



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

November 26, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

FEDERAL AGENDA FOR THE 111TH CONGRESS

On November 25, 2008, the Board of Supervisors adopted the revised Federal Agenda for the 111th Congress, which will commence in January 2009. These revisions, which include new policies, additions to existing principles, and the deletion of others, were incorporated into the Federal Agenda in addition to clarifications and technical changes consistent with existing Board policy.

The attachment contains a copy of the body of the letter to the Board and the updated Federal Agenda, including previous policies and positions adopted by the Board.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mark Tajima at mtajima@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:GK
MAL:MT:lm

Attachment

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

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November 25, 2008

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

FEDERAL AGENDA FOR THE 111TH CONGRESS (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS AFFECTED) (3 VOTES)

This letter recommends updated policies for the Federal Agenda, which were developed in coordination with Board Offices, County departments, the Legislative Strategist, and the Washington, D.C. advocates. In general, these changes seek to secure increased Federal funding, enhance the County's ability to deliver effective services and address needs, and achieve greater flexibility over the use of Federal funds. This package, together with other positions previously adopted by your Board, will guide our Federal advocacy efforts for the 111th Congress, which will commence in January 2009.

THEREFORE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve the attached additions and changes to existing Board-adopted Federal policies and positions.
2. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer, affected departments, the Legislative Strategist, and the Washington, D.C. advocates to work with the Los Angeles County delegation, other counties and local governments, and interest groups to pursue these policies and positions.

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"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET OUTLOOK

In January 2009, Barack Obama will take office as the 44th President and will be joined in Washington, D.C. by larger Democratic majorities in both houses of the 111th Congress. The new President and Congress will enter office facing a number of key challenges, including major pending legislative and regulatory issues from this year. Congress must complete action on appropriations legislation to fund Federal discretionary (non-entitlement) programs through the end of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2009. Except for Department of Homeland Security grant programs, all of the discretionary grant programs through which the County receives funding are temporarily funded through a Continuing Resolution until March 6, 2009. Pursuant to existing Board policies, the County will continue to advocate for increased funding for high-priority programs -- especially those, for which the County receives a relatively high share of total funding, such as the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) and Ryan White HIV/AIDS programs.

Addressing the current major economic downturn also will require the immediate attention of the new Administration and Congress. Both President-elect Obama and the Congressional Democratic leadership indicate that they plan to pursue an economic stimulus package, especially if it is not enacted in the lame-duck session. Moreover, they also have indicated their support for State and local fiscal relief, such as a temporary increase in the Federal Medicaid match rate, increased infrastructure and public works spending, and extended unemployment insurance benefits. The County will continue to pursue increased Federal Medicaid funding and other provisions, which would maximize the financial benefits to the County and California. State and local fiscal relief is especially important in light of our State's major budget shortfall.

Another priority for Federal advocacy will be the continued pursuit of legislative or administrative vehicles to block the implementation of the pending regulatory changes, which would reduce Federal Medicaid funding. If implemented, two regulations, which would cap Medicaid payments to government providers and eliminate Medicaid reimbursement of Graduate Medical Education costs, alone could result in a combined loss of \$240 million a year to the County's public hospitals. Implementation of six pending Medicaid rules, including these rules, are blocked under a County-supported moratorium, which expires on April 1, 2009. The moratorium, however, does not apply to a recently issued final Medicaid outpatient hospital services rule, which the County also opposes. That final rule is scheduled to take effect on December 8, 2008. It is important to note that, during our advocacy efforts over the last three years, President-elect Obama voted in the Senate to support the County's position to block the implementation of the rules.

Legislation to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which helps to fund California's Healthy Families Program, is a potential legislative vehicle for blocking implementation of the Medicaid regulations as well as other administrative proposals, which would restrict the eligible uses of SCHIP funds. After two SCHIP reauthorization bills, which would have significantly increased SCHIP funding for California and provided increased flexibility over the use of funds, were vetoed by the President, funding and authorization were extended until March 31, 2009. Therefore, SCHIP reauthorization legislation will be considered early next year. The County will pursue SCHIP reauthorization as well as the reauthorization of other programs of County importance, including Ryan White HIV/AIDS, Water Resources Development Act, Workforce Investment Act, and surface transportation programs. The current authorization for these programs is due to expire at the end of FFY 2009.

