



**Board of Supervisors
COUNTY OF TULARE
AGENDA ITEM**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KUYLER CROCKER
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three

EDDIE VALERO
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND
District Five

AGENDA DATE: March 3, 2020

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Public Hearing Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Published Notice Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Advertised Published Notice | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Meet & Confer Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Electronic file(s) has been sent | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Personnel Resolution attached | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s) | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| CONTACT PERSON: Julieta Martinez PHONE: 559-636-5000 | | |

SUBJECT: Approve State and Federal Platform

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:
Receive input and provide direction regarding the 2020 Tulare County State Legislative Platform and the 2020 Tulare County Federal Legislative Platform.
Approve amendments to the platforms and select priority issues for future advocacy trips.

SUMMARY:

The Board of Supervisors annually adopts a State and Federal Legislative Platform.

Staff is requesting that the Board provide direction regarding the proposed updates to the Federal and State Platforms and prioritize the issues for discussion at future State and Federal advocacy trips.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

There is no net county cost to the general fund.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The County's Strategic Plan includes the four initiatives of 1) Safety and Security, 2) Economic Well-Being, 3) Quality of Life, 4) Organizational Performance. Each of the State and Federal priority issues address one or more of these initiatives.

SUBJECT: Approve State and Federal Platform

DATE: March 3, 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:



Julieta Martinez

Chief of Staff

cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment(s) Draft copy of State Legislative Platform
Draft copy of Federal Legislative Platform

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVE STATE)
AND FEDERAL PLATFORM) Resolution No. _____
) Agreement No. _____
)

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR _____, SECONDED BY
SUPERVISOR _____, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD _____
_____, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

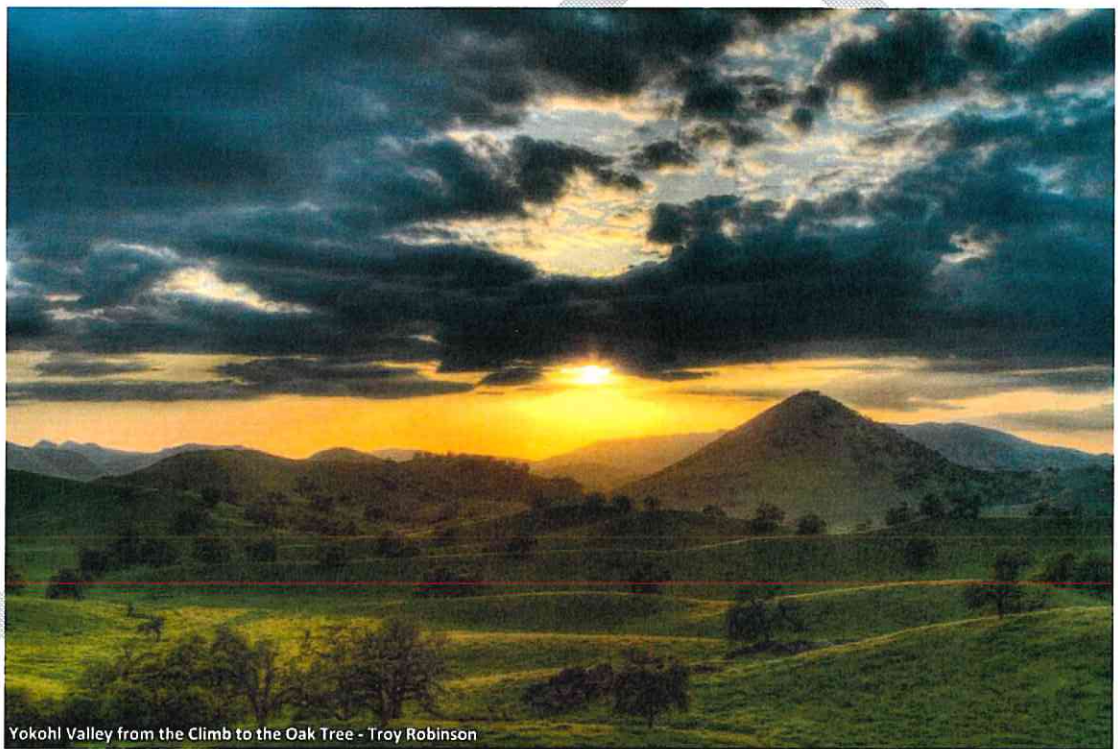
ATTEST: JASON T. BRITT
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

* * * * *

Received input and provided direction regarding the 2020 Tulare County State
Legislative Platform and the 2020 Tulare County Federal Legislative Platform.
Approved amendments to the platforms and selected priority issues for future
advocacy trips.

STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



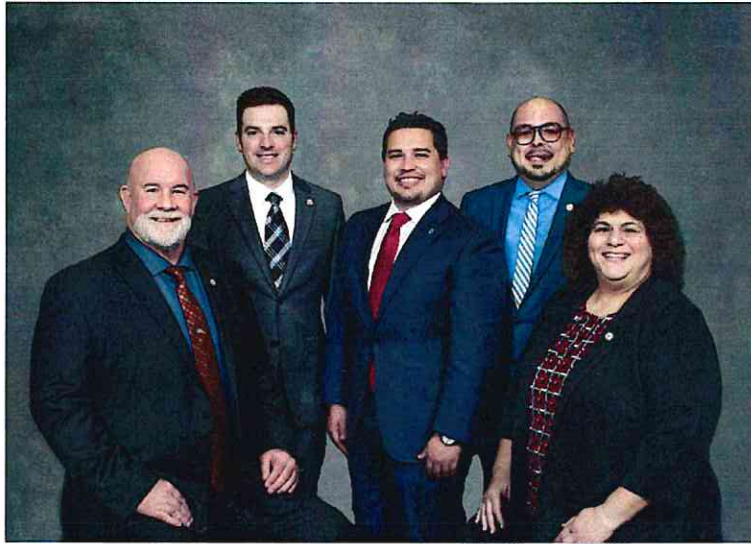
2020

County of Tulare

As approved by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors

on ...

Tulare County Board of Supervisors



(As shown above)

Dennis TownsendDistrict Five

Pete Vander Poel (Chairman).....District Two

Kuyler CrockerDistrict One

Eddie Valero.....District Four

Amy Shuklian (Vice Chairman).....District Three

Jason T. Britt
County Administrative Officer
2800 W. Burrell Avenue
Visalia, CA 93291
(559) 636-5005

State Legislative Advocate
Paul Yoder
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State Legislative Platform

COUNTY OF TULARE

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors annually adopts a State Legislative Platform. The platform is a statement of priority issues for Tulare County and provides direction for county staff and for those persons advocating on behalf of the County.

The Board of Supervisors recognizes that unforeseen issues may arise as the legislative year proceeds. Full Board of Supervisors endorsements or opposition to legislation or policy to address new issues must come before the Board of Supervisors for approval. Supervisors may periodically provide letters of support or opposition for issues impacting their Supervisorial Districts within the County.

