitor
D-5	Older Americans Act - Support increased federal funding for the Older Americans Act. HSD	F-49	Monitor
D-6	Health Care Reform Planning - Support federal funding to support local technology improvements to enact the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. DHS/HSD	F-50	Monitor
D-7	Local Foods – Support funding in Farm bill to enhance economic development of local farms and ranches and increases access to local foods. AG COMM	New	Monitor
E. County Supported items with Other lead Agencies			
Sonoma Water Agency Federal issues			
E-1	Russian River Biological Opinion funding (#1 SCWA Rank)	11-24	

E-2	Support full funding for O&M at warm Springs, Coyote Valley, and related fish facilities (#2 SCWA Rank)	F-25	
E-3	North Bay Water Re-Use program (#3 SCWA Rank)	New	
E-4	Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (#4 SCWA Rank)	F-26	
E-5	Napa Salt Marsh (#5 SCWA Rank)	F-28	
E-6	Climate protection and Energy Efficiency (#6 SCWA Rank)	F-23	
E-7	San Pablo Bay Ecosystem Restoration (#7 SCWA Rank)	F-31	
E-8	Quagga/Zebra Mussel Statewide Fee and Inspection Program (#8 SCWA Rank)	New	
E-9	NOAA's Hydrometeorology Testbed Project Implementation (#9 SCWA Rank)	New	
E-10	San Francisco Bay Restoration (#10 SCWA Rank)	F-32	
E-11	Agricultural Water Enhancement program – Support (#11 SCWA Rank)	F-27	
E-12	Santa Rosa Creek Ecosystem Restoration (#12 SCWA Rank)	F-29	
E-13	Laguna de Santa Rosa Ecosystem restoration (#13 SCWA Rank)	F-30	
Sonoma County Agriculture Preservation and Open Space District			
E-14	Sonoma Mountain Habitat Preservation Project	F-19	\$1,000,000
E-15	Mark West Creek Agricultural Diversity and Habitat Protection	F-20	\$1,000,000
E-16	Sonoma County Stream Channels Project – Connecting Urban Communities, Riparian Corridors, and Watershed Lands	F-21	\$750,000
E-17	Integrated Watershed Restoration, Stewardship and Climate Adaptation Program	F-22	\$500,000
Sonoma County Transportation Authority			
E-18	Sonoma County Transportation Authority Projects – Support SCTA endorsed projects	F-41	

Total of all Federal Requests	\$184,138,000 to \$189,738,000
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Listing of items by Department or Other Agencies

CAO

Non ranking No.	Title/Issue/Departments(s)	Previous issue No.	Notes
1	Geothermal Royalties - CAO	F-1	\$2,100,000
2	Public, Education, and Government (PEG) - Support HR 1746 to remove language distinguishing between “capital” and “operating” expenses in PEG support. The bill amends the Act to ensure PEG fees used for any PEG purpose – CAO	New	
3	Tribal Issues – CAO/BOS/CC	10-22 11-51	Monitor
District Attorney			
4	Family Justice Center – DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE	F-41	\$800,000
Health Services			
5	Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital (SRMH) Emergency Department and Trauma Center Expansion– DHS	F-2	\$8,000,000
6	Perinatal Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program – DHS	F-5	\$1,000,000
7	Community Health Improvement Action Plan – DHS	F-3	\$3,000,000
8	Behavioral Health Services In Community Clinics - DHS	F-4	\$800,000
Human Services			
9	Summer Youth Ecology Corps Jobs Program. Request a waiver of the Federal Workforce Investment Act youth performance outcome measures. HSD	F-42	\$800,000
10	Dental Program for Foster Youth \$120,000 - Seek federal appropriations for the Valley of the Moon Children’s Center Dental Program. HSD	F-46	\$120,000
11	Training for Unemployed Job Seekers \$300,000 - Seek federal appropriation for Unemployed Job seeker training. HSD	F-48	\$300,000
12	Subsidized Employment Program \$1,800,000 to \$2,400,000 - Seek federal appropriation to support Subsidized Employment Program. HSD	F-43	\$1,800,000 to \$2,400,000
13	CalFresh Outreach \$600,000 - Seek federal appropriations to support CalFresh outreach efforts. HSD	F-45	\$600,000
14	Senior Transportation - Support federal funding to improve senior transportation services. HSD	F-47	\$300,000
15	Temporary Aid for Needy families (TANF) Reauthorization HSD	New	Monitor
16	Support Reauthorization of Workforce Investment Act HSD	New	Monitor
17	Elder Justice Act - Support federal budget appropriations for Elder Justice Act. HSD	F-44	Monitor
18	Older Americans Act - Support increased federal funding for the Older Americans Act. HSD	F-49	Monitor
19	Health Care Reform Planning - Support federal funding to support local technology improvements to enact the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. DHS/HSD	F-50	Monitor

Agricultural Commissioner’s Office			
20	Local Foods – Support funding in Farm bill which supports County work to enhance economic development of local farms and ranches and increases access to local foods. AG	New	Monitor

	COMM.		
Regional Parks Federal Issues			
21	Healdsburg Dam Renovations \$2,100,000 – REG. PARKS.	F-11	\$2,100,000
22	Taylor Mountain Regional Park and Open Space Preserve Development - REG. PARKS.	F-12	\$5,000,000 \$8,000,000
23	Bodega Bay Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail REG. PARKS.	F-14	\$5,000,000
24	Spud Point Marina Ice Plant Refurbishment – REG. PARKS.	New	\$68,000
25	Spud Point Marina Vessel Lift Refurbishment - REG. PARKS.	F-9	\$50,000
26	McCullough/Mark West Creek Acquisition - REG. PARKS.	F-10	\$8,000,000
27	Tolay Lake Regional Park Master Plan and Development - REG. PARKS.	F-13	\$10-12,000,000
28	Sonoma Schellville Trail - REG. PARKS.	F-17	\$1,500,000
29	San Francisco Bay Trail- REG. PARKS.	F-15	\$2,000,000
30	Bodega Bay Maintenance Work - REG. PARKS.	F-16	\$1,600,000
31	Schopflin Fields Expansion - REG. PARKS.	F-18	\$450,000
Fire and Emergency Services			
32	Integrated Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Information and Communication System – FIRE & EMERGENCY SRVS.	F-7	\$500,000
33	Sudden Oak Death Outreach and Control Program – FIRE & EMERGENCY SRVS.	F-8	\$1,000,000
Transportation Projects			
34	US 101/Airport Interchange – TPW	F-33	\$50,000,000
35	Sonoma County Transit – 8 Buses purchase – SONOMA COUNTY TRANSIT/TPW	F-34	\$4,000,000
36	US 101/River Road Interchange improvements – TPW	F-35	\$10,000,000
37	Forestville Bypass – TPW	F-36	\$16,000,000
38	Hwy 12/121 and 8 th Street East Intersection improvements – TPW	F-37	\$4,000,000
39	Monte Rio Bridge replacement – TPW	F-38	\$30,000,000
40	Brickway Extension – TPW	F-39	\$5,000,000
41	Laughlin Road Widening and Intersection Improvements at River Road – TPW	F-40	\$5,000,000