The new Administration and Congress initially will focus on restoring the nation's economic health and mitigating the negative effects of the economic downturn, providing opportunities for state and local fiscal relief, such as in the form of a temporary Federal Medicaid match rate increase. However, over the longer term, the structural Federal budget deficit and rapidly escalating national debt may lead to a far less favorable Federal budget climate for State and local governments. It is too early to predict how soon the focus may shift to a greater emphasis on deficit reduction and a heightened risk of reductions in Federal aid to state and local governments.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE COUNTY'S FEDERAL AGENDA

The changes in the attachment represent requests from County departments and commissions to add or modify policy statements consistent with their operational goals and plans. These recommended policy changes will enable County departments and advocates to pursue positions on issues for which no applicable Board policy currently exists. The recommendations include new policies relating to the foreclosure crisis, small business development, rental housing, child care and development services, fire prevention and fire safety, health and human services information technology, cyber security, the efficient movement of goods from ports to other regions, and the treatment of Armed Services members at the Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center.

All other previously adopted Federal Agenda policies remain in effect, including the County's overall principles and policies, which include maximizing Federal revenues, greater flexibility over their use, and support for a greater share of total available funding to the County or California. A revised comprehensive list of all Federal Agenda policy statements will be published subsequent to consideration of the changes included in the attachment.

Each Supervisor
November 25, 2008
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IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The proposed legislative policies in the Federal Agenda are consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goals of Organizational Effectiveness and Fiscal Responsibility. Organizational Effectiveness is achieved by providing timely advocacy on proposals that could significantly affect the County. Fiscal Responsibility results from efforts by the CEO, Washington, D.C. advocates, and County departments pursuing new funding sources and opposing cuts in program funding or new unfunded mandates on county government.

CONCLUSION

The recommended policies in the attachment are submitted for your Board's consideration to supplement, and not replace other previously adopted Board policies. All of these policies will guide our advocacy efforts in the upcoming 111th Congress. As in the past, the Federal Legislative Agenda will be updated to reflect subsequent Board actions.

Respectfully submitted,



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

WTF:GK
MAL:MT:sb

Attachment

c: County Counsel
All Department Heads

County of Los Angeles

FEDERAL AGENDA

The Federal Agenda contains principles and policies that serve as the basis for the development and advocacy of positions on Federal legislative, administrative, and budget issues. This document consists of overall principles and policies applicable to all Federal issues, funding priorities in Federal appropriations bills, and more specific policies addressing Federal issues of major County interest.

I. OVERALL FEDERAL PRINCIPLES

1. Maximize Federal revenues.
2. Secure greater flexibility over the use of Federal funds.
3. Lessen the impact of adverse Federal policies on County costs and decision-making authority.

II. OVERALL FEDERAL POLICIES

1. Support proposals which would provide a greater share of total available Federal funding to the County or California, and oppose proposals which would reduce the County's or State's share of total funding.
2. Support proposals which would provide local governments with greater decision-making authority over the use of Federal funds, and which provide for direct grants or mandatory pass-through allocations to large urban counties.
3. Oppose proposals which would impose new unfunded mandates on the County.
4. Oppose proposals which would finance increased spending for one program by cutting other programs of greater benefit to the County, or which would result in a net revenue loss or a cost shift to the County.
5. Support proposals to reduce or relax match requirements which hinder the ability of financially distressed state and local governments to receive or utilize Federal funds.
6. Support Federal fiscal relief for financially distressed state and local governments.
7. Oppose Federal preemption of State and local government authority.

III. COUNTY FUNDING PRIORITIES IN APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

The County's funding priorities in individual appropriations bills are outlined below. Within each appropriations bill, priority is given to pursuing funding for programs which provide the County with a greater share of total funding and greater flexibility over the use of funds. These priorities do not include health and welfare entitlement programs, such as Medicaid, for which funding levels are not determined through annual appropriations bills. Board policies on Medicaid and other entitlement programs are included in the section, entitled "IV. Federal Legislative Policies Addressing Issues of Major County Interest."

1. Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill

a. Reimbursement of Criminal Alien Costs: Support increased funding to reimburse the County's criminal justice costs associated with criminal aliens, including increased funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program and the Southwest Border Prosecutor Program.

b. County Justice/Law Enforcement Activities: Support increased funding for justice and law enforcement activities, such as the Justice Assistance Grant, anti-gang, technology improvements, prosecutions, prevention, corrections, forensic science, student loan repayment for prosecutors and public defenders, training, and activities addressing special populations, such as juveniles, mentally ill, and homeless persons.

c. Immigration and Naturalization Activities: Support increased funding for activities such as border enforcement, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents assigned to the County's jails, automated fingerprint identification systems to track criminal aliens, prosecution of criminal aliens and alien smugglers, naturalization assistance, and processing of naturalization and immigration applications.

2. Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill

a. Ryan White HIV/AIDS Programs: Support increased funding of Ryan White HIV/AIDS programs.

b. Public Health Funding: Support increased funding for public health activities, such as bioterrorism, early detection surveillance, immunizations, tuberculosis, maternal and child health, family planning, sexually transmitted disease, childhood lead poisoning, violence and injury prevention programs, food safety, and chronic disease programs.

c. Other Health Funding: Support Federal reimbursement of the costs of emergency medical care provided to undocumented immigrants and funding for emergency preparedness and response, trauma care, and other health services.

d. Substance Abuse and Mental Health: Support increased funding for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grants, including substance abuse and mental health block grants, the Children's Mental Health Services Program, and other substance abuse, mental health, and supportive services and training grants.

- e. Social Services Block Grant: Support increased funding for this block grant, which provides states with considerable flexibility over the use of funds.
- f. Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Programs: Support full funding of WIA programs and other employment and training programs.
- g. Older Americans Act Programs: Support increased funding for Older Americans Act programs.
- h. Refugee Assistance: Support increased funding to provide cash and medical assistance, employment services, and other supportive services to refugees.
- i. Community Services Block Grant (CSBG): Support increased funding for CSBG, which provides assistance to states, localities, and community-based organizations to reduce poverty, revitalize low income communities, and assist low income persons.

3. Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill

- a. Water Quality and Reliability: Support funding for the improvement of water quality and reliability, including grants for projects that would expand the use of recycled water, and for the protection of water supplies against terrorist acts.
- b. Marina del Rey: Support funding for the development and implementation of long-term solutions for shoaling problems, including the safe disposal of contaminated sediment and construction of improvements in Ballona Creek and the entrance of Marina del Rey.
- c. Beach Erosion/Replenishment: Support funding for developing and implementing coastal management plans, including beach stabilization and replenishment projects.

4. Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill

- a. Transportation Projects: Support funding for projects to build, improve, repair, and maintain highways and other transportation infrastructure in Los Angeles County.
- b. Airport and Seaport Security: Support increased and multi-year funding to improve security at airports, seaports, and harbors in Los Angeles County, including funding for Coast Guard operations to protect coastal areas of the County.
- c. Environmental Improvements: Support funding for initiatives to protect and enhance communities through projects promoting public safety and environmental improvements.
- d. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME, Section 108 Loan Guarantees, and Homeless Assistance: Support increased funding for CDBG, HOME, Section 108 Loan Guarantee, and homeless assistance grants, and oppose efforts to increase set asides.
- e. Public and Assisted Housing: Support increased funding for the public housing and Section 8 programs, including the Section 8 Family Unification program, and Shelter Plus Care renewal projects.

5. Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill

a. Help America Vote Act (HAVA): Support full funding of HAVA grants to help state and local governments meet new election requirements established under HAVA.

6. Interior Appropriations Bill

a. Land and Water Conservation Fund: Support full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund as well as funding for improvements in the Santa Monica Mountains, parks, environmental restoration of coastal watersheds and wetlands, and beach projects in Los Angeles County.

b. Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) Program: Support increased funding for park and open space acquisition and development under the UPARR.

7. Homeland Security Appropriations Bill

a. Homeland Security Activities: Support increased funding for local homeland security activities, such as emergency preparedness and response, training, equipment, and improved communications systems.

b. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): Support funding for FEMA to reimburse all unpaid disaster claims and for earthquake preparedness, disaster mitigation, and emergency management.

c. Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Program: Support increased funding for SAFER, which provides financial assistance to hire firefighters.