AGRICULTURE

1. Increased funding for Dairy Digester Program and Alternative Manure Management Program - California Department of Food and Agriculture

Challenge:

Dairy digesters are a renewable technology that uses livestock manure to produce methane, a renewable source of electrical energy generation and transportation fuel. California is home to the nation's largest dairy industry and Tulare County is the largest producer of dairy products in the State. Unfortunately, investment in dairy digesters has lagged in California due to expensive, uncertain and complex interconnection and permitting obstacles, high environmental compliance costs, lack of long-term economic energy purchase agreements, and high financing risk and costs.

The CDFA's Dairy Digester Research and Development Program provided financial assistance for the installation of dairy digesters in California, which will result in reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, funding is provided through incentives to support non-digester practices that reduce methane emissions from dairy and livestock operations through a separate program, the Alternative Manure Management Program. The ultimate goal for both programs is long-term methane emission reductions on California dairies or mitigate adverse environmental impacts.

Solution:

- Continue to support initiatives to provide regulatory support to dairy digester projects such as those eligible under the CDFA's Dairy Digester Research and Development Program and the Alternative Manure Management Program as authorized by Senate Bill 856 of Budget Act of 2018 (Chapter 30, Statutes of 2018).

2. Invasive Species

Challenge:

There are a number of invasive species introduced and detected in California every year which threaten agriculture and the environment. One example is the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) and the bacterial disease that it vectors, Huanglongbing (HBL). These are two of the biggest threats to the future of the California citrus industry and backyard fruit production. ACP was first detected in 2008 in San Diego and quickly became established in southern California before moving north to Tulare County and other parts of the state. HBL can be catastrophic to commercial and backyard citrus. Today, close to 70% of the state's acreage is located in Fresno, Kern and Tulare Counties. In accordance with the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association, it is noted that continued funding of Pest Exclusion, Pest Detection Trapping, Rapid Response, Pest Management and Eradication, and Public Outreach Programs are critical in protecting California's resources.

Solution:

- Support continued funding of Pest Prevention Program activities at the local level as well as cost recovery for existing, new or modified programs.
- Support legislation that provides for effective pest management and eradication activities.
- Support efforts to secure a funding resource directed at researching ACP to aid in finding a potential cure and prevent the continued spread of the disease.

HIGHER EDUCATION

3. Four-Year Public University Campus

Challenge:

The California State University of Fresno has a satellite campus in Visalia, Ca. The four-classroom building at the College of the Sequoias currently offers non-credit professional development courses and expanding higher degree programs.

Access to a university campus can be difficult for South Valley students and often times discouraging when considering whether or not to pursue a higher education degree because of costs, commute, etc. Of the 24,000 students enrolled in Fresno State, at least 4,000 are from Tulare County.

Solution:

- Support efforts to secure four-year higher education degree programs in Tulare County.
- Support funding for growth at the Fresno State satellite campus.
- Support legislation to increase enrollment at the Fresno State satellite campus and allow for increased funding to support the growing student population.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

4. Forest Management, Resiliency, Fire Prevention & Fire Response

Challenge:

Years of prolonged drought, bark beetle infestation, and devastating wildfires combined with years of inadequate fuels treatment have resulted in an ongoing tree mortality that needs to be more comprehensively addressed. The United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region released an Aerial Detection Survey Report totaling 147 million dead or dying trees within the 18 counties most impacted statewide by Tree Mortality. Tulare County was identified as having the highest number of dead trees with new conifer mortality and an estimated 28.9 million dead or dying trees. The survey found that more than half of all dead trees statewide are located in Tulare and Fresno Counties.

In light of the devastating wildfires and resulting disasters that occurred last year, the Governor's budget proposal includes \$213 million pursuant to SB 901 (Chapters 626,818) the wildfire prevention and recovery legislation. Funds would be used for fuels reduction, prescribed burning, etc. It is the first investment out of a total of \$1 billion over the next five years for fire prevention and forest management activities.

Solution:

- Request continued support by the Governor in advocacy efforts at the federal level for treatment of the areas designated under Section 8204 of the Farm Bill, and request that the State of California partner with the U.S. Forest Service and other federal entities to treat the affected areas.
- Support legislation/funding for local assistance, financial resources, regulatory relief, and outreach efforts to effectively reduce safety risks to the public from dead and dying trees.
- Support legislation/funding for fire prevention through fuel reduction projects through prescribed burn fire crews and grants for forest health projects.
- Support additional funding for enhancing aviation resources, expanding firefighting surge capacity, expand firefighting capacity and response.
- Support legislation that keeps local control over land use at the local government level, specifically for communities in fire hazard areas.
- Support funding for the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's for grant programs that benefit the central valley counties and communities such as providing funding for replacement emergency vehicles in wildfire hazard areas, etc.

5. Wildfire Prevention, Community Resilience, and Forest Health

Challenge:

Years of prolonged drought, bark beetle infestation, devastating wildfires, and lack of active forest management has resulted in tree mortality and declining forest health. Wildfire risk, invasive species, and dead biomass threaten communities, important ecosystems, and the water production capacity of the upper watershed.

Solutions:

- Invest in programs aimed at forest health and resiliency.
- Support a Resiliency Bond, which includes funding for forest health.
- Support expansion of and creative markets for biomass material.
- Request continued support by the Governor in advocacy efforts at the federal level for treatment of the areas designated under Section 8204 of the Farm Bill, and request that the State of California collaborate with the U.S. Forest Service and other federal entities to treat the affected areas.

6. Funding and Regulatory Silos

Challenge:

Multiple State agencies house funding and regulatory functions for a variety of projects. These agencies do not work together resulting in burdensome application and permitting processes. These processes delay projects, are not cost effective, ultimately cost taxpayers excessive amounts, and leave community members in crisis waiting for a solution.

Solution:

- Create a multi-agency task force to coordinate funding and regulatory requirements to streamline project approval.

CEQA REFORM

7. Elimination of the “Fair Argument” Test

Challenge:

Many projects (including publicly-sponsored projects) are delayed or stopped because of the very low threshold set by the “fair argument” test. Essentially, the “fair argument” test provides that if there is a fair argument that the proposed project will cause a significant effect on the environment, then an environment impact report (EIR) shall be prepared, even if there is substantial evidence to the contrary. (See the leading case of *Friends of “B” Street v. City of Hayward* (1980) 106 Cal.App.3d 988.)

Solution:

- Support legislation to amend both CEQA and the applicable State CEQA Guidelines to eliminate the “fair argument” test applicable to negative declarations and mitigated negative declarations. (See Public Resources Code Section 21080, subs. (c), (d); 14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15064.) Non-exempt projects under CEQA should be replaced with the “substantial evidence” test. According to the “substantial evidence” test, an environmental document will be upheld by the court if there is any substantial evidence to conclude that the project will not cause a significant environmental effect, even if there is substantial evidence to the contrary.