Sonoma Water Agency Federal issues			
42	Russian River Biological Opinion funding (#1 SCWA Rank)	11-24	
43	Support full funding for O&M at Warm Springs, Coyote Valley, and related fish facilities (#2 SCWA Rank)	F-25	
44	North Bay Water Re-Use program (#3 SCWA Rank)	New	
45	Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (#4 SCWA Rank)	F-26	
46	Napa Salt Marsh (#5 SCWA Rank)	F-28	
47	Climate Protection and Energy Efficiency (#6 SCWA Rank)	F-23	
48	San Pablo Bay Ecosystem Restoration (#7 SCWA Rank)	F-31	
49	Quagga/Zebra Mussel Statewide Fee and Inspection Program (#8 SCWA Rank)	New	
50	NOAA's Hydrometeorology test bed Project Implementation – support (#9 SCWA Rank)	New	
51	San Francisco Bay Restoration (#10 SCWA Rank)	F-32	
52	Agricultural Water Enhancement program – Support (#11 SCWA Rank)	F-27	
53	Santa Rosa Creek Ecosystem Restoration (#12 SCWA Rank)	F-29	

54	Laguna de Santa Rosa Ecosystem restoration (#13 SCWA Rank)	F-30	
Sonoma County Agriculture Preservation and Open Space District			
55	Sonoma Mountain Habitat Preservation Project	F-19	\$1,000,000
56	Mark West Creek Agricultural Diversity and Habitat Protection	F-20	\$1,000,000
57	Sonoma County Stream Channels Project – Connecting Urban Communities, Riparian Corridors, and Watershed Lands	F-21	\$750,000
58	Integrated Watershed Restoration, Stewardship and Climate Adaptation Program	F-22	\$500,000
Sonoma County Transportation Authority			
59	Sonoma County Transportation Authority Projects	F-41	
Total of all Federal Requests			\$184,138,000 to \$189,738,000

Priority Listing of Federal Requests

A. Top Priorities

A-1. Geothermal Royalty Revenues

Under the 2005 Energy Policy Act, Sonoma County received a share of Geothermal Royalty revenues from September 2006 through October 2010, for a total of \$5.4 million.

In March 2010, the Department of Interior (DOI) notified the County that changes made in federal fiscal year 2010 Appropriations Act for the Department of Interior (P.L. 111-88) repealed the authority to make revenue sharing payments to counties. However, subsequently Congress reversed the repeal (P.L. 111-212) and the County received the balance of payments accrued for geothermal generation through September 2010 (payment received in October 2010). In November 2010, the DOI's Office of Natural Resources Revenue advised the County that P.L. 111-212 was not included in the Continuing Resolution for FY 2011, thus payments to counties would be discontinued. However, due to County advocacy efforts and the intervention of Congressman Mike Thompson and Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, the language was included. With the passage of the Continuing Resolution on December 8, 2010, the County will receive funding for an additional federal fiscal year (ending September 2011). This funding source remains threatened.

Action: Seek legislative or budget action that permanently protects the County's geothermal royalty share.

A-2. Family Justice Center Sonoma County (FJCSC) Request: \$800,000 toward funding various items of equipment.

The Family Justice Center Sonoma County (FJCSC) is a multi-disciplinary, physically co-located model with a coordinated, single point-of-access offering comprehensive services for victims of family violence. This approach specifically addresses the dispersal of services. The FJC collaborative model is designed to improve victim safety and recovery, increase success in offender prosecutions, and reduce family violence injuries and homicide. Additional collateral benefits documented as outcomes include increased service efficiencies through the provision of collaborative services, and increased community support for services being offered to victims and their children, thus reducing costs and increasing revenues. All Family Justice Centers seek to improve the services being offered to victims, and to reduce the number of locations a victim must visit as well as the number of visits they must make to tell their story and receive the help they need. The United States Department of Justice, through its Office on Violence against Women (O.V.W.), has identified the Family Justice Center model as a best practice in the field of domestic violence intervention and prevention services. Additionally, Congress has recognized the importance of Family Justice Centers as a "purpose area" in the Title of the Violence Against Women Act (V.A.W.A. 2005).

A broad coalition of law enforcement, local government and community based partners established the Family Justice Center Sonoma County to co-locate services for family violence victims. The doors opened in August 2011. The County has been an invaluable partner in this endeavor by supporting the FJCSC efforts and authorizing the partnership to renovate and occupy a building purchased by the County that is centrally-located in Santa Rosa on the county campus.

The FJCSC is seeking an \$800,000 federal appropriation to fund site equipment and related costs, all of which are critical to enhanced service-delivery and evidence based outcomes. The FJCSC is an Upstream Investment Program and the passage of Senate Bill 557 offers both legislation for the Family Justice Center model and also identifies the FJC Sonoma County as a pilot/study site for the State of California.

Our on-site Partner Agencies are the District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office, Santa Rosa Police Department, Human Services, Community Based Organizations including YWCA, Verity, Catholic Charities, Council on Aging, Legal Aid and Inter-Tribal Council.

This coming year the Redwood Children's Center (RCC) is transitioning to the FJCSC building. RCC is a multidisciplinary interview center staffed by a team of professionals from The District Attorney's Office, Mental Health, Human Services, Health Services and Law Enforcement. RCC exists to provide a child-friendly environment for forensic interviews and medical exams where a child victim of sexual abuse, or child victims of other crimes such as witness to domestic violence, or developmentally disabled victims can be interviewed one time by one person rather than experience further trauma from multiple interviews.

The \$800,000 appropriation would fund various items of equipment needed to facilitate mobile, electronic or video-relay linkages with victims in remote county locations, such as at health clinics and law enforcement agencies, as well as a one year cost related to personnel for a forensic medical unit onsite, all related to the project's mission of providing co-located comprehensive family violence crime victims' services. \$475,000 would go toward equipment necessary for the co-location of service-providers in a nurturing and suitable setting for crime victims service delivery, optimizing victims' access to services and victims' crime reporting. Specifically, it would go toward computer equipment, video conferencing capabilities, satellite video relay and communication equipment to provide services onsite and remotely via confidential video both at health clinics and at smaller law enforcement agency locations in remote parts of the county. \$275,000 would fund the first year of a full-time nurse practitioner and part-time medical director to staff and run the on-site forensic medical unit, related to sexual assault, domestic violence and elder assault examinations. \$50,000 would go toward equipment for the forensic medical unit, such as examination table, colposcope and other medical devices, cameras, cabinetry, computers, filing system, locking medical refrigerator and evidence storage locker.

The federal appropriation would be put toward acquiring necessary equipment to house co-located partners, link with off-site partners in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible, and ensure victim access to the services delivered in this new model. Federal funding would enable the FJCSC to begin child and adult forensic service delivery sooner to meet one of the most significant needs of the community as quickly as possible.

Action: Support District Attorney's Offices efforts to seek federal appropriations or other grant sources for the Sonoma County Family Justice Center Sonoma County Redwood Children's Center and Forensic Medical Unit equipment needs.

A-3. Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital (SRMH) Emergency Department and Trauma Center Expansion \$8,000,000

The Sonoma County Department of Health Services is requesting \$8 million to support the construction/expansion of SRMH's Emergency Department and Trauma Center Program operating in Sonoma County, thereby ensuring access to a modern and highly effective trauma program and state of the art Emergency Department (ED) with full access to specialty care. In a recent site review, the American College of Surgeons identified the need to modernize SRMH's Emergency Department. SRMH is a 278-bed Regional Medical Center; one of 14 California trauma centers verified by the American College of Surgeons; and the second busiest trauma center in the state. In 2010, SRMH's trauma program provided specialized care to 1,550 seriously injured patients from Sonoma, Napa and Mendocino County. This project will expand the Emergency Department with a build-out of 4,228 square feet; renovate 9,280 square feet of existing space, and increase of the number ED bays from 19 to 26. Its projected budget is \$15 million with an expected completion date of January 2014.

Action: Seek federal appropriation to support Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital (SRMH) Emergency Department and Trauma Program Expansion.

A-4. Perinatal Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program \$1,000,000

A significant number of Sonoma County women presenting for delivery at local hospitals test positive for alcohol or other drugs. The implication of this rate of toxicity among pregnant women reflects a need for further treatment interventions and a comprehensive systems approach to meet the needs of newborns who may be impacted by the mother's drug use. With the success of the Perinatal Alcohol and Other Drug Action Team's effort to develop universal screening protocols for pregnant women seen by medical providers and the hiring of the County Perinatal Placement Specialist, referrals to perinatal residential and especially Perinatal Day Treatment programs have increased beyond capacity. Specifically, Drug Abuse Alternative Center's (DAAC) Perinatal Day Treatment Program has operated at its enrolled capacity of 33 women and 20 children for the last three years. Due to a lack of funding, the program has had to maintain a waiting list of 15-20 women (and their children) during this same time period. The Perinatal Day Treatment Program has proven to be extremely successful over the last 20 years. The Sonoma County Department of Health Services is requesting \$1 million over three years to support expansion of community perinatal alcohol and drug treatment programs and services.

Action: Seek appropriations to support the Perinatal Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program.

A-5. Summer Youth Jobs Program \$800,000

The Sonoma County Workforce Investment Board and its Youth Council operate a Summer Jobs Program for youth, ages 14 to 24. The program, administered by the Human Services Department, provides subsidized employment to youth at \$8 per hour for 8 weeks during the summer while they learn employment and life skills. Youth work in crews of 8 individuals under the supervision of a crew leader. Most youth work on stream maintenance and restoration projects in Sonoma County. Youth served in the program include those from low-income families, foster youth, youth on probation or at risk of gang involvement, and youth with disabilities. In 2011, 200 youth were served and over the past three years an average of 225 youth were employed each year. In 2009, the program was funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). In 2010, the program was funded through Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF). And in 2011, the program was funded through the Workforce Investment Act and Sonoma County Water Agency. In July 2012, the program will be expanded to a year-round youth employment program. Since there is no dedicated funding for youth employment programming, we are requesting funding of approximately \$800,000.

Action: Support federal appropriations for Summer Youth program and Combine with Water Agency request.

A-6. Community Health Improvement Action Plan \$3,000,000

The Sonoma County Department of Health Services is requesting \$3 million in funding to support implementation of an innovative community health improvement action plan to support chronic disease prevention activities; reduce health care costs; support community health policy development; and mobilize the community to address key social, economic, and environmental determinants of health. With broad support from local business, health care providers, schools, parks, and local government, the plan will include: 1) the development of an effective project infrastructure; 2) a healthy students initiative that will target county schools in areas where students are at high risk for obesity due to poor access to healthy food and opportunities to be physically active; 3) a healthy by design program that will promote planning and design principles and practices to ensure healthy built environments for all community members; 4) a food system alliance that supports collaborative planning, policy development; and cooperative agreements among local governments, food producers, agricultural interests, wholesalers,

retailers, and institutional consumers to improve countywide access to and consumption of healthy food; 5) a neighborhood leadership initiative that will address gaps in community policy and infrastructure that adversely influence the ability of residents to eat healthy and be physically active; and 6) an employer partnership for health effort that promotes regular exercise at work and other worksite wellness efforts.

Action: Seek federal appropriations or agency grant funds to support the Community Improvement Action Plan.

A-7. Dental Clinic for Foster Youth \$120,000

Funding is being requested to support a public-private oral health infrastructure that provides dental care for all children entering emergency foster care at Sonoma County's emergency shelter, the Valley of the Moon Children's Center (VMCC). VMCC serves approximately 450 children a year. The American Academy of Pediatricians estimates that about 35% of children enter foster care with high prevalence of undiagnosed or under-treated acute and chronic dental or oral health conditions. Limited local dental resources for low-income and at-risk youth have made it difficult for these children to receive appropriate and timely dental care. The services provided through the VMCC dental program include: dental evaluations and teeth cleanings of all children; follow up care such as fillings and extractions; dental emergencies such as tooth pain; developing community resources to address higher level dental needs (i.e., surgeries); and implementing an oral health prevention program by providing dental sealants and educating children and youth about oral health. The partnership uses the services of volunteer dental professionals from the local community. Total funding requested is \$120,000 for Dental Program Director, equipment, and supplies.

Action: Seek federal appropriations for the Valley of the Moon Dental Clinic.

A-8. Training for Unemployed Job Seekers \$300,000

During the current economic downturn, jobs are more competitive and many people have found it necessary to upgrade their skills to compete for limited jobs. Through Sonoma County Job Link, job seekers who meet federal eligibility requirements can obtain a voucher or scholarship for occupational skills training. Training dollars are being depleted at a rapid rate. The Workforce Investment Board has reduced the per-person cap to extend training dollars, but more training funds are needed to meet the current demand. The amount requested is \$300,000.

Action: Seek federal appropriation for Unemployed Job seeker training.

A-9. Healdsburg Dam Renovations \$2,100,000

Department of Energy: Energy and Water Subcommittee

Department of Interior: Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Act and Land-Water Conservation Fund Act

These funds would support the refurbishment of the Healdsburg War Memorial Dam in Healdsburg, California. The dam was originally built in 1953, and then reconstructed in 1956 following a flood. The dam consists of a concrete sill, steel anchor plates and removable flashboards. The flashboards and support structure is erected annually, currently to a maximum height of seven feet due to structural weaknesses, in late June and removed mid-September. The War Memorial Dam is a significant recreational feature along the Russian River with over 100,000 annual visitors to Healdsburg Veterans Memorial Beach and the increased water levels during the dry summer months contributes to the recharge of the City of Healdsburg's drinking water wells located upstream.

Refurbishment of the entire dam structure would include repair of the eroded surfaces on the concrete foundation, replacement of steel anchor plates, replacement of the flashboard panel assemblies and a new



sheet pile wall. Additionally, fish passage will be enhanced while the dam is erected by increasing the depth of the resting pool beneath the spillway. After the work is completed, Regional Parks expects that it will be able to restore the War Memorial Dam to its historical height of ten feet.

Recipient: Sonoma County Regional Parks/City of Healdsburg

Action: Seek federal appropriations for the Sonoma County Veterans Memorial Beach Dam in Healdsburg.



A-10. Taylor Mountain Regional Park and Open Space Preserve Development \$5,000,000 - \$8,000,000

Department of Interior: Land-Water Conservation Fund Act

Housing and Urban Development: Urban Revitalization and Livable Communities

The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and Sonoma County Regional Parks are currently working together to complete the Taylor Mountain Master Plan. Funding is needed to begin the development phase of the project. Once this park is developed, the public will be able to hike, bike or horseback on this beautiful 1,000 acre park. The Taylor Mountain Regional Park and Open Space Preserve is just minutes always from the cities of Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Roseland, Cotati, Petaluma, and Sonoma.

Action: Seek federal appropriations for Taylor Mountain Regional Park and Open Space Preserve.



A-11. Bodega Bay Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail \$5,000,000

Housing and Urban Development: Urban Revitalization & Livable Communities

Department of Interior: Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Act and Land-Water Conservation Fund Act

The Bodega Bay Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Corridor is a multi-phase project that will form an important link in the California Coastal Trail System as well as linking commercial, recreational and residential areas of Bodega Bay. Some segments have been funded, but several segments still require funding for the planning and development phases. Conceptual plans and preliminary California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance are complete for the entire trail corridor.

Action: Seek federal appropriations for the Bodega Bay Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail.

A-12. Integrated Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Information and Communication System \$500,000

Department of Justice – COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Funding will be used to improve the communications interoperability of the EOC to effectively manage county-wide emergency response. This project deserves funding because it contributes to the national priority of improving public safety and supports the local community. \$190,000 was approved in the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. Congresswoman Woolsey has placed a request of \$500,000 in the FY 2010 Appropriations process.