The “substantial evidence” test is a more uniform and equitable way to judge disputes over CEQA documents, particularly negative declarations which are used more extensively by public entities.

The above-cited CEQA provision and State CEQA Guideline should be amended to read as follows: *“The ‘substantial evidence’ test shall apply to a challenge to a negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration in that this environmental document may be upheld if there is any substantial evidence to conclude that the project will not cause a significant environmental effect, even if there is substantial evidence to the contrary.”*

8. “Good Faith” Limitation on Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies

Challenge:

There is currently considerable delay in public proceedings caused by project opponents who were not participating in good faith.

Solution:

- To avoid document abuse during the public comment period or at a public hearing, CEQA should have a "good faith" limitation written into the exhaustion of remedies requirement; that is, project opponents should not be allowed to continue to slow down proceedings by dropping massive amounts of documents into the record at the eleventh hour. Consequently, the statute should be amended to provide a reasonable limitation. For example, Public Resources Code Section 21177, subdivision (a), should be amended to add at the end of the sentence the following language: *...“provided, however, the public agency may exclude any evidence presented during the public comment period or public hearing, if the submittal of such evidence was not in good faith and for the purpose of improper delay of the proceedings.”*

DRINKING WATER

9. Private well assistance

Challenge:

Tulare County had more than 1,585 private domestic wells go dry during the prolonged drought. In many cases the property was not near an alternative domestic water supply such as a community or municipal public water system. The existing funding programs are geared toward community systems and do not address problems with private wells. The County has had limited success in accessing drought funds on behalf of private well owners to connect them to existing systems. Obstacles include identifying an entity that can apply on behalf of the well owners, incentivizing existing systems to make their service available, and getting a sufficient number of homes to connect. Tulare County supports sustainable solutions through eradication of dependence on replacement individual domestic wells wherever possible and funding criteria that supports regional solutions.

Solution:

- Provide local assistance through Technical Assistance Requests to identify long-term solutions for those with continued outages. SB 88 allowed for consolidation of small water systems with nearby municipal systems but does not address communities with individual private wells. Address funding criteria that do not reflect the State’s priority to decrease reliance on individual private wells.

10. Create Sustainable Operation and Maintenance Revenue Streams

Challenge:

AB 401 of 2016 requires the State Water Resources Control Board to deliver and implement the Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program. The Program is past due and the SWRCB released the draft Safe and Affordable Fund for Equity and Resiliency (SAFER) Expenditure Plan, which does not include a plan for funding operation and maintenance costs for disadvantaged communities.

Solution:

- Work with State and local partners to expedite the Drinking Water Needs Analysis as part of the SAFER program to inform the Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program.
- Maximize SAFER monies on solutions that are not eligible under existing programs (i.e., operations and maintenance and private well improvements).
- Support funding, including a Resiliency Bond, for drinking water solutions, including fire flow and assistance to private domestic well users. Provide operation and maintenance funding directly to disadvantage community water systems.

11. Streamline Funding Processes

Challenge:

In previous water bond measures, less than 2% of the funding went to disadvantaged community water and wastewater needs. Due to the incapacity of these communities to prepare complicated application packets and waiting for years for a project to be funded, disadvantaged community water funds are not reaching their target audiences in an efficient and effective manner. Often funds go to other projects that are “shovel ready” and have a marginal tie to disadvantaged community water needs.

Solution:

- Work with local agencies, including counties, to identify willing applicants (such as a County) to receive the funding on behalf of the community to move projects forward; provide competent project management; and increase the effectiveness of disadvantaged community water and wastewater funding.

12. Conflict Between Requirement to Provide Farm Labor Housing and the Requirement to Provide Safe Drinking Water

Challenge:

The Department of Housing and Community Development analyzes special housing needs for farm workers. If the County's Housing Element demonstrates a need for farm labor housing the County is required under statute to permit the development of said housing. However, often the identified water supply does not meet State and Federal drinking water standards. In this scenario the County is forced to violate State

policy either by denying the housing development based on inadequate water supply or approving the housing without adequate safe drinking water.

Solution:

- Resolve the conflict by requiring proof of safe drinking water availability prior to approving farm labor housing development.

13. Allow Drinking Water Funding Agencies to Fund Fire Flow Requirements if Requirements Jeopardize Execution of the Project

Challenge:

Some sources of funding for drinking water projects do not allow for the necessary upgrades to provide fire flow capacity (larger pipe size, hydrants, and additional storage capacity). In severely disadvantaged and disadvantaged communities' residents are unable to pay for the upgrades. When this happens the projects stalls because the project cannot move forward without the fire protection and the funding agency can't pay for that protection.

Solution:

- Recognize that those in severely disadvantaged and disadvantaged communities are the poorest residents in the State and their living conditions are below average. Removing silos at the State level to access funds that can meet both needs is paramount to solving this challenge. A holistic approach that meets both drinking water and fire protection needs is necessary to improve the quality of life for the residents and get projects completed.

WATER RESILIENCE

14. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Challenge:

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was signed into law in 2014. SGMA required Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) by January 31, 2020. The GSPs identify the sustainable yields of the three high-priority groundwater sub-basins in Tulare County. Over the next 20 years, GSAs will bring groundwater extraction into balance with the sustainable yield. Estimates on land fallowing are upwards of 60% in some areas. This threatens the health of Tulare County's residents and economy.

Solution:

- Support funding that minimize land fallowing, such as Regional Conservation Investment Strategies, groundwater recharge projects, and streamline regulatory and permitting requirements for such projects.
- Support initiatives that provide technical support for water markets with rules that safeguard small farmers and disadvantaged communities.
- Support a Resiliency Bond, which includes funding for SGMA implementation.

WATER SUPPLY

15. Water Supply South of the Delta

Challenge:

Existing interpretation of regulations and guidelines imposes limitations on water supply through the Central Valley Project water system. With the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act surface water supplies are even more important to Tulare County's residents and growers as Groundwater Sustainability Agencies work to implement Groundwater Sustainability Plans.

Solution:

- Request that the State Water Resources Control Board interpret its duties with maximum flexibility to allow for water deliveries south of the Delta.

16. Surface Water Storage

Challenge:

Local surface water storage project, Temperance Flat received partial funding from Prop 1. Temperance Flat and other surface and groundwater storage projects are paramount to alleviate the region's water supply challenges.

Solution:

- Support a new water bond that includes funding for Temperance Flat, mitigation of subsidence, water quality improvement, and the implementation of SGMA.

Challenge:

Water deliveries are threatened by many factors including damaged infrastructure, environmental controls, and missing infrastructure. In order to reach sustainability and foster resilience surface water supplies and conveyance must be improved.

Solution:

- Support surface water storage projects, such as Temperance Flat
- Support funding to repair the Friant Kern Canal.
- Support a Water Bond, which includes funding for the Friant Kern Canal and water storage projects.