Action: Continue efforts with Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey's office to attain additional funding for the Integrated Emergency Operations Center Information and Communication System.

A-13. Sudden Oak Death Outreach and Control Program \$1,000,000

US Forest Service – State and Private Forestry

The Sonoma County Sudden Oak Death project will address the fire hazard caused by the death of thousands of trees throughout the county. Fire fuels mitigation and modeling and a comprehensive outreach program are the objectives of the project. This project contributes to the national priority of preserving the environment and supports the local community. This request was not included in the FY 2009 Appropriations process, but Congresswoman Woolsey has included a request of \$1 million in the FY 2010 Appropriations process which was slated for approval. Unfortunately, due to Congress lack of passage of a final budget this appropriation remains on hold.

Action: Continue to work with Congresswoman Woolsey's office to attain the \$1 million appropriation for fire hazard mitigation.

A-14. US 101/Airport Interchange Reconstruction - \$50 million

This project proposes to reconstruct the Airport Boulevard interchange with US Highway 101 in central Sonoma County. This project includes a new 5-lane bridge over the mainline US 101 with two signalized connecting ramp intersections just east and west of the highway. Major modifications to all ramps will be required to meet volume needs and the current State standards for transitioning to and from Highway 101. A collector/distributor road from Airport Boulevard to Fulton Road is included to improve the interchange efficiency and safety. The California Department of Transportation has been part of the ongoing development of this project for several years. The adopted alternative was selected after an extensive analysis of the costs, performance, and traffic safety evaluation was conducted. The cost estimate was prepared at the end of February 2009 so the amount stated reflects the current contracting atmosphere of Northern California.

This is a critical interchange serving the regional airport and the adjacent business park. The business park is an important industrial and business growth area which depends on efficient traffic access. The existing configuration of the interchange does not meet current Caltrans & FHWA standards; and coupled with the ever growing volumes of traffic; the interchange is expected to fall to level of service "F" in just a few years. At times now, ramp traffic backs up onto the mainline, creating serious safety & congestion concerns. There are several environmental issues that will be addressed as part of the design and permitting process. These items primarily relate to the adjacent streams that will have some impact from the road construction.

Action: Support efforts for inclusion in the next federal transportation re-authorization bill.

A-15. Sonoma County Transit purchase of eight buses – \$4.0 million

This project proposes to purchase eight 40 foot compressed natural gas powered transit coaches. The County and the region are committed to a comprehensive effort to improve the air quality of this area. To this end, the County has replaced the diesel bus fleet with clean burning equipment powered by natural gas. The County is scheduled to replace 8 buses over the next year to be able to maintain service on all routes. In this difficult economy, transit has become more of a necessity to the general public and these new buses will help fill any gaps.

Action: Seek federal appropriations for new bus purchases.

A-16. US 101/River Road Interchange Improvements - \$10 million

This project proposes to rehabilitate the interchange and approaches to US 101 at River Road. This is one of the main access routes to the agricultural areas of the County, including vineyards, wineries, dairies, and others. It serves as the primary access to the Russian River recreational areas and the Pacific Coast. To the east, Mark West Springs Road links the US 101 to Calistoga and northern Napa Valley. It is a very important and heavily used interchange. There are a number of sight distance problems and other safety

issues to resolve with this work. This is an outdate alignment plus the road surfaces are extremely worn from the high volumes of truck traffic. The upgrading of the interchange will address the safety concerns and pavement design to accommodate heavy vehicle traffic. No significant environmental issues are anticipated with the rehabilitation of the interchange.

Action: Support efforts for inclusion in the next federal transportation re-authorization bill.

A-17. Forestville Bypass - \$16 million

The project proposes to reconstruct a portion of State Route 116 with a separate link connecting to Mirabel Road. This is a significant safety improvement to this community. Portions of the right-of-way have been secured by developer subdivision process and County acquisitions.

Action: Support efforts for inclusion in the next federal transportation re-authorization bill.

A-18. Hwy 12/121 & 8th Street East Intersection Improvements - \$4 million

This project proposes to reconstruct, channelize, and signalize the intersection of State Route 12/121 and 8th Street East. The project will require a cooperative agreement with the state. The project is needed to allow more efficient and safe turning movements of large vehicles and trucks accessing the adjacent business park. This is a high accident area.

Action: Support efforts for inclusion in the next federal transportation re-authorization bill.

B. Second Priorities

B-1. Increase Flexibility in use of Public, Education and Government Cable Franchise funds

Under the Cable Act, a cable operator and a local community may negotiate for Public, Education, and Government (PEG) support in addition to the franchise fee payments for use of public rights of way. Sonoma County started receiving PEG funds since May 2010, in FY 10-11 total received was \$345,000, and FY 11-12 \$275, 000 is expected. To date only \$6,000 has been used for equipment, as the FCC recently ruled, subject to some important exceptions, that this PEG support may only be used for facilities and equipment, and not for PEG operating expenses. Thus, cost associated with televising Board of Supervisors meetings are covered with the county's operating General Fund.

Action: Support HR 1746 to remove language distinguishing between "capital" and "operating" expenses in PEG support. The bill amends the Act to ensure that PEG fees can be used for any PEG purpose PEG funding to be used for operating expenses

B-2. Behavioral Health Services In Community Clinics \$800,000

The Sonoma County Department of Health Services is requesting \$800,000 to support collaboration between the Sonoma County Department of Health Services Behavioral Health Division and Santa Rosa Community Health Center, Petaluma Health Center, and Alliance Medical Center to provide routine universal mental health and substance use disorder screenings, education, and integrated mental health and substance use disorder services to patients who screen positive for mental illness and/or substance use. The provision of services will focus specifically on minority communities in Sonoma County, particularly the Latino community.

Action: Seek federal appropriations or agency grant funds to support behavioral health services in community clinics.

B-3. Subsidized Employment Program \$1,800,000 to \$2,400,000

Last year, under the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Contingent Fund (ECF) employers received a subsidy to offset all of the wages and costs of employing a participant. Subsidized Employment Program participants, who must meet federal income guidelines, were paid the going rate for workers who perform the same job. Participants are placed in public agencies, private non-profit organizations, and private for-profit businesses and perform work designed to contribute valuable services to the community and stimulate the local economy. Work experience helps participants improve their job skills while increasing their household income. With TANF ECF funding, 365 people were enrolled and of those 173 transitioned to permanent employment. Most of the cost of the program was for wages. The Department wishes to provide a Subsidized Employment Program for TANF recipients under AB98/SB72 (using the Department's CalWORKs single allocation). To operate this program \$1,800,000 to \$2,400,000 is requested.

Action: Seek federal appropriation to support Subsidized Employment Program.

B-4. CalFresh Outreach \$600,000

California has the nation's lowest participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) formerly called "Food Stamps." California's low-uptake for the SNAP program, called CalFresh in California, is likely affected by the relatively high numbers of immigrants compared to the rest of the nation. Legal immigrants may fear that accepting government benefits will adversely impact their immigrant status. Only a third of California's working poor are estimated to participate in the SNAP. In Sonoma County it is estimated that only 45% of all those potentially eligible are actually receiving SNAP benefits. And, the number of residents that are eligible has increased over the past year. In 2010, the Sonoma County poverty rate increased to 13.1% from 8.9% in 2007. Federally-funded SNAP benefits directly stimulate the local economy. The Department of Agriculture estimates that for every dollar spent there is a return to the local economy of \$1.84. Funding is needed for outreach services particularly among the Spanish-speaking residents, agricultural workers, and the working poor. The Human Services Department requests \$600,000 for CalFresh outreach activities that would build on its existing partnerships with community-based organizations that are already working with these populations.