WASTEWATER

17. Wastewater

Challenge:

Disadvantaged communities face challenges to effectively treat wastewater, which degrades the health and safety of residents in these communities. Wastewater projects are expensive and time consuming to implement. SB 1215 tasked the State Water Resources Control Board to develop a voluntary sewer consolidation program and provide funding for such projects. Failing septic and wastewater collection infrastructure plagues many communities while the SWRCB develops its program.

Solution:

- Support legislation for emergency funding for sewer emergencies.
- Support adequate funding for disadvantaged communities to consolidate wastewater infrastructure.

WILLIAMSON ACT

18. Restoration of Williamson Act Funds

Challenge:

The Williamson Act, also known as the California Land Conservation Act of 1965, authorizes a city or county to enter into contracts with owners of land devoted to agricultural use. Existing law sets forth procedures for reimbursing cities and counties for property tax revenues not received as a result of these contracts and continuously appropriates General Fund moneys for that purpose.

Existing law for the 2008-2009 fiscal year and each year thereafter, essentially eliminated the reimbursement. This was a result of revenue shortfalls during the recession when payments were reduced to a total of \$1,000 statewide.

Solution:

- Support legislation that would issue all funding received from the cancellation of fees to the local jurisdiction, and keep and restore the Williamson Act subvention funding to its highest historical funding level.

STATE PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT)

19. State Obligation to Local Governments

Challenge:

State PILT was established in 1949 to offset adverse impacts to county property tax revenues that result when the State acquires private property for wildlife management areas. 36 counties, including Tulare

County, currently have lands acquired by the Department of Fish and Wildlife for wildlife management areas.

In 2015, the final state budget package included language in the Fish and Game Code that changed “shall” to “may”, putting all future state PILT payments to counties at risk. To date, the Department’s estimate of the PILT arrears owed to counties is just under \$10 million.

Solution:

- Support legislation for continuous appropriation funding of Payment-In-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments for California’s counties.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

20. Civil Fines and Penalties: Amend Government Code Section 54988

Challenge:

Code enforcement fines and penalties cannot be placed on the tax rolls as a lien for collection, making collection of such fines and penalties difficult for local jurisdictions.

Solution:

- Pursuant to Government Code Section 54988, code enforcement fees and costs may be placed on the tax rolls as a lien for collection. Accordingly, since fines and penalties are a customary part of the code enforcement assessment, they should be allowed to be placed on the tax rolls as a lien to ensure collection as a deterrent against activities that are harmful to the public health’s safety and general welfare. In doing so, Section 54988 should be amended as follows:

54988. (a) (1) In addition to any other remedy provided by law, including the current powers of charter cities, the legislative body of a city, county, or city and county may collect any fee, cost, fine or penalty, or charge incurred in any of the following:

(A) The abatement of public nuisances.

See underlined amended language.

21. Fines and Fees

Challenge:

The California legislature has introduced bills and proposal in the past year to eliminate fines and fees within the criminal justice system. Counties use that funding to support a wide variety of programs. The State has continued to push unfunded mandates on the counties while trying to eliminate the current funding structures they rely on as a funding source.

Solution:

- Oppose legislation that eliminates critical funding sources to counties with not solution or funding source supplement to help offset costs to run state mandated program.
- Support legislation/appropriation of state funding to supplement criminal justice programs/assessments as required by state.

22. County Governance Authority

Challenge:

Charter and general law counties have been under critical observation by several interest groups. The focus has centered on Board of Supervisors and their authority in regard to general decision making power, board structure, and district size. The state has increased interested in revision the power of communities to make their own decisions regarding contracting, housing development, fire safety, and more. Local government must fight for appropriate balance between statewide concerns and local authority.

Solution:

- Work with legislature to continue advocating for the preservation of local authority for budget approval, redistricting, and general managerial powers that reflect community service needs.

23. Public Noticing Process

Challenge:

California law requires notices to be published in newspapers of general circulation, and it automatically recognizes newspapers currently adjudicated to accept such notices. This can prove to be costly for local government agencies fulfilling this unfunded state mandate.

Solution:

- Support legislation to allow for online posting of public notices as an alternate solution to newspaper publishing and the costs associated.

24. Public Records Act

Challenge:

The California Public Records Act was enacted in 1968 requiring governmental records be made accessible to the public upon request unless otherwise exempted by the law. Use of the Act has skyrocketed over the past decade. Unfortunately, the Act created a cluster of rules that have caused financial and administrative difficulties for counties and other local jurisdictions.

Solution:

- Work with advocates, local agencies, and others to change the system in a way that retains the law's features without exposing government entities to unnecessary liability, frivolous litigation, or burdensome workloads.

25. Trial Court Security

Challenge:

For years, 2011 Criminal Justice Realignment revenues has not kept up with the overall costs of providing security provided to courthouses. The State has set aside supplemental funding for new court construction but no permanent solution to date. Tulare County has opened the new Porterville Courthouse as well as the South County Detention Facility in recent years increasing personnel and security costs.

Solution:

- Work with the Administration, Legislature, and stakeholders to approve ongoing funding levels for new court security costs.

26. Adult and Family Literacy Programs

Challenge:

The State provides support for our Adult and Family Literacy programs. These programs assist primarily adults to gain basic literacy skills and educates families on the skills to provide literacy education in their daily lives. The State funding received by the Library for FY 20 has grown to over \$100,000, including the Career Online High School program. These funds are critical to continued needs for our Literacy program.

In addition, the State provides support of the California Library Services Act (CSLA) and High-Speed Broadband. Services like these ensure the County Library can continue to provide shared access to materials statewide and internet services connections through the California Research and Education Network (CalREN). Both these services open the world of information and learning to our users beyond the County's borders. Funds received for these services, including system wide delivery, interlibrary loan including Zipbooks, and broadband maintenance, are managed by the San Joaquin Valley Library System.

Solution:

- Support continued ongoing and increased funding for the Adult and Family Literacy programs, including Career Online High School, CSLA, and High-Speed Broadband to ensure continued and updated services.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

27. In Home Support Services (IHSS)

Challenge:

In 2019, the Governor presented an IHSS proposal which lead to the enactment of a lowered County IHSS Maintenance of Effort. An issue of IHSS collective bargaining arose with advocacy groups asking for additional provisions related to collective bargaining, including increasing the Realignment withholding amount and requiring disclosure around contract consultants for IHSS collective bargaining.

Solution:

- Support policy from the Administration to prioritize the fiscal sustainability of the IHSS program.

28. County Veterans Services Officers

Challenge:

California is home to approximately two million veterans. Currently, the state budget allocates \$5.6 million in one-time funding to the County Veterans Service officers (CVSO) in 58 California counties. CVSO's are the first contact for most veterans and are historically able to bring in \$100 of federal veterans benefits for every \$1 spent by the state. Without full funding, California's veterans will not receive the government benefits they earned through their military service.

Solution:

- Support/sponsor efforts to educate the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and the public on the importance and value of the County Veteran's Offices (CVSOs) with the eventual goal of fully funding CVSOs by permanently appropriating the full \$11 million in local assistance funding as reflected in Military and Veterans Code Section 972.1(d).

29. Continuum of Care Reform (CCR)

Challenge:

CCR implementation consists of comprehensive initial child assessments; increase the use of home-based family care and the provision of services and supports to home-based family care to improve California's child welfare system. Funding for Continuum of Care True Up costs is critical to counties. Without it, there will be a significant reduction in services for Resource Family Approval, Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths tool, and the Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention and Support (FPRRS) allocations, causing an anticipated \$1.34M negative impact to Child Welfare Services provided to youth and families.

Solution:

- Support additional funding for Continuum of Care true up costs.

30. Mental Health Services: Greatly Disabled Persons

Challenge:

The State is attempting to revise the definition of greatly disabled persons to include: individuals who as a result of a mental health disorder cannot make decisions on their own, and the person is at risk of bodily harm or physical illness, or the mismanagement of the individual's own needs which could lead to reasonable harm. The broadening of the definition should be discussed with counties, as counties must have time to improve and implement the new definition. Just being homeless should not be within this definition.

There is also a proposed program to give counties an opt-in option for placement services. This is concerning as a significant number of counties place in institutions out of county and it could create eligibility issues when some counties opt-in and other do not.

Solution:

- Support ongoing communication with State Administration regarding the changes to the definition of greatly disabled persons.

31. Mental Health Services Fund: County Jails

Challenge:

Proposed legislation seeks to authorize a county to use MHSA funds, if that use is included in the county plan, to provide services to persons who are incarcerated in a county jail or subject to mandatory supervision, except persons who are incarcerated in a county jail for a conviction of a felony unless for purposes of facilitating discharge.

The usage of MHSA funding for individuals who are incarcerated has the potential to greatly reduce funding availability for critical programs to treat individuals in the community. Additional funding is required to support incarcerated individuals serving time for misdemeanors.

Solution:

- Support flexibility with MHSA funds but only to the degree it does not undermine existing MHSA funded services.

32. Senate Bill 389 (Hertzberg) Mental Health Services Act

Challenge:

Enacted into Law: 8/30/19- Effective on January 1, 2020, this bill amends the MHSA to authorize counties to use MHSA funds to provide services to persons who are:

- Participating in a presentencing or post-sentencing diversion program
- On parole or probation
- On post-release community or mandatory supervision

This population must be part of the county 3-year program and expenditure plan (our current plan expires at the end of FY 19/20). Beginning January 1st, it authorizes parolees to access MHSA services, if all other eligibility requirements are met. MHSA continues to prohibit funds being used for incarcerated individuals in state or county jails, except to facilitate discharge

This population must be part of the county 3-year program and expenditure plan (our current plan expires at the end of FY 19/20 and we do not currently provide this support through MHSA funding).

Since County MHSA funds are now written into law, it is in the best interest to use this funding rather than sweeping funding through the revamp of MHSA per the Governor's budget proposal.

Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency currently uses Realignment to pay for inmates at adult pre-trial facility and any sweep from MHSA funds that go directly to criminal justice will need to be seriously considered.

The target population for this bill would be inclusive of the Agency vision for Whole Person Care (WPC). While this is not currently part of the MHSA 3-year plan, services expansion for this population would be beneficial. Community Services & Support (CSS) and Prevention & Early Intervention (PEI) are limited funding at this time. We are currently anticipating fully expending this funding stream. However, MHSA funding is unknown at this time due to the implementation of Medi-Cal Healthier California for All and changes to cost reimbursement, along with the changes to MHSA at the state level.

Solution:

- Support flexibility with MHSA funds but only to the degree it does not undermine existing MHSA funded services.

33. Medi-Cal Healthier for All (formerly CalAIM)

Challenge:

Medi-Cal transformation through Medi-Cal Healthier for All shall focus on allowing people to live at the lowest level of care to promote wellness and engage individuals that are at a higher risk of returning to society without permanent housing options. The targeted population should include those leaving the criminal justice institutions, hospital discharge and young adults leaving foster care. Funding will be essential for government and stakeholders that will assist this population through the transition period. All engagement with this population should require dedicated funding/reimbursable activities and should NOT be limited to cite certified locations or the current billable services that does not encompass all services provided to consumers.

Medi-Cal Healthier for All must include dedicated funding for all behavioral health/SUD/health and social services activities via the Whole Person Care delivery system. Through WPC, dedicated professionals and paraprofessional, direct engagement is key in hopes of successfully connecting individuals to services. Existing services can reduce those at risk of homelessness as well as potentially house individuals that are engaged in services. The funding is recommended to flow through the flex funding as well as dedicated funding via Medi-Cal reimbursement along with continued WPC funding. Better outcomes are eminent with this structure.

Solution:

- Support full funding for all behavioral health/SUD/health and social services activities via the WPC delivery system.

34. Alcohol and Drug/Mental Health Treatment

Challenge:

Proposition 47 reduces six crimes from felonies or wobblers, which are crimes for which either a felony or a misdemeanor can be charged, to misdemeanors. The measure specifically reduces the penalties for the following crimes: grand theft, shoplifting, receiving stolen property, writing bad checks, check forgery, and drug possession. The passage of Proposition 47 suggested a shift in spending on jails and court costs for non-violent offenders to spending on drug treatment, mental health services, victim services, and other programs. Proposition 47 set aside up to \$250 million to help local agencies treat drug offenders.

The Department of Finance currently estimates a net savings of \$78.5 million when comparing 2018-19 to 2013-14, an increase of \$13.8 million over the estimated 2017-18 savings.

Solution:

Solution:

- Sponsor legislation that will support the receipt of county funds or offer support for related impacts to Mental Health services and Alcohol and Drug (AOD) treatment services.

35. Tobacco Products

Challenge:

The use of electronic smoking devices, and other smokeless tobacco products, has been on the rise especially amongst middle and high school students. In addition, there was an increase in death associated with electronic smoking devices. New legislation has been introduced to decrease the use tobacco use in the county especially amongst the youth.

Solution:

- Support legislation to create various advertising, promotion, packaging, and selling prohibitions on electronic cigarettes in California.

HOMELESSNESS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

36. Affordable Housing

Challenge:

Communities in Tulare County and throughout California have experienced increases in the number of homeless persons in recent years. Tulare County is estimated to have 631 homeless persons. Although there are many organizations committed to serving homeless persons and reduce their prevalence, resources are lacking. The absence of available and affordable permanent housing, emergency shelters, transitional housing, and other infrastructure to reduce homelessness also remain as significant barriers.

Solution:

- Support funding for siting emergency shelters, navigation centers, and supportive housing.
- Support expedited allocation of No Place Like Home grant allocations to counties to build permanent supportive housing for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Support one-time funding allocation for Tulare County for partnership with local organizations to build housing at an affordable cost.
- Support funding for affordable housing, including new state funding, for construction of homes affordable to households at all income levels.