Action: Seek federal appropriations to support CalFresh outreach efforts.

B-5. Senior Transportation - \$300,000

The Area Agency on Aging has had a special initiative focusing on senior transportation. The program received a NACO award in 2011. The staff position dedicated to this project was eliminated because the funding for senior transportation programs has not been authorized on the federal or state level.

Improving access to transportation resources for seniors and adults with disabilities has been identified as the number one goal in the Sonoma County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) senior needs assessment. Transportation is critical to the ability of seniors to access social and medical services that enable them to remain safely in their homes. Sonoma County has implemented volunteer driver programs and is working to develop a centralized telephone number for seniors to call for transportation assistance. Because public transit agencies must confront multiple priorities, it is vitally important that separate federal funding for senior transportation continue and expand. The AAA has received New Freedom funding for the past three years. Additional funds on the federal level could result in local grants for senior transportation alternatives and mobility management.

Action: Support federal funding to improve senior transportation services.

B-6. Spud Point Marina Ice Plant Refurbishment \$68,000

The ice plant at Spud Point Marina was built in 1986 to serve the commercial fishing industry in Bodega Bay. Ice is an absolute requirement for commercial fishing of salmon, crab, and rockfish as it is used to hold the catch at optimal temperature until the vessel returns to offload. The 35-ton Northstar icemaker at Spud Point Marina is 26 years old and rapidly deteriorating; technicians have indicated that it could fail at any time. The other key components of the ice plant, the compressor, regulator, and pump, have all been replaced. The failing drum cannot be replaced as a part; therefore, a complete new ice maker is required.

Due to the recent salmon closures in the past ten years, the demand for ice does not warrant a 35-ton replacement unit; a 28-30-ton unit would suffice at an approximate cost of \$68,000. The original ice maker was not solid steel and only provided a three-year warranty; the replacement unit would be solid stainless steel and have a lifetime warranty.

When the current ice maker fails, fishermen will be forced to truck ice to their boats; a very expensive alternative that would, additionally, take them off their fishing vessels during peak fishing seasons. The loss of a working ice plant in Bodega Bay would have catastrophic financial impact on the commercial fishing industry there.

Action: Seek federal appropriations for the refurbishment of the Ice Plant.

B-7. Spud Point Marina Vessel Lift Refurbishment -- \$50,000

Vessel Lift Only: From 1988 to 2002 a vessel haul-out facility (boat yard) was operating at Bodega Bay across from Spud Point Marina under a private lease and supported the area's fishing and recreational boating activities. The boat yard operator leased a county-owned, 70 ton Marine Travelift® boat hoist from the County as part of this operation. The operator lost their lease on the boatyard property and the hoist was left unused for ten years. Deemed irreparable, the hoist was auctioned off for scrap by an experienced Port Master and lift operator who, after rigorous inspect, determined that the integrity of the lift's frame is still very good and has agreed to refurbish the lift if the County advances the \$50,000 for sandblasting, galvanizing, powder coating, and new machine parts. Once refurbished, the lift will be certified by Travelift® engineers and be put into service at Spud Point Marina by the owner/operator.

Because there are no large haul-out facilities near Bodega Bay, the closest being 70 miles away over open ocean, reestablishing haul-out operations in Bodega Bay is paramount. Vessels in trouble, damaged or sinking are unable to be repaired or kept from sinking, and often become not only a danger for crew and cargo, but often become navigational hazards, and even more disturbing, they become an environmental hazards should they sink. Additionally, both commercial and recreational boaters tend to choose harbors with haul-out facilities for their permanent berthing; this will boost the berthing occupancy at Spud Point Marina and provide a boon to local businesses as well. The haul-out facility piers and docks associated with the haul-out facility are still in very good condition.

A replacement Marine Travelift® would cost the County approximately \$450,000 delivered and assembled, ready for use. Refurbishing the lift will result in a better quality lift as the owner will utilize stainless steel parts and hardware to extend the future life of the lift; the manufacturer does not utilize the highest quality parts and hardware. It is expected that the refurbished boat hoist will generate monthly revenues (rent and percentage of fees) of approximately \$25,000 per year to the County.

Funding this request would benefit not only the California coastal environment, but the County of Sonoma and the entire Bodega Bay Community, as well as all fishing and recreational vessels traversing the waters between San Francisco and points north.

Action: Seek federal appropriations for the refurbishment of the Spud Point Marina 70 ton Travelift® .



B-8. McCullough/Mark West Creek Acquisition \$8,000,000

Department of Interior: Land-Water Conservation Fund Act

Sonoma County Regional Parks and the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District have been working together on a public-private partnership to preserve the McCullough and Cresta Ranches to transform these properties into a regional park and open space preserve. The proposed Mark West Creek Regional Park and Open Space Preserve would become 1,095 acres of recreational open space and wilderness opportunity minutes from the cities of Santa Rosa, Calistoga, Windsor, and Healdsburg. The east and west ridges of the McCullough Ranch stand as a 461 acre preserve of grasslands, woodlands and streams that are home to Coho Salmon and Steelhead Trout, and a 22 mile trail system that provides expansive views of the surrounding Russian River Valley and the Santa Rosa Plain. The proposed linkage of the two properties speaks to the essence of Sonoma County’s legacy of open space preservation.

The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District purchased a 340 acre property known as Cresta Ranch in November 2007, and a 461 acre property known as McCullough Phase I in September 2009. These properties are intended to be part of the future Mark West Creek Regional Park. To date, the County has invested approximately \$15 million for the purchase of McCullough and Cresta Ranches. To realize the full potential of this project, which will ultimately form a contiguous protected habitat of over 4,600 acres on the northern edge of the Santa Rosa urban area, an additional \$8 million is needed to acquire the valley between the ridges, protect the confluence of Mark West and Mill Creek, and create public access from Porter Creek Road.

Action: Seek federal appropriations for the McCullough/Mark West Creek Acquisition.



B-9. Tolay Lake Regional Park Master Plan and Development -- \$10,000,000 - \$12,000,000

Department of Interior: Land-Water Conservation Fund Act

Housing and Urban Development: Urban Revitalization & Livable Communities

Sonoma County Regional Parks is working together with the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District to complete the planning and development phase of the Tolay Lake Regional Park. The proposed park (formerly known as the Cardoza Ranch) is approximately 1,700 acres and will restore habitat, protect open space, and provide natural and cultural resource educational and recreational opportunities to Sonoma County residents and visitors. The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District provided more than half of the \$18 million needed for the acquisition of Tolay Lake. These funds are from the one-quarter cent sales tax approved by voters in 1990. The remaining \$6,800,000 for the purchase included grants from the Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Conservation Board, State Coastal Conservancy, Land and Water Conservation Fund, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, State Proposition 12 Funds, and private foundations, businesses, and individual donors.

Action: Seek federal appropriations for Tolay Lake Regional Park Master Plan and Development.



B-10. Sonoma Schellville Trail \$1,500,000

Housing and Urban Development: Urban Revitalization and Livable Communities

Department of Interior: Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Act and Land-Water Conservation Fund Act

The Sonoma Schellville Trail corridor is an important regional trail that is located primarily on former Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way. Funding is needed to complete the acquisition and construction phases.

Action: Seek federal appropriations for Sonoma Schellville Trail.

B-11. Monte Rio Bridge Replacement - \$30 million

This project proposes to replace the main structure across the Russian River that has severely deteriorated in recent years. A cooperative agreement with Caltrans will be required.

Action: Support efforts for inclusion in the next federal transportation re-authorization bill.