37. Equitable Distribution of Homeless Grant Funding

Challenge:

In recent years, homeless grant funding is often distributed to local jurisdictions based on two primary factors: total jurisdiction population and total homeless population. As a result, the largest jurisdictions (i.e. cities with population >500,000) can get a direct allocation, in addition to any regional benefit from allocation to associated county or continuum of care. Additionally, some programs (e.g. California Emergency Solutions Grant) give entitlements to some larger jurisdictions but make smaller jurisdictions compete for remaining funding.

Solution:

- Support homeless grant allocations/programs for all local jurisdictions.

38. Emphasis on Flexibility in New Homeless Funding Programs

Challenge:

While virtually every jurisdiction in California has ongoing efforts to address homelessness, jurisdictions vary in their system capacity and readiness to implement certain activities. Consequently, flexibility in eligible activities for any new homeless programs would help jurisdictions implement activities that fit the local context. In the January Governor's Proposed Budget, The California Access to Housing and Services Fund enumerates eligible activities - including rental subsidies - that might be more difficult to implement in some jurisdictions than other (e.g. those with a shortage of housing stock might be better served by capital funds rather than rental assistance)

Solution:

- Support maximized flexibility in eligible activities in any new homeless grant funding program.

39. Invest in Existing Grant Administrative Structures Rather Than Creating New Platforms

Challenge:

In recent years, new state homeless programs have emerged to help local jurisdictions deal with immediate homelessness needs. These programs have been housed out of a number of departments,

including Housing and Community Development (California Emergency Solutions and Housing program) and Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (Homeless Emergency Aid program and Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention program). In the January Governor's Proposed Budget, The California Access to Housing and Services Fund is slated to be housed within Department of Social Services – yet another state administrator for local homeless funds. Further, these funds are to be distributed to “regional administrators”, a new category which may not have experience or the infrastructure in place to administer and oversee local homeless funding, potentially.

Solution:

- Support utilization of existing grant distribution infrastructure - such as the method used for distribution the Homeless Emergency Aid program – to help ensure a more cohesive homeless response at the State level.

40. Mandate for Homelessness Must Be Paid for by State

Challenge:

Recent discussion at the State level, including a recommendation from the Governor's Council of Regional Homeless Advisors, advocates for a legal mandate at the local level for responding to homelessness. Currently, the majority of funding for local homeless programs in Tulare County comes from the State and Federal government. A genuine concern for lesser-resource counties - like Tulare County – is the ability to respond to mandates when the local homeless system is already exceeds capacity

Solution:

- Support a clear delineation of duties and a commensurate investment from the State for implementing new mandates for addressing homelessness at the local level.

41. Ongoing, Renewable Funding for Homeless Programs

Challenge:

While new state homeless grant programs have emerged recently (e.g. Homeless Emergency Aid Program and Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention program), many are simply one-time block grants. This either leaves grant recipients with an uncertain financial future or could discourage potential applicants for applying for funding when available. This is unlike some federal programs, including the HUD CoC program, which provides renewable funding for local homeless projects. In the latest Governor's Budget proposal, the primary investment in homelessness - The California Access to Housing and Services Fund – is again a one-time investment.

Solution:

- Balance any one-time investment in homeless funding with a commensurate investment in an ongoing, renewable source for homeless programs.

42. AB 728 (Santiago) Homeless Multidisciplinary Personnel Teams

Challenge:

This Bill was enacted into law 9/26/2019 to expand on the goals of homeless adults and family multidisciplinary personnel teams (MDT) to allow for coordinated housing and support services for individuals at risk of homelessness under a pilot in seven counties. Currently, state confidentiality laws restrict the ability to service providers to share information necessary to coordinate services. Under this bill, members of the homeless adult and family MDTs will be allowed to share confidential information for helping prevent homelessness. Expanding on the definition of what information can be shared shall include language that serves individuals that are homeless.

Until January 1, 2025, homeless adults and family MDT in the pilot counties can facilitate the expedited identification, assessment, and linkage of individuals at risk of homelessness as someone who is indigent, receiving, or eligible to receive cash-aid, and who meets two conditions:

- Is existing, or exited within the last 12 months, a state-funded or locally funded detention or treatment setting. Including; jail, prison, health facilities, mental health facility or SUD treatment program
- Presents with or received services within the last 12 months for significant health, mental health or SUD issues.

Solution:

- Support amendments AB 728 to expand the use of MDTs statewide and change language to include homelessness without stipulations in prior services. We recommend that we serve all individuals that exhibit conditions that prevent permanent housing.

IMMIGRATION

43. Communication with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Challenge:

In 2017, Governor Jerry Brown signed SB 54 into law prohibiting state and local law enforcement agencies from using any funds, facilities, property, equipment, or personnel to investigate, interrogate, detain, detect, or arrest persons for immigration enforcement purposes. In 2018, SB 10 enacted comprehensive reforms to the bail system. These reforms limit the ability of law enforcement to communicate with U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) officials to determine if a detain person qualifies, under the Trust Act, for transfer to federal custody.

Solution:

- Support legislation that provides the Sheriffs and Police Chiefs the flexibility to evaluate the risk level of an incarcerated individual and allows for information to be shared with ICE if the person is deemed a clear or present risk to public safety.

SOLID WASTE

44. SB 1383 Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Regulations

Challenge:

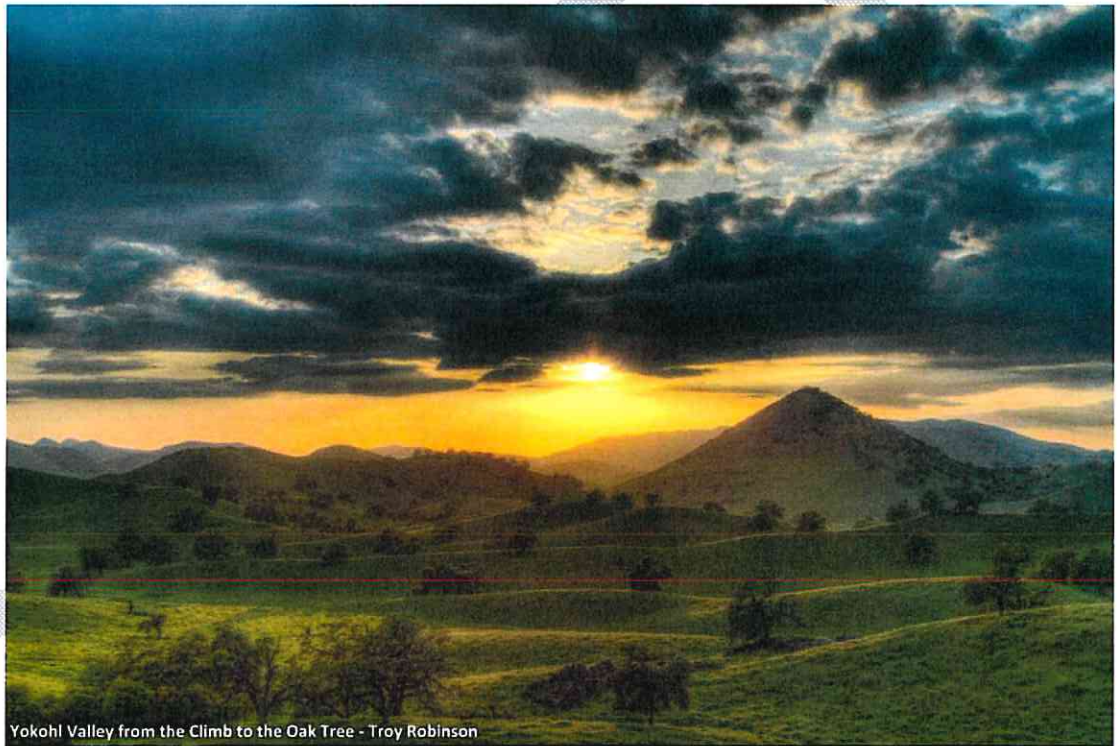
SB 1383 was signed into law in 2016 requiring a 50% reduction in statewide disposal of organic waste by 2020 and a 75% reduction by 2025. There are several barriers to achieving such high diversion levels in rural counties. Lack of infrastructure to compost this material, regulatory barriers to permit new facilities, and difficulty enforcing mandatory recycling are just a few hurdles locals are facing. Furthermore, organics recycling is costly and with much of Tulare County designated as an economically distressed area makes the implementation of an effective program cost prohibitive.

Solution:

- Support the creation of a State clearinghouse for organics recycling resources and services.
- Support creation of sample ordinances providing sufficient enforcement measures to compel the desired action.
- Support standardization of collection practices and rates.

DRAFT

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

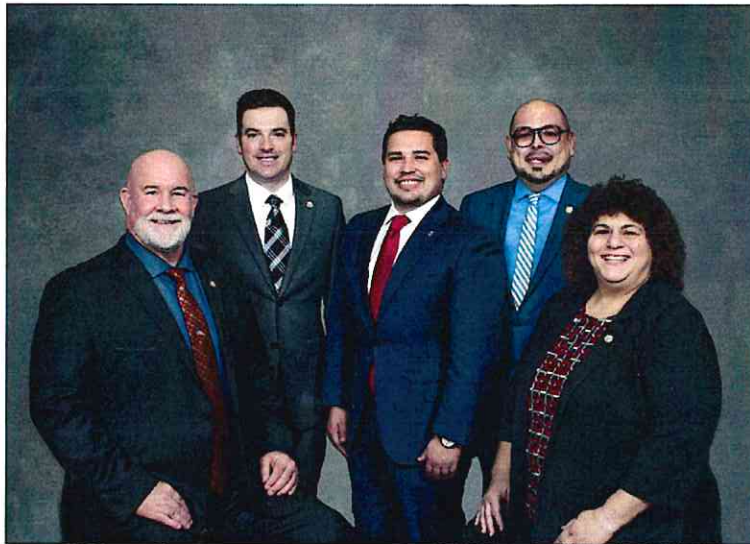


2020

County of Tulare

As approved by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors on ...

Tulare County Board of Supervisors



(As shown above)

Dennis TownsendDistrict Five

Pete Vander Poel (Chairman).....District Two

Kuyler CrockerDistrict One

Eddie Valero.....District Four

Amy Shuklian (Vice Chairman).....District Three

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Federal Legislative platform

COUNTY OF TULARE

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors annually adopts a Federal Legislative Platform. The platform is a statement of priority issues for Tulare County and provides direction for county staff and for those persons advocating on behalf of the County.

The Board of Supervisors recognizes that unforeseen issues may arise as the legislative year proceeds. Full Board of Supervisors endorsements or opposition to legislation or policy to address new issues must come before the Board of Supervisors for approval. Supervisors may periodically provide letters of support or opposition for issues impacting their Supervisorial Districts within the County.

DISCRETIONARY FUNDING

Challenge:

Discretionary spending is part of the US federal budget. On August 2, 2019 President Trump signed into law the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019. The agreement raised discretionary spending caps to \$1.37 trillion in FY2020 and \$1.375 trillion in FY2021 and suspended the debt limit until August 2021. More than half of discretionary funds go toward military spending and all other for domestic programs. The largest are Health and Human Services, Education, and Housing and Urban Development. These include Community Development Block Grants, HOME Investment Assistance Grants, Homeless Assistance Grants, USDA pest detection and eradication, and other programs. The President signed into law the FY20 government spending bill in December 2019. This funding bill provides robust funding for grant programs that support County-funded services. Looking to the FY21 government funding debate, the administration's budget proposal would eliminate or reduced funding for services important to County residents.

Solution:

- Support for the reauthorization and reallocation of federal discretionary funding.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Challenge:

On October 20, 2015, Governor Brown declared an emergency proclamation due to the tree mortality epidemic and requested federal support and partnership. Fuel reduction, reforestation projects, pest, and diseased tree removal, and long-term protection of forested lands vulnerable to conversion are all needed to address the ongoing tree mortality epidemic. To date, 147 million dead or dying trees have been found within 18 California counties and an estimated 28.9 million dead or dying trees in Tulare County alone.

Further, Congress should reform forest management practices to improve forest health, increase production and ensure robust revenue sharing to all forest counties. The County recently submitted comments to the US Forest Service recommending the following steps:

Solution:

- Allow for horizontal fuels removal within the Giant Sequoia Monument to protect the Tule River Reservation's natural and cultural resources, as well as tribal housing and infrastructure.
- Work with Tulare County Fire to address emergency response delays and strengthen our partnership to respond expeditiously to fire and medical emergencies.
- Support legislation and/or funding appropriations to augment the ongoing pest and diseased tree removal, fire prevention, and reforestation activities in the Sequoia National Forest.
- Support the use and expansion of Good Neighbor Authorities, Master Stewardship Agreements, and Supplemental Project Agreements to help achieve land management goals while meeting local and rural community needs.
- Support the maximum utilization of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) exemptions for small-scale projects.

LIBRARIES

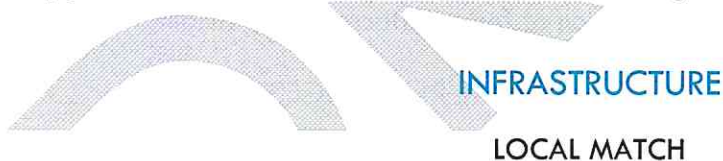
Challenge:

The Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) provides funding to for California public Libraries from the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), administered by the California State Library. The funds assist the County Library to improve library and literacy services and resources for our residents. In FY 2020 Congress continued to support this funding. This same year the Library has been granted \$100,000 so far. LSTA is needed to ensure additional funds are available to assist the County Library to provide services, especially to our most vulnerable populations.