B-12. Brickway Extension - \$5,000,000

This project proposes to extend Brickway Boulevard south over Mark West Creek to Laughlin Road. This project will provide a direct link connection to the airport area from River Road. This project will shift some traffic from Fulton Road and the Highway 101 at the Airport interchange. A major component of this project is a new bridge over Mark West Creek. Following construction of this new link, the existing narrow Laughlin Road Bridge over Mark West Creek will be closed to vehicular traffic, but will remain as an historical structure (1916 earth- filled arch). Future use will be limited to pedestrians, bicyclists, and emergency vehicle access only.

Action: Support efforts for inclusion in the next federal transportation re-authorization bill.

B-13. Laughlin Road Widening and Intersection Improvements at River Road - \$5,000,000

This project proposes to widen Laughlin Road from the Brickway extension to River Road. This project includes the intersection control improvements at River Road/Laughlin Road/Woolsey Road; with the accompanying widening of segments of River Road and Woolsey Road. This signal is necessary when the Brickway extension opens to allow traffic from airport area to access River Road.

Action: Support efforts for inclusion in the next federal transportation re-authorization bill.

C. Third Tier

C-1. San Francisco Bay Trail \$2,000,000

*Housing and Urban Development: Urban Revitalization and Livable Communities
Department of Interior: Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Act and Land-Water
Conservation Fund Act*

The San Francisco Bay Trail is an important regional trail corridor that has many connection gaps and requires funding to complete the trail system. Conceptual plans and preliminary environmental compliance are complete for the entire trail. Additional funds are needed to complete the planning and development phases.

Action: Seek federal appropriations for San Francisco Bay Trail.

C-2. Bodega Bay Maintenance Work \$1,600,000

Department of Energy: Energy and Water Subcommittee

The County is responsible for the maintenance of the channels leading from the federally maintained main channel to Spud Point Marina, the Porto Bodega/Sport Fishing Center and the Doran Beach boat launch site. The County must also perform dredging within the Marina and the Sport Fishing Center.

Action: Seek federal appropriations for Bodega Bay Channel maintenance.





C-3. Schopflin Fields Expansion \$450,000

*Housing and Urban Development: Urban Revitalization and Livable Communities
Department of Interior: Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Act and Land-Water
Conservation Fund Act*

The Schopflin Athletic Field Expansion project would complete a large youth and adult sports field complex which is needed to support Sonoma County youth recreational needs.

Action: Seek federal appropriations for expansion of the Schopflin Fields.

D. Items Monitored for County Issues/Action

D-1. Tribal Issues

Issue: Federally recognized Indian tribes can develop lands held by the federal government in trust, without regard to local land use plans, such as the County General Plan. Further, such developments can have a number of impacts on the County, its citizenry, services, lands, and infrastructure that the County may not have the ability to mitigate. Recognizing this, the Board has adopted resolutions and provided policy direction both on specific development proposals, as well as more general matters, regarding tribal gaming and other development on tribal lands. Board policy has included opposing tribal gaming and insuring that the impacts of tribal development projects approved by the BIA are fully mitigated. In addition, the Board and County staff have actively participated in developing policy which deals with these issues regionally, and on state and national levels.

Action: Monitor and support efforts to enact legislation and regulations consistent with California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and National Association of Counties (NACo) policies, prior and future Board resolutions, and policy direction with respect to tribal recognition, fee-to-trust reform, and development proposals. Oppose legislation and regulations that are inconsistent with the above.

D-2. TANF Reauthorization

Authorization of TANF has been temporarily approved through December 2011. Ideally, reauthorization will include a revision of the Work Participation Rate (WPR). Currently, the formula for WPR ensures failure because the numerator includes all recipients who have worked 32 hours a week for a month, and the denominator includes residents who are not required to work. Almost 9,000 Sonoma County residents receive TANF (CalWORKs).

Action: Support full reauthorization of TANF including a revised definition of Work Participation Rate (WPR)

D-3. Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Reauthorization

The recent recession, and subsidized employment support provided through ARRA, have highlighted the urgent need for expanded resources to support youth employment activities. The Sonoma County WIB and the Water Agency collaborate to provide the Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corp and are in the process of expanding to a year-round program.

Action: Support full reauthorization of WIA including adequate funding for youth employment programs

D-4. Elder Justice Act

President Obama proposed \$21.5 million in funding for the Elder Justice Act for 2012. Despite continued advocacy from elder abuse prevention advocates across the country, the proposed funding was removed by the Senate.

After years of advocacy efforts, the Elder Justice Act (EJA), the nation's first comprehensive national legislation addressing elder abuse, was signed into law in March 2010. Unfortunately appropriations have not been authorized which left the provisions of this law unfunded. The EJA law has the promise of establishing federal standards for adult protective services and providing a dedicated federal funding stream for services to protect seniors and vulnerable adults from abuse. The EJA also provides funding for the Long Term Care Ombudsman to investigate abuse and neglect in skilled nursing facilities. The law also provides for the establishment of Forensic Centers on Elder Abuse and training in abuse investigation standards. The Human Services Department urges federal funding to support the Elder Justice Act as it was originally designed.

Action: Support federal budget appropriations for the Elder Justice Act.

D-5. Older Americans Act (OAA)

The Older Americans Act services and funding are threatened in the current Congressional budget process. The OAA is vitally important to Sonoma County because the state funding for Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) has been eliminated. The over 60 years old population in Sonoma County is 20% of the population. By 2020, the over 60 population will be 25% of the total population in Sonoma County. Public services for older adults is limited with the majority of services being available to low income seniors.

Congress passed the OAA in 1965 to address a lack of community social resources for older persons. The act established a national network of Area Agencies on Aging which oversee a variety of social services for seniors including: nutrition, elder abuse prevention, legal services and advocacy, and caregiver resources. The OAA has never been adequately funded and does not reflect the need for senior services or the growth in the over 60 populations. With the elimination of state funding to support California's Area Agencies on Aging programs, it is critically important that the proposed federal funding remain in place. The Human Services Department urges increased federal support for Older Americans Act funding.

Action: Support increased federal funding for the Older Americans Act.

D-6. Health Care Reform Planning

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act which includes numerous health-related provisions to take effect over a four-year period including the expansion of Medicaid eligibility. In California, eligibility for Medi-Cal, California's Medicaid program, is administered at the county level, using one of three automated case data systems. These systems will need retooling to meet the needs of the federal 2014 Medicaid expansion as well as California's initiatives for expanding health care coverage. The Human Services Department urges federal funding to make the necessary changes in automated systems to accommodate the expansion of health care coverage.

Action: Support federal funding to support local technology improvements to enact the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

D-7. Local Foods Efforts

The need exists to enhance the economic development of local farms and ranches, while coordinating food systems work in the community to increase food access and public health. There is not an adequate and reliable source of funding to support these efforts by County departments (Agricultural Commissioner's Office, UC Cooperative Extension, Health Services, and other departments).

Initiatives to support local agriculture and healthy communities are components of the County Strategic Plan. An update on the status, recommendations, and work to promote these initiatives were presented to the Board on August 9, 2011. These initiatives are in alignment with USDA's mission and the funding made available through the Farm Bill, including the areas of: food and nutrition; food safety, including promoting the growing and access to healthy foods; agricultural product marketing and regulatory programs; rural development, including farm worker housing; and education, including job training and resources for new farmers and green economy; and protecting natural resources and the environment through sustainable management.

Action: Secure federal funding, through the Farm Bill and other avenues, to support County work to enhance the economic development of local farms and ranches, and coordinating food systems in the community to increase food access and public health.

E. County Supported Items with Other Lead Agencies

Sonoma County Water Agency

E-1. Russian River Biological Opinion (BO)



There is need to implement Recommended Prudent Alternatives and Measures and the terms and conditions of BO and continue to coordinate with US Army Corps of Engineers on developing funding estimates and authorization needs. Russian River Project authorization was included in the proposed 2010 House Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) legislation.

Actions:

- Support SCWA efforts to seek legislation that would implement the Recommended Prudent Alternatives and Measures and terms and conditions of BO;
- Support SCWA efforts to support reintroduction Russian River Project Authorization/Water Resources Development Act language amending existing authorization in 112th Congress and where possible use existing Corps authorities;
- Support SCWA efforts to support continued appropriations for Corps authorized BO requirements.

E-2. Russian River Project: Warm Springs Dam and Coyote Valley Dam Operations



Operations and Maintenance funding varies annually, not always adequate to fully fund hatchery operations. The Sonoma County Water Agency has pursued additional funding annually to support existing Coho broodstock program.

Actions:

- Support SCWA efforts to acquire full funding of Operations and Maintenance (O&M) needs and to implement existing and expanded Coho broodstock program;
- Support SCWA efforts to pursue statutory or report language directing the Corps to use O&M funding for ESA purposes.



E-3. North Bay Water Reuse Program

The North Bay Water Reuse Program is a regional cooperative program in the North San Pablo Bay Region which includes as partners the Sonoma County Water Agency, Napa Sanitation District, Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District, the County of Napa, Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District, North Marin Water District, and Novato Sanitary District. The purpose of the Program is to promote sustainability and environmental enhancement by expanding the use of recycled water. The United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is the federal partner in this program and has already provided millions of dollars in funding toward 50% of the Feasibility Study for Phase 1.

There is an existing federal authorization for a \$100 million dollar construction program with up to \$25 million federal cost share and the ability to expand into additional phases of another \$100 million dollar construction program. Phase I construction works are already underway with an award of ARRA funds of \$7.3 million in 2011 for design and construction of multiple projects in Napa, Sonoma, and Marin Counties. A scoping effort for Phase II of the program to increase storage and distribution of recycled water beyond Phase 1 projects is currently underway with cost share being provided by Reclamation and the local partners and an estimated scoping analysis completion date of early 2012.

Action:

- Support Water Agency request for additional funding for Phase I construction projects through the Water Smart Grant program administered by Reclamation;
- Support Water Agency request for increased grant limits for regional, multi-phase projects such as this program;
- Support Water Agency request for additional funding for Phase II Feasibility Study, including engineering and economic analysis and amendments of existing environmental documents, if project partners determine a desire to enter into this phase pending the results of the scoping analysis.



E-4. Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

Appropriations of \$80 million per year were approved in FY 09 and FY 10. Proposed funding for FY 11 is \$80 million. Funds are allocated among the Pacific states based on applications submitted by the states. California disburses the funds to local projects through the California Department of Fish and Game Fishery Restoration Grant Program. SCWA Director and Supervisor Efren Carrillo is part of the selection committee.

Action: Support SCWA efforts to maintain future years funding and advocacy for an equal share among states. (Funding for this program, which is restoration oriented, should be kept separate from reparations for losses in fish harvest).



E-5. Napa River Salt Marsh Restoration (a.k.a. Napa Sonoma Salt Marsh Restoration)

There is a need to get appropriations under the US Army Corps Construction General account. \$12 million was included in Administration, House and Senate 2011 budget proposals but it appears unlikely to be approved by the end of 2010. Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) language supporting recycled water pipeline was included in proposed 2010 House WRDA legislation.

Action: Support SCWA efforts to attain clarifying WRDA language and request funding to complete design of recycled water pipeline and to construct facilities for restoration of Ponds 6 - 8.



E-6. Climate Protection and Energy Efficiency Legislation

Legislative measures to implement nationwide reductions in greenhouse gas emissions failed passage in the prior legislative session. The 112th Congress is likely to consider less expansive measures that would make incremental progress toward increased energy efficiency, implementation of renewable portfolio standards and other items. Staff and Board members have monitored and participated in Climate Communities efforts to establish revenue streams to support local government addressing climate change.

Climate protection and energy efficiency program legislation offers an opportunity to advance local efforts by providing federal funding and policy support. Authorization language would help establish long-term program with federal cost-share.

Action:

- Support SCWA efforts to seek the introduction of legislation that authorizes a competitive grant program that addresses energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water conservation programs;
- Support implementation language of renewable portfolio standards and revenue streams to support local government who are addressing climate change.



E-7. San Pablo Bay Ecosystem Restoration

Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2007 authorized \$40 million for restoration projects in the San Pablo Bay watershed; no appropriations have been allocated. There is a need for funding allocation in appropriations bill. Existing authorization and future funding could possibly be utilized to offset costs for storage and wetland restoration for water reuse projects in the San Pablo Bay watershed.

Action: Support SCWA efforts to attain funding in federal appropriations bill for the San Pablo Bay Ecosystem Restoration effort.



E-8. Quagga/Zebra Mussel Statewide Fee and Inspection Program

The quagga and zebra mussels (collectively referred to as Dreissenids) are among the most devastating invasive species to invade North America fresh waters. The mussels create severe ecological and economic impacts because, once established, they can clog water intake and delivery pipes, infest hydropower equipment, adhere to boats and pilings, foul recreational beaches, and damage fisheries. Invasive Quagga mussels are present in several California lakes and represent a threat to water supply and fish hatchery operations at Lakes Sonoma and Mendocino; both lakes are susceptible to a mussel invasion because of the high amount of year round watercraft recreation traffic and the lack of mandatory inspection. There is no effective eradication method and the cost to remove the mussels from water intake screens and pipes could have substantial costs. Prevention of contamination and spreading of mussels is an effective way to preserve an invasive-free waterway. Proper and thorough inspection is a necessary component in the ongoing effort to eliminate the spread of mussels. Dedicated permanent funding to support permanent staff and programs is necessary to effectively prevent infestation in local water supply facilities. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operates and manages the recreational functions of both lakes and their support and cooperation is essential for implementation of programs to prevent mussel infestation. To date, the Corps is not operating any mandatory inspection programs at either Lake. The Corps has posted public outreach signs and is relying on voluntary, self-imposed inspections of watercrafts entering the reservoirs.

Action:

- Support Water Agency requests for increased Operations & Maintenance funding for the Corps to develop and implement a mandatory Boat Inspections Program at Lakes Sonoma and Mendocino for Invasive Species Eradication/Control.

- Support Water Agency request for specific Energy and Water appropriations bill report language directing the Corps to implement boat inspection programs to prevent mussel infestation in Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino.

E-9. NOAA's Hydrometeorology Testbed Project Implementation



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) studies demonstrated the potential value of new hydrometeorology technology for improving water resource management in California. The program introduces advanced forecasting methods developed in the US mid-continent region for severe weather studies to the western US in an effort to provide more accurate and longer range precipitation forecasts. Water managers in California manage reservoirs in the winter season for flood prevention purposes. Water is released from storage as storms approach in order to increase capacity to capture runoff behind dams and reduce downstream flooding. Availability of more accurate and longer range precipitation forecasts could enable water managers to retain more water in storage and provide a larger water supply for the summer dry season. Improved precipitation forecasting also has critical importance for flood prediction and emergency response in Sonoma County. The Russian River Watershed is one of the most flood prone regions in the nation and Sonoma County receives more Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance than any other county in California. Implementation of the hydrometeorology program known as the Hydrometeorology Testbed (HMT) would be performed by the NOAA Physical Sciences Division and would require \$7.6 million in funding in the federal FY 12 budget.

Action: Though the technology is known and proven, federal funding is necessary to implement these systems in the Western US. NOAA is requesting \$7.6 million in the administration budget for 2012 for programs that are a part of the HMT-West initiative.