In addition, the universal service Schools and Libraries E-Rate Program provides County libraries up to a 90% discount that allows the Library access to high speed broadband, including WIFI, at 17 branch library locations. Rural access to the internet critical to our citizens as more services are primarily available online, including government sites, job services, educational assistance and resources, paying bills, etc.

Solution:

- Support reauthorization of the LSTA and E-Rate Programs.



Challenge:

The White House Infrastructure Proposal seeks to fund major infrastructure projects through a combination of new Federal funding, non-Federal funding, and newly prioritized and expedited projects. It is unclear if existing sales tax measure can be used to match federal funding.

Solution:

Allow already approved sales tax measures to be eligible as the match for the federal funding under the new infrastructure initiative.

DEFINITION OF RURAL

Challenge:

The White House Infrastructure Proposal seeks to fund major infrastructure projects through a combination of new Federal funding, non-Federal funding, and newly prioritized and expedited projects. A percentage of funding is slated to go to rural areas of a certain population. The definition of rural under consideration would say a County is NOT rural if there exists a metropolitan area in the County. This would immediately eliminate Tulare County from any funding considerations.

Solution:

Include rural portions of counties that have urban areas under the definition of rural by carving out the metropolitan areas and classifying the remaining section as rural.

FARM TO MARKET

Challenge:

The dairy industry plays a major part in the economy of Tulare County and provides five percent (5%) of all milk consumed in the United States. Hundreds of gallons of milk are produced every day from each of the over 360 dairies in Tulare County. All of this milk is transported to processing facilities by truck over county roads. According to Caltrans, a fully loaded dairy truck can weigh up to 80,000 pounds. Roadways carrying 500 trucks per day would be impacted the same as if 5 million passenger cars had traveled that same road. The Tulare County Association of Governments has developed a farm to market strategy for prioritization that can be duplicated or used as a basis for a new program.

Solution:

- Provide special funding for roads with over 500 truck trips per day for farm to market shipping through a set aside funding mechanism as part of an infrastructure bill, including the transportation reauthorization bill.

PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES

Challenge:

Payments in Lieu of Taxes" (or PILT) are Federal payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable Federal lands within their boundaries. California received a little over \$48 million in PILT payments based on 44 million acres of federal land in 57 out of 58 counties. The federal government owns and manages approximately 50 percent of lands within the County. Tulare County received \$3,518,387 in 2019 for 1,530,729 acres. The FY20 government-funding bill provides for full PILT payments. The Department of Interior usually releases those figures before the summer.

Solution:

- Provide for long-term reauthorization and full funding for the PILT program.

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS

Challenge:

The Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program provides assistance to rural counties and school districts affected by the decline in revenue from timber harvests on federal lands. Historically, rural communities and schools have relied on a share of receipts from timber harvests to supplement local funding for education services, search and rescue missions and fire prevention programs. Authorization for the SRS program is set to expire at the end of FY20. Absent Congressional action, the last authorized SRS payments will be made to counties in Spring 2021.

In FY 2018, Tulare County was allocated \$379,206.44 in funding. Nationally, \$285 million in SRS funding will benefit 41 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Failure to reauthorize this long-standing federal obligation to forest counties and to the lands managed by the federal government by not improving forest management and reauthorizing the SRS program, counties across the United States could face dramatic budgetary shortfalls. The last time authorization for SRS lapsed in FY 2016, federal forest payments to counties decreased by over 80 percent on average.

Solution:

- Congress needs to enact a long-term legislative solution for continued revenue sharing payments to forest counties through the U.S. Forest Service's Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program.
- Support for the creation of an endowment fund to provide stable and reliable funding for county services.

STATE CRIMINAL ALIEN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Challenge:

Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice administers the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) in conjunction with the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security (DHS). SCAAP provides federal payments to states and localities that incurred correctional officer salary costs for incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens with at least one felony or two misdemeanor convictions for violations of state or local law, and incarcerated for at least 4 consecutive days during the reporting period. SCAAP funding has decreased 65% since 2010. Tulare County received \$652,370 in 2019, which is approximately 4% of the actual costs incurred. The administration's proposed budget for FY21 would eliminate SCAAP funding and trigger a massive cost shift to the County General Fund.

Solution:

- Provide for long-term reauthorization of SCAAP at full funding.

TRADE

Challenge:

California leads the country in agricultural exports, with 28% of the commodities produced entering the global market at a value of over \$20 billion dollars. California produces over 99% of the almonds, artichokes, dates, dried plums, figs, garlic, kiwifruit, olives, olive oil, raisins, table grapes, and walnuts that are exported from the United States.

Agriculture is a major economic driver in California and has a strong presence state wide, taking full advantage of the microclimates that are unique to our state. Good relationships with other countries are

particularly important to small agricultural communities throughout the state that rely on agricultural exports to sustain the local economy.

Solution:

- Support fair trade agreements that address labor and high quality imports as well as overly strict rules for exports.

WATER

WATER STORAGE

Challenge:

The Temperance Flat Dam on the San Joaquin River and other local surface and groundwater storage projects are essential to improve water supply availability and reliability for the San Joaquin Valley's steadily growing population and business community as well as the agriculture industry.

The House passed the Fiscal Year 2018 omnibus spending bill (H.R. 1625) agreement, which includes funding for California water storage projects as requested by the U.S. Department of Interior. Temperance Flat received funding in the amount of \$1.5 million to complete the long-pending feasibility study. In 2018, State Water Bond Funding awarded the project #171 mission, which is still below the budget needed to see the project to completion.

Solution:

- Support for the planning and construction of water supply and recharge projects such as the Temperance Flat Dam.
- Support the extension of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WINN) Act until 2028 to continue to address the needs of America's harbors, dams, flood protection, and other water resources and infrastructure critical to the Nation's economic growth.

SUBSIDENCE

Challenge:

Subsidence along the Friant-Kern Canal is a result of increased groundwater pumping from about 2012 to 2016. The groundwater pumping came in response to reduced and curtailed surface water deliveries by the Bureau of Reclamation during that period. Canal capacity is now about 1,750 cubic feet per second, down from a designed capacity of 4,000 cfs. Long-term repairs to the canal system could cost upwards of \$350 million in the coming years. The fix includes bridge work in concert with Tulare County.

Local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies and the Friant Water Authority are pursuing a fix for groundwater overdraft and are exploring potential funding sources. However, Federal funding is necessary.

Solution:

- Support legislation and/or funding appropriations to address the issue of subsidence along the Friant-Kern Canal and its effect on five Tulare County bridges.

SUCCESS RESERVOIR ENLARGEMENT PROJECT

Challenge:

The SREP will increase flood protections for communities in the County of Tulare, as well as downstream agricultural lands. The non-federal local partners appreciate the funding to complete all phases of the SREP, which will increase storage and flood protection. However, the schedule proposed by the Army Corps of Engineers is lengthy and the project was already delayed by the Corps for nearly two decades.

Solution:

- Support continued funding and hastening the Army Corps of Engineers' schedule for the Success Reservoir Enlargement Project.

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