- Support Water Agency request for federal appropriations for the NOAA Hydrometeorology Testbed program.
- Support Water Agency request for NOAA's senior management to direct any available discretionary funding for HMT programs.
- Support development of a coalition of local and regional agencies to participate in the HMT program and support additional federal funding.

E-10. San Francisco Bay Restoration



San Francisco Estuary Project is part of National Estuaries Program but receives considerably less funds than other regions. Increased funding would benefit reuse and wetland restoration projects and monitoring and research needs in the San Francisco Bay Watershed. Legislation was introduced in the 111th Congress in both the House (Congresswoman Speier) and Senate (Senator Feinstein) and is currently pending action by Congress.

Promote reintroduction of legislation in 112th Congress if not approved by the 111th Congress.

Action: Support SCWA efforts to secure funding for the San Francisco Bay Estuary Project.

E-11. Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (Food, Conservation and Energy Act - 2008 Farm Bill)



The Northern California Wine Country Agricultural Water Conservation and Water Quality Improvement Program is funded out of this federal funding source and focuses on construction of off-stream ponds and other water conserving infrastructure to reduce direct diversions. This particular program was approved for \$5.7 million in July 2009, and includes the Russian River and Sonoma Creek watersheds along with the Navarro and Napa Rivers.

Action: Support SCWA efforts to acquire ongoing funding of this program to assist agricultural interests in implementing projects that benefit fisheries, water conservation, and other watershed improvements in the Russian River Watershed and in the SCWA's service area.



E-12. Santa Rosa Creek Ecosystem Restoration and Flood Damage Reduction Feasibility Study (United States Army Corps of Engineers, City of Santa Rosa, and Water Agency)

The study's purpose is to examine restoration of riparian habitat in Santa Rosa Creek and in 2004 was expanded to include an assessment of flood damage and compatible restoration and flood damage reduction options in the Santa Rosa Creek watershed. The local cost share is ahead of federal spending. Corps of Engineers is modeling 100-year water surface elevations in S.R. Creek and creating floodplain maps per FEMA guidelines.

There is a need for federal funding to continue and complete study. SCWA will need funding for several years and will request funds to US Army Corps of Engineers capability level.

Action: Support SCWA efforts to secure funding for Santa Rosa Creek Restoration.



E-13. Laguna De Santa Rosa Ecosystem Restoration

There has been no federal funding for study in last four budget cycles. Therefore, the study hasn't is stalled pending federal funding. There is an ongoing need funding from the federal budget to continue and complete the study.

Action: Support SCWA efforts to attain federal appropriations for the Laguna de Santa Rosa Ecosystem Restoration.

Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District



E-14. Sonoma Mountain Habitat Preservation Project -- \$1,000,000

Interior Appropriations - Forest Service State and Private Forestry

The District has invested \$37 million to permanently protect 4,100 acres on Sonoma Mountain through conservation easement and fee purchases to preserve important scenic, agricultural, and natural resources. These funds would support protection through purchase of conservation easement over a 1,112-acre property that includes significant habitat types and forms the complete headwaters to Carriger Creek, a priority riparian corridor that contains Endangered Species Act listed steelhead. This easement acquisition will complete the protection of a critical legacy piece of Sonoma Mountain, and connect this key habitat and recreation area to Jack London State Historic Park.

Action: Support Sonoma County Agricultural and Open Space District efforts to attain federal appropriation for Sonoma Mountain Habitat Preservation Project.



E-15. Mark West Creek Agricultural Diversity and Habitat Protection -- \$1,000,000

Agriculture Appropriations – National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Operations

The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (SCAOSD) is working in partnership with Sonoma County Regional Parks to protect the remaining piece of a 1,076-acre natural area, which will promote agricultural diversity in Sonoma County as well as provide habitat preservation and restoration opportunities and important ecosystem services (climate mitigation and adaptation, water

quality, water supply reliability, flood & storm water management and biodiversity protection). These funds would protect key riparian habitat and enable restoration of ESA-listed Coho habitat in Mark West Creek Watershed (priority area for National Marine Fisheries and California Department of Fish and Game) in the context of viable agriculture. Funds would also allow for several demonstration projects to evaluate ecosystem services and opportunities for reducing water withdrawals from the Mark West Creek Watershed.

Action: Support Sonoma County Agricultural and Open Space District efforts to attain federal appropriation for Mark West Creek Agricultural Diversity and Habitat Protection Project.



E-16. Sonoma County Stream Channels Project – Connecting Urban Communities, Riparian Corridors, and Watershed Lands \$750,000

Transportation Appropriations – Transportation, Community and System Preservation

Over 80,000 acres of land in the county are protected by the Sonoma County Agriculture Preservation and Open Space District (SCAOSD) through fee and easement. These funds will support development of a plan that – when implemented – will connect urban streams and flood control channels to upslope watershed lands, increase the number and quality of recreational trail options, and increase the number of people using alternative transportation. Additionally, implementation of the plan will support climate change mitigation and adaptation. Plan implementation will also support enhancement of wildlife corridors, habitat for aquatic ecosystems, and ESA listed salmonids and other aquatic species. The plan will be developed in collaboration among the SCAPOSD, Regional Parks, Sonoma County Water Agency, Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Campaign, cities, non-Government Organizations, and other community groups.

Action: Support Sonoma County Agricultural and Open Space District efforts to attain federal appropriations for the Sonoma County Streams Channels Project.



E-17. Integrated Watershed Restoration, Stewardship and Climate Adaptation Program -- \$500,000

Agriculture Appropriations – NRCS Conservation Operations

The Mark West and Maacama watersheds are two Russian River tributaries with high levels of biological diversity and a large percentage of working agricultural landscapes. These funds will support the development and implementation of a comprehensive acquisition and stewardship plan for these watersheds, which will build upon existing efforts and utilize the best available data from the scientific and agency community. A foundational element of this planning process is a fine scale habitat map which will enable targeting of acquisition and habitat restoration projects, resulting in more efficient utilization and higher return on investment of acquisition, restoration and public access funds in the future. A second key element of the plan will include the identification and evaluation of new tools and strategies to reduce conflicts among agricultural operations and ecosystem protection, such as new legal and policy tools to retain in-stream flows, expand riparian corridors and incentivize best management practices. It is expected that this plan will be exportable to other watersheds and provide technology transfer to other groups. Implementation of this plan will support the protection, restoration and enhancement of biological diversity and open-space resources of regional importance; preservation of working landscapes; improvements in water quality, habitat, and other coastal resources, and natural resource based climate mitigation and adaptation. Key partners in this effort would include the Sotoyome Resource Conservation District (RCD), agricultural landowners, Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and watershed groups.

Action: Support Sonoma County Agricultural and Open Space District efforts to attain federal appropriations for the Integrated Watershed restoration, Stewardship and Climate Adaptation Program.

Sonoma County Transportation Authority

E-18. Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) Projects

As a quorum of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors helps constitute the Sonoma County Transportation Authority and that regional transportation priorities reflect County residents needs, this Program also recommends working, where feasible, in collaboration with SCTA staff and advocates to seek transportation funding from the federal government on the following focus areas.

- A. Marin/Sonoma Narrows
- B. Santa Rosa Junior College Bicycle/Pedestrian Overcrossing
- C. Electric vehicle fleet conversion and infrastructure
- D. Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit and bus transit priority projects
- E. Safe Routes to School
- F. Hwy 116/Hwy 121 Intersection Improvements

Action: Support Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) efforts for inclusion in the next federal transportation re-authorization bill and support, where feasible, SCTA 2011 Legislative Platform Adopted by SCTA Board on December 13, 2010.

Sonoma County Legislative State Delegations

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Sonoma Delegation Federal Delegation